

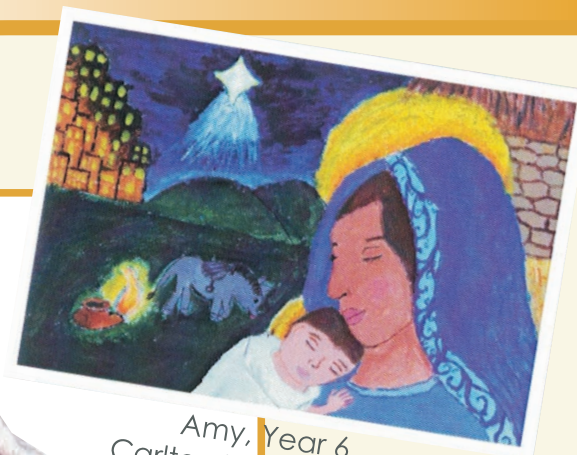
Our Parish Catechists

Handing on what we have received:
the hope and joy that
Jesus brings

TERM 4, 2017



Natasha, Year 6
Clemton Park Public School



Amy, Year 6
Carlton Public School



I drew the Holy Family because I believe in God. God created everything and sent Jesus. I believe Jesus was the Son of God, and Mary and Joseph looked after him and loved him. This is based on Luke 2:1-5. I used pencils and lots of shading to show Mary and Joseph looking at baby Jesus and caring for him.

- Harrison, Year 5, Marton Public School, Engadine



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Supporting
Parish Catechists

Catechist Newsletter



SYDNEY DEANERIES GO TO THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

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For Year 9 to 30 years of age

7 - 9 December 2017

15,000 expected with over 12,000 already registered!

WE WILL HAVE 2 GROUPS GOING:

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STUDENT
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

acyf@sydneycatholic.org



From the Director

Welcome to Term 4

Welcome to "The Christmas Term" as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

May you delight with the children in asking "I wonder" questions to show Jesus wants to be with us and is with us: "I wonder if Jesus celebrated his birthday with Mary, Joseph and his friends when he was your age?"

I recall a homily wherein a priest taught me that company (con pane) means "breaking bread with" and Communion means "being one with"; that all points to God wanting to be with us and reminds us, especially at Christmastime, that Jesus is called Emmanuel: "God-is-with-us".

"Yes, Jesus does enjoy sharing meals with his friends. I wonder why?" May we all delight in hearing wonder-filled replies.

"The Christmas Story" Art Competition & Exhibition a highlight for many students

Thank you to all who helped their Year 5 and 6 students contemplate Christmas in Term 3 through drawing and writing reflections for "The Christmas Story" Art Competition and Exhibition. All artworks selected will be on display in St Mary's Cathedral Crypt from 4 December to 6 January.

To help plan ahead for 2018, "The Christmas Story" organiser, John Charadia, has given CCD staff an in-service and our new website now provides "how to" information and photos to print of 1st Century-type Judean landscapes, shepherds, household items and what people wore, which you may also wish to use as Term 4 Christmas resources. Please see the ccd.sydneycatholic.org homepage then click on Catechist Support, then Classroom Resources.

Recruitment – this is so important!

Help is available from us here at CCD to call others throughout the year to help you. Please see the article by Robert Milan (pages 6 & 7) who recounts his experience and techniques regarding what works.

Level 1 (Basic) Training Course

- Safeguarding training – prior to entering a classroom as a new Catechist
Following feedback from Co-ordinators and Catechists, we are introducing the option of completing Safeguarding training online (upon request) to help ensure this is completed prior to anyone entering a classroom as a new catechist.
- Using the Approved Curriculum training – prior to teaching a class as a new Catechist.
Catechist feedback tells us overwhelmingly that the Using the Approved Curriculum unit is most helpful. Existing Catechists also find it a welcome refresher. This unit must to be done face-to-face as it is very hands-on. It is important that all Catechists know how to use their Teacher's Manual. It is the Teacher's Manual that shows what "the point" of the lesson is (the Teaching Focus), along with how to get the point across in an age-appropriate way (the Learning Outcome). Please make sure you have one.

Continued...

From the Director

- The other units in the revised Level 1 (Basic) course – Classroom Management, The Bible, Classroom Skills/Awareness of the Child in the Classroom – are also meeting an evident need as we keep receiving very positive feedback.

Level 2 (Intermediate) Training Course – what we believe and how to teach it

- This course has been revised to expand upon the Level 1 (Basic) Course to cover in more depth “What we believe” and “How to teach it”, e.g. what kids can take in (ages and stages of development), resources and how to use these effectively (how to teach a song, prayer, get the kids involved). Existing Catechists find this course very useful and also a good refresher.

Level 3 (Advanced) Training

- Level 3 provides an in-depth look at the Church throughout the ages, starting with Pentecost.

Please see the “Training Course Outline” on page 18.

Annual Catechist Mass and Life Members Function

Congratulations to all who received Catechist training course and long-service awards at the Catechist Mass and also our student catechists who received certificates. Thank you to all who attended this Archdiocesan celebration of our Parishes' outreach into our neighbourhoods. We look forward to celebrating with our Life Members at their special luncheon on Friday 1 December.

Thank you and Christmas blessings

Thank you for your generous service this year; for teaching children about God and about the People of God, the Church, and also how to be with God as Church. Thank you for helping to create a time and space of encounter for God to touch growing hearts and minds. Merry Christmas!

Doug

SMARTBOARD ALERT - For Catechists who use Electronic COLAL Smartboard lessons

- CCD has bought the rights for catechists to download Smartboard Notebook Software (versions 11 to 11.4) that enables you to use electronic COLAL lessons in-class on school Smartboards.
- Most public schools are still using Windows 7; therefore, COLAL Smartboard lessons will work on these in-class school computers, but not if they have upgraded to the new Windows 10 operating system.
- Please note, if you intend to update your computer or its operating software, the Smart Notebook version 11.4 program will no longer work.

Smart Notebook version 11.4 only works on Apple Mac OS X 10.7, 10.8 or 10.9 operating systems running OS X or with Microsoft Windows 7, 8 and XP but will not operate on later versions. Smart Notebook 17.1 (latest version) will run new Mac & Windows software, however, it is incompatible with most school computer software and each user would need to pay the \$165 annual licensing fee.

- The only free, fully-operational option currently available to use is Smart Notebook 11.4: Keep or find older laptops that use older operating systems that are compatible with Smart Notebook 11.4. Please contact CCD Sydney to download/re-install a free licenced copy of Notebook version 11.4.

If you or the school have upgraded computers/software:

“Smart tech express” is an alternative online resource that does not require any downloading and can open most COLAL Smartboard lessons: <http://express.smarttech.com/> (requires Adobe Flash Player)

Honouring a faithful Catechist

Romaine Cheema, 88, was honoured in September at a special lunch to mark her retirement after over 40 years of faithful service in Berala Parish and her community that included coordinating the Catechist Ministry and the Sacramental Program.

The event was attended by Father Thomas, Catechists, Anglican SRE teachers and other well-wishers.

The group surprised Romaine with a personal photo book saying: "Romaine Cheema – this is your life; your life in our Parish family, your life in our community and most of all, your life in God. This book shows how much we all love and appreciate you."

Father Thomas wrote: "May God bless you for the many years of your dedicated service to Berala Parish as a Religious Educator, and especially as Catechist Coordinator. I also acknowledge your great contribution as Sacramental Coordinator for the Catholic children from the public schools. Thank you for being my co-Minister of Evangelisation."

Former students Robert and Michael Jaksic thanked Romaine for her many years of tireless work with the young people of Berala and Regents Park. Their message said: "You have impacted our faith lives by bearing witness to Christ and the Gospels and by going out and making disciples and teaching the commands of Christ. We will be forever indebted to you. God bless and once again thank you."



Romaine seated 2nd from the left



Romaine (2nd row, 2nd from left). Member of the Theresian Group in 1954



Romaine's former student, Robert Jaksic, assisting at Mass



CCD Cardinal Gilroy 40 Year Award presented by Bishop Brady in 2014

Photos and text provided with thanks to
Brenda Wendt-Hussein
Catechist Coordinator
St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala

Catechist Recruitment - Tried and Tested

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Luke 10:2; Matthew 9:37)

Our Lord Jesus Christ recognised the extent of the work required in His analogy of a harvest needing workers (Luke 10:2; Matthew 9:37).

Further, He qualifies this need by asking for Heavenly assistance, Jesus states, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38). In reading the entire passage from verse 1, Jesus had just come from healing a blind person, a mute, a paralytic, someone haemorrhaging and much more. Jesus sees the multitudes distressed and calls for help from Heaven.

This lesson can be assimilated into our daily work we do as catechists. Certainly, the number of students entrusted to us is enormous; often class sizes number 30+ students. In some instances our Catholic students in public schools are not being catechised as there is a lack of catechists.

In late Term 1 of this year, I was privileged to assist a Parish in the recruitment of catechists. The Parish was facing the possibility of not providing a number of schools with Catholic Special Religious Education (SRE) classes as their catechist numbers were down to four and the student numbers across their four, local Primary schools were over 200. Among their SRE team is a dedicated, long-serving catechist, aged 89, who now lives outside the parish yet continues to travel each week to teach a composite class of Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 of around 28 students. If you are following me, you and I can recognise that this is not sustainable; noting warning signs is critical.

What can be done?

Firstly, the Catechist Coordinator of the parish did well to seek help. She visited the CCD Offices on the 6th Floor of the Polding Centre and we discussed a course of action.

Then, several weeks later, with the support and approval of the Parish Priest, we planned for me to speak at the Parish's weekend Masses across two weeks. I spoke at five Masses following Holy Communion, and met with and fielded queries that came from keen and interested parishioners. The Coordinator attended and was able to list ten names of interested parishioners who would require a follow up telephone call.

Next, I believe that a follow up phone call should occur within two days of the initial expression of interest; we have all heard the saying, 'Strike whilst the iron is hot'.

Good news! Several weeks had passed when I received an email filled with both delight and relief. The Parish Catechist Coordinator had managed to secure the services of seven out of the ten interested parishioners. This is tremendous, a 70% success rate and an increase of catechists from four to eleven, a 275% increase. We give thanks to the Lord, for the Holy Spirit with whom we work to gather labourers for the harvest, is great indeed.

Tried and tested: The question that many of you may have is how and what was said during the recruitment drive that attracted so much interest?

What I want to make clear from the outset is that the Holy Spirit, through prayer, inspires the words and leaps in the hearts of individuals to draw them to commit to this mission. In my preparation for a recruitment drive, no matter how desperate a parish may be, at the heart of this call for labourers I find it essential to pray for inspiration before, during and after.

We are all called to be instruments, as St Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "And I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me." We all do the will of God and not our will.

This I firmly believe worked in calling the seven new catechists and, upon meeting them at Level 1.1 training, each expressed that they were touched by what I said.

Continued...

Catechist Recruitment - Tried and Tested

What did I say?

Commencing with prayer, I conducted some research into the number of schools in the area of the parish, the number of students and how many catechists are active. This information is crucial in order to make the situation relevant and real. I wanted to communicate the reality of the situation. In addition, I asked the Coordinator to have exhibited at the entrance of the church the Christ Our Light and Life curriculum for interested parties to peruse and have it explained to them how and what they would be teaching.

I opened my talk by quoting our Lord, "The harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few". Then I continued to provide the congregation with the raw facts – 200 students, in 4 schools being taught by 4 catechists with one, 89 years of age, who travels from another parish to teach in 'your parish'. I also explained that parish children in one of their local public schools were not being catechised and that others would follow should this continue.

I proceeded to give them an example of the fruits of the work stating my own experience, e.g. a student in one school being asked to be baptised; several wanting to receive the Sacraments; another having the Bible read each night by his father and more (not too many, one or two examples would suffice). I summed up my talk by inviting the members of the congregation to be part of the mission and help make a difference to the lives of young people and their families. I provided them with information on the availability of support, courses and the curriculum. I ended by quoting St Mary MacKillop, "Never see a need without doing something about it." Finally, I invited them to see me after the final blessing where I would be available to answer any questions.

Prior to the final blessing, I headed to the exit of the Church and prepared myself to issue personal invitations. It is advisable to ask people as they exit, "Hi, would you like to help out as a catechist?" Commencing by being a helper or assistant can soften the apprehension that potential catechists may have.

People do listen but the impact you make will be enhanced by what you say and how you say it. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the Harvest and trust that the words you say will be used by God to touch hearts and minds. And when new catechists say they joined because, "It was what you said", let us all rejoice and give thanks to God. None of us go out into the harvest alone.

I would highly recommend the following:

Some important facts

- Prayer! Prayer! Prayer!
- Set up your parish with recruitment posters available from the CCD (02) 9307 8330
- Research the status of your Parish schools and catechists.
- Find a relevant quote that will inspire the congregation.
- Always begin with the facts; this will gain the congregation's attention.
- Always keep it relevant and real.
- DO NOT READ YOUR NOTES!! Use notes as a prompt but remember you are speaking to the hearts and minds of the potential catechist.
- Allow yourself to speak naturally.
- Coordinators, you do not have to do the recruiting as well as the organisation. There may be a catechist team member or your Faith Education Officer who you can designate as the speaker. Recall St Paul in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12, that we are all called to different roles but are of the one Spirit.
- Use your own personal examples in regards to the fruit of the work.
- Speak for 3-5 minutes.
- Make the invitation a personal one.
- Follow up as soon as possible – strike whilst the iron is hot!

Should you require advice and assistance please contact me on (02) 9307 8332 or via email robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

The Peace of Jesus Christ!
Robert Milan

Photo Gallery



11 Priests concelebrated at the Western Area Mass, Moorebank Parish



Northern Area training session



Central Area Catechists after Area Mass, Kingsgrove Parish



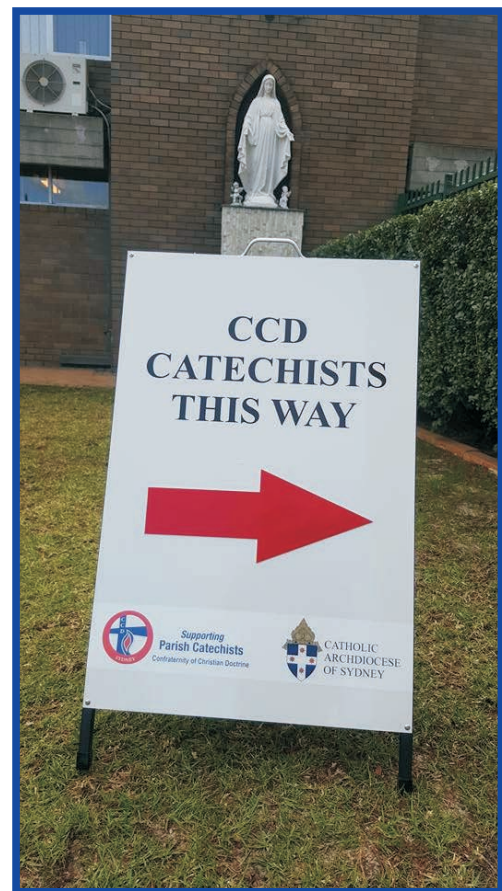
Central Area Mass, Kingsgrove Parish



Over 35 Catechists attend the session on the Bible at Smithfield Parish with CCD Director.



Level 1 Course at Smithfield Parish



**BOOK SHOP
NOW OPEN**



**The Mustard Seed Bookshop (previously at Lidcombe) has relocated to the city.
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on Level 6 for all
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Online Orders: www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au

Ph: 02 9307 8340 Fax: 02 9283 5146

TOTUS TUUS

Help for Deaf and Hard of Hearing SRE Students

Dear Catechists,

Do you have any deaf or hard of hearing children in your class?

Do you know of any deaf or hard of hearing children who need
support accessing SRE?



If so, Ephpheta, The Sydney Archdiocese's Chaplaincy for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing would like to help.

For more information, please contact Fr Michael Lanzon.

God bless,

Fr Michael Lanzon

0466 319 290 or email to: michael.lanzon@gmail.com



Merryl Foster - An inspirational story

A life of faith lived and celebrated!

CCD Sydney is blessed to have many wonderful catechists whose commitment and faith is evident in their work with the children in our public schools. This year we have celebrated many milestones and one of our highlights has been the 90th birthday of our very special Merryl Foster who has been a catechist for over 50 years.

Merryl's life of faith started at home in the Riverina where she was taught her prayers and learnt about God from her mother and two aunts who lived in Leeton and Griffith. Sadly, due to the Depression, her family had to walk off their farm and move to Young where her father got a job.

As a new student at the local Catholic School, Merryl attended Mass on the first Friday and was urged by Sister Rita to receive Holy Communion. Afterwards Sister Rita was horrified to find out that Merryl, coming from an isolated rural property, had not yet made her First Holy Communion! However, after her family moved to West Wyalong, Merryl attended St Mary's school and made her sacraments thereby making her "First" Holy Communion twice! However, her later start in her formal religious education was no handicap as she came first in Religion in 6th Grade, receiving a Green Catechism as a prize – still a treasured possession.

Merryl refers to herself as "God's Gardener", planting the seeds that are watered and nurtured by the Holy Spirit, to whom she has a particular devotion. She is adamant that the children's learning is all God's work and always has been. Merryl started as a catechist at Balmain Primary School after answering the parish priest's call for volunteers. Initially reluctant due to her limited formal education, she only committed for a few weeks...or so she thought! All she remembers of her brief training at St Fiacre's at Leichhardt was the admonition to dress appropriately. With no curriculum, Merryl taught all years – Kindergarten to 6th Grade. In the early days she developed her program by simply thinking about what the children needed to know. She supplied all the materials for all the lessons and taught classes in sheds, broom cupboards and many other interesting locations. She also taught classes at Birchgrove and Nicholson Street schools. (Merryl is very happy that the CCD now supplies all lesson plans and student materials).

When asked about special moments in her long career as a catechist, Merryl fondly mentioned that once a term (in the days of three-term years) the entire school would march two-by-two, in a 'crocodile' to the Congregational Church in Term 1, St John's Anglican Church in Term 2 and St Augustine's in Term 3 to celebrate Christmas.



Continued...

Merryl Foster - An inspirational story

Another valued memory is when the Year 6 students left Balmain Primary, after seven years in her care; often a very emotional time. Now she is teaching some of the children of her former students - a wonderful gift to those families.

When asked what continues to motivate her to keep teaching for so many years, Merryl simply said that knowing that some children have never heard of God or have not heard God's word makes her want to help them to understand that God is love and that they can trust God.

Comparing students now to those when she first started her work, she noted that there used to be much more respect for teachers in general as well as catechists. She also noted that students these days seem to have many more problems than those in the earlier days.

Merryl believes that having strong support from parish priests is very important; she remembers both Father Paul Monkerud and Father Daniel McCaughan as being especially helpful.

After moving to Ryde Parish 28 years ago following the tragic death of her husband, Merryl again answered the call, this time to teach a class at Putney Public School. She didn't know that there were schools with a catechist to each class! Not content with taking on extra classes, she is also Parish Co-ordinator for Ryde.

So, fifty-one years later and having recently celebrated her 90th birthday, Merryl continues bringing the love of God to children in both Ryde and Balmain parishes each week.

They, and we as fellow catechists, are fortunate in having such a special lady in our midst. We thank her for sharing some of her faith story with us.

Julia Goff



Faith Education Officer

Central Area SUZANNE MICELI

Email: suzanne.miceli@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Tel: 9787 3579 Campsie CCD Office



Dear Central Area Catechists,

It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at the Coordinators' meeting and Area Mass during Term 3. The commitment and enthusiasm that is so evident certainly encourages me in my work. I am blessed to work with such an amazing group of people.

The Area Mass held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Kingsgrove, on 1st August was a wonderful celebration of our mission to evangelise the children in our public schools. It was truly special to see so many catechists there and to feel the happy, friendly atmosphere. Many thanks to Fr Casey, Peter Coleman and his wonderful team, who made the Mass and luncheon such a success.

I was overjoyed to be approached by three coordinators who offered their Parishes for Masses over the next three years. A few coordinators expressed concern that their Parish candle is no longer functional or has been lost. The CCD can provide you with a new candle. Please just let us know.

It is hard to believe that Term 4 is here. It will be Christmas before we know it. As the mother of an HSC student, I am counting down the days. We have some very stressful times ahead! Please remember to plan your lessons this term as SRE classes often finish well before the end of school. It is important to ensure that we teach the Advent and Christmas lessons so that the children have a good understanding of these holy seasons.

I would like to thank the many student catechists who work in our schools. I have the pleasure of personally working with the young people from Holy Spirit College, Lakemba, and Southern Cross Vocational College at Burwood. The enthusiasm and joy these students bring to our children is wonderful. Thank you to all the High School Coordinators for helping to make this program a success.

Please remember to invite me to any Parish meetings you may be having. I am also available to do a Safeguarding refresher course for your catechists.

Thank you for your continual support and encouragement as I continue to learn the duties associated with my role. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

Many thanks to Maryanne Weir, and the lovely catechists at Bass Hill, for helping me to celebrate my birthday. The birthday cake was a such a surprise and was a lovely way to start my day.

Thank you for all your dedication this year. May you and your families experience the joy of the newborn Christ throughout the Christmas season.

Suzanne

Faith Education Officer

Eastern Area ROBERT MILAN

Email: robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Dear Eastern Area Catechists,

"Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth peace to men of good will" (St Luke 2:14)

Oh catechists of good will, thank you for another year of evangelisation, a year of sharing the faith that you love and a year of commitment. Term 4 is a term of winding down for the Christmas break, a festive time and, most importantly, your time to refresh. I was speaking to a colleague recently who spent some time away from work and the busy Sydney life in a quiet resort on the Central Coast. The time spent was peaceful and quiet. It is in the silence that we can hear the Lord speak. Saint Mother Teresa says:

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence."

In this Christmas and Festive season, as we busy ourselves with the parties, the gifts and every other noise, take some time for yourself to allow God to speak to you. It could be at the local Parish when the Church is open or some peaceful place, e.g. the park and even going away. Refresh yourself with Jesus through a peaceful silence. A blessed, holy and peaceful Christmas to you all and a healthy and God-filled 2018.

I wish to congratulate our recent awardees at the Annual Catechist Mass held on 24th September 2017:

Mary Keledjian, St Therese Parish Mascot, received the Cardinal Freeman Medal for 25 years of service.

Margaret Culhane, St Patrick's Parish Bondi, received the Apostolic Blessing for 20 Years of Service.

Patricia Willard, St Joseph & St Mary's Parish Maroubra Bay, also received the Apostolic Blessing for 20 Years of Service.

Maria Chan, St Brigid's Parish, Marrickville, received the Archdiocesan Accreditation Award for completion of CCD-endorsed Accreditation Courses.

Well done to our Eastern Area awardees and all awardees across the Archdiocese.

I wish to thank all the Eastern Area volunteers at the Annual Catechist Mass for their time and hard work whether as ushers or servers or cleaning the hall. Your presence was greatly appreciated by all at CCD.

Please find in this newsletter details of courses for Term 4. I would encourage you all to begin planning for Catechist Sunday, which will be held on Sunday, 4th February, 2018. Course dates, meetings and events for 2018 will be advertised in our next newsletter - Term 1, 2018.

Should you require assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Robert

Faith Education Officer

Northern Area ANITA LEE

Email: anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Mobile: 0449 808 381 & Office: 9307 8338



Dear Northern Area Catechists,

Term 3 has gone, as fast as Sydney's chilly and windy weather that has sent me to all corners of the metropolitan area. Spending time in so many classrooms has opened my eyes to the great need of the children to hear the Good News. Their souls are yearning to find the truth and your presence in that brief period each week with them has, and will continue to have, an unimagined effect. You may not see or feel the great result now but remember that St Augustine of Hippo said "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." These young generations need to know that Jesus truly loves them and died for them. While you may sometimes feel that it is really challenging to keep on going, and knowing that SRE is often targeted in the media, we must also feel blessed and honoured to be able to share our faith to help the next generation to have a relationship with Jesus. Keep in mind St Paul's letter to his team in Corinth (2 Corinthians 1:7), "Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation".

One of the highlights of Term 3 was spending a few hours with Merryl Foster (Ryde's Catechist coordinator) who continues to be so committed; even teaching three classes on her 90th Birthday. I was privileged to be there when her catechist team came and surprised her with a lovely gift and cake before her 2 pm class. It was very inspiring and I could not stop praising God for that wonderful day when I met and saw a faithful disciple and a saint in the making.

I also want to thank Fr Kevin Bates from Hunters Hill, for his time and wonderful reflection morning for the Catechists. As we are approaching Advent in Term 4, I recommend you please take time to reflect, refresh and revive as this is crucial for our faith journey. Please join us for our next retreat in North Sydney with Fr Andy Bullen S.J on 16th October. Contact the CCD office to reserve your place.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next gathering. Please invite me to your classroom or your parish meeting.

May God's peace be with you.

Anita Lee



Merryl Foster celebrating her 90th birthday



Catechist's reflection morning with Father Kevin Bates

Faith Education Officer

Southern Area DENISE HUMPHREYS

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Dear Southern Area Catechists,

Term 3 is the cold and flu season as well as the time catechists often take a well-deserved overseas trip. Thank you to all who have taken that extra class or two as this year the flu has been particularly severe.

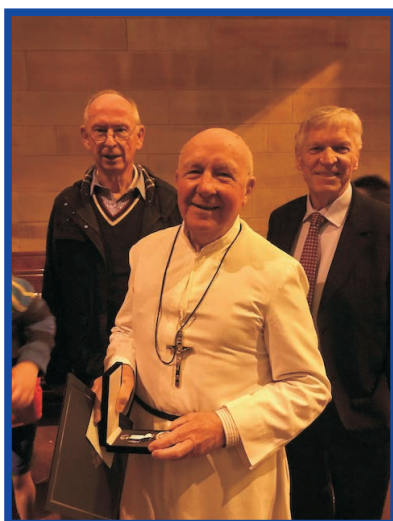
Recently I spent some time helping catechists with the Christmas Story art competition. Thank you to all the courageous and energetic catechists who helped their students to reflect on the Christmas story and attempt an artwork. Ten of our Year 5 / 6 artworks will be part of the Art Exhibition on display in the Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral in Advent.

Please check with your school to see when your SRE classes will finish for the year – often it is sooner than you would expect. Allow time to tell the Christmas story – your SRE class may be the only place some students will hear it and for the Kindergarten class it may be the first time they hear of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Congratulations to the long-serving catechists from the Southern Area who were presented with service awards at the Annual Mass on 24th September. This is always a great celebration. We also had a number of catechists who received an accreditation certificate after completing all levels of the Catechist Training Course.

Thank you again for all the support you have given this year.

Denise Humphreys and Tracy McEwan



Paul Worthington, Br Julian and Eddie Kropkowski
at the Dempsey Medal presentation Mass



Paul Worthington, Br Julian, Br Cyril and Denise
at the Dempsey Medal presentation Mass

Dempsey Medal

Catechists' dedication recognised with Dempsey Medal

All catechists join with staff of the CCD in congratulating Mrs Merryl Foster and Br Julian Quinlan who received the inaugural Dempsey Medal at a special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 16th July. Open to both clergy and laity, twenty people were honoured this year for their outstanding service in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Nominated by the CCD, both Brother Julian and Merryl have shown extraordinary passion and commitment to the mission of catechists. At ninety years of age, Merryl's faith and love of her students shines out. Read her story on pages 10 and 11.

Brother Julian was nominated on the basis of his contribution to the work of the CCD, particularly his development of visual materials and presentation of training.

Br Julian designed and produced teaching resources for each of the 224 lessons in the Christ our Light and Life curriculum. Over a three-year period he then photocopied and packaged these resources for every parish in the Sydney Archdiocese. This work he then put on a CD for each parish. A strong advocate of the power of storytelling, Brother Julian has always been available to present inservice materials on Biblical storytelling to catechists.



Br. Julian and Merryl Foster receive their Dempsey Medal from Archbishop Fisher



Photos by Giovanni Portelli

One nomination noted that "Br Julian has a special talent and is able to inspire people and help them bring their lessons to life using very simple techniques." Another stated that "His inspiring, innovative and resourceful ideas have influenced those catechists that he has taught. "

We congratulate both of them on this award and thank them for their friendship and service.

The Dempsey Medal, to be awarded annually, is named in memory of James Dempsey who was transported to Botany Bay for life as punishment for his involvement in the Vinegar Hill rebellion of 1798 in Ireland.

Dempsey was a Lay Carmelite, an order which was not officially founded within Australia until 1881. He and fellow layman John Butler arrived in Sydney in 1802, leaving his wife and four children in Ireland. Three priests were among the Rebellion prisoners but their ministry was severely limited and they returned to Ireland in 1810. For the following ten years (apart from a few months in 1817-18) there was no priest in Australia.

James Dempsey then became virtually the centre of Catholic life in the colony. He accompanied the condemned and led prayers as they faced the scaffold. His Kent street house became a social and religious centre where the Rosary was said on weekdays and Vespers recited on Sundays.

His work as Superintendent of Construction of the first St Mary's Cathedral also encompassed being a chief fundraiser for the project. James Dempsey's contribution to the early days of the church in Australia is now commemorated in the award of this Dempsey Medal.

(Adapted from <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/resources/pdf/DL%20Brochure.pdf>).

More information about the 2017 recipients can be found at:
https://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2017/201782_652.shtml

Faith Education Officer

Western Area Vincent Haber

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western@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Dear Western Area Catechists

Term Three, what can I say? You have been remarkable! This year we added 60 new Catechists and helpers to the family. Let's work together to make 2018 even bigger. It is now time to start recruiting for 2018! Contact me should you need any help with this.

A highlight for this term was our Western Region Area Mass hosted by St Joseph's Parish, Moorebank. Close to 160 Catechists, helpers and 11 priests celebrated this event. The hospitality and generosity of Moorebank Parish volunteers are to be commended. It was a day that many will remember.

Level One (Basic) courses were conducted this term in two locations. At Smithfield Parish there was an average of 33 catechists in attendance, and at Liverpool Parish, 15 catechists completed the five-week course. What a fantastic effort!

There will be two training courses this term conducted at Hoxton Park. Both courses will run for five weeks (see page 19). We hope to see even more catechists and helpers attending future courses.

Level One: will start on Monday 6 November.

Level Two: will start on Wednesday 18 October.

Again, thank you all for an incredible Term 3. Let's continue to strive for excellence in our classrooms and be a living example of God's love to those we encounter in the schools. Please feel free to contact me with any SRE-related issues or just to share your good news stories. I'm just an email or a phone call away.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
May the birth of our Lord Jesus bring you hope, joy and peace in the new year.

Let's make 2018 even better! Who's with me?

Vincent



Moorebank Parish Volunteers with Coordinator Janet Borg (4th from the Left) after the Western Area Mass.

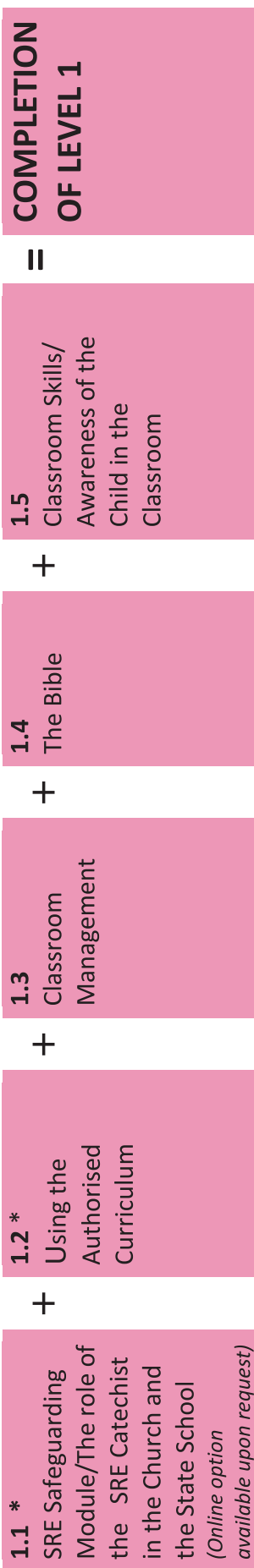


A wonderful celebration of food and company after the Western Area Mass

Training Course Outline

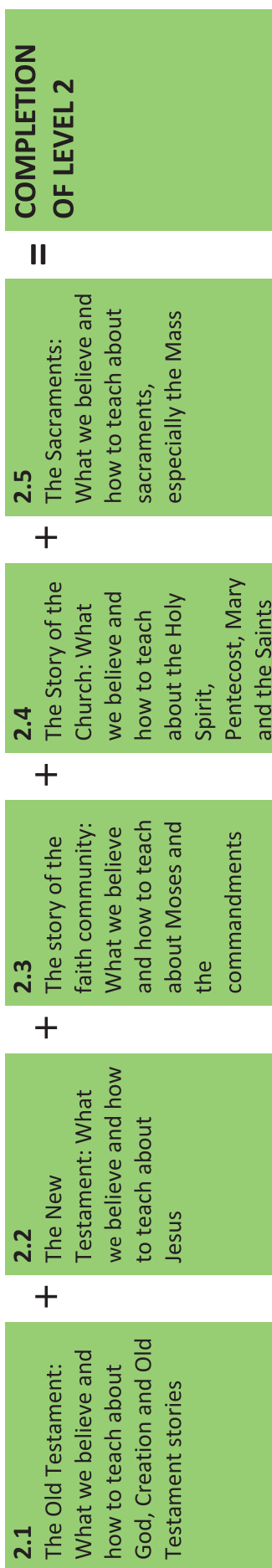
(*Level 1.1 Must be completed before entering a classroom. Level 1.2 must be completed before teaching a class.)

Level 1



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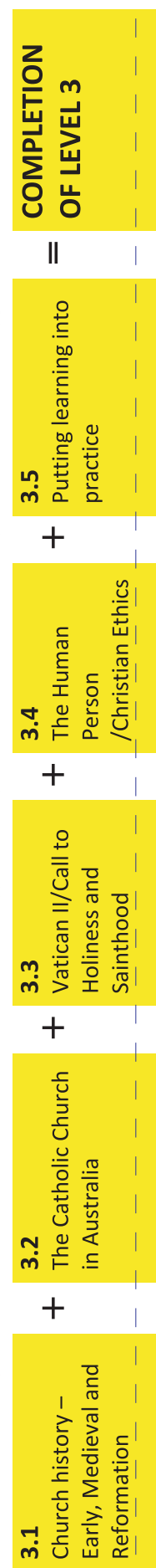
Level 2



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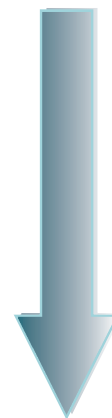
Level 3*

(*Level 3 Units will be updated to include theology, teaching the curriculum and using resources effectively)



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**CERTIFICATE OF
ACCREDITATION**



**TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE
AS A CATECHIST**

CCD Training Courses

TERM 4 - 2017

LEVEL 1 (BASIC)

1.1 Friday 20 October	City
1.2 Friday 27 October	City
1.3 Friday 3 November	City
1.4 Friday 10 November	City
1.5 Friday 17 November	City

LEVEL 2 (INTERMEDIATE)

2.1 Wednesday 18 October	City
2.2 Wednesday 1 November	City
2.3 Wednesday 8 November	City
2.4 Wednesday 15 November	City
2.5 Wednesday 29 November	City

1.1 Monday 6 November	Hoxton Park
1.2 Monday 20 November	Hoxton Park
1.3 Monday 13 November	Hoxton Park
1.4 Monday 27 November	Hoxton Park
1.5 Monday 4 December	Hoxton Park

2.1 Wednesday 18 October	Hoxton Park
2.2 Wednesday 25 October	Hoxton Park
2.3 Wednesday 1 November	Hoxton Park
2.4 Wednesday 15 November	Hoxton Park
2.5 Wednesday 22 November	Hoxton Park

"CATCH-UP" CLASSES

1.1 Wednesday 18 October	Miranda
1.2 Tuesday 24 October	Miranda
1.2 Friday 27 October	City
1.2 Thursday 2 November	City

LEVEL 3 (ADVANCED)

3.1 Monday 16 October	Miranda
3.2 Monday 23 October	Miranda
3.3 Monday 30 October	Miranda
3.4 Monday 6 November	Miranda
3.5 Monday 13 November	Miranda

BEGINNERS' SMARTBOARD COURSE

Friday 20 October (10am – 1.30pm)

St Joseph's Catholic Church
35/45 Nuwarra Rd, Moorebank NSW 210

SECONDARY SCHOOL CATECHIST TRAINING

5 Feb, 6 Feb, 7 Feb, 8 Feb, 9 Feb 2018
(10.00am-3.00pm) - Polding Centre, City

Bookings are essential for all courses - Please contact Laura or Julia:

EMAIL: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au or

TEL: 02 9307 8330 or ONLINE: bookings now open at
ccd.sydneycatholic.org

**ALL COURSES RUN FROM
9.45AM TO 2.15PM**

Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided

COURSE LOCATIONS

City	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Hoxton Park	Meeting Room, 21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park
Miranda	CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda
Moorebank	St Josephs, 231 Newbridge Rd, Moorebank



CCD Calendar

2017

October

Friday 6 Catechist Gathering
10am – 1.30pm
St Joachim's, Lidcombe

Monday 9 Start of Term 4

November

December

Friday 1 Life Members' Function
12.00pm to 2.30pm
Dooley's Catholic Club, Lidcombe

Friday 15 End of Term 4

2018

January

Monday 29 Start of Term 1

TBA Combined Co-ordinators' Meeting:

February

Sunday 4 Catechist Sunday

Wednesday 14 Ash Wednesday

March

Sunday 25 Palm Sunday

Friday 30 Good Friday

April

Sunday 1 Easter Sunday

Friday 13 End of Term 1



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& click 'LIKE'  Like

 A great reason to be on Facebook.

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OUR
NEW WEBSITE

ccd.sydneycatholic.org