

# Our Parish Catechists

**TERM 4, 2018**

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



*Merry Christmas*



CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SYDNEY



Supporting  
Parish Catechists

CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

# Welcome to Term 4



*Thank you for your generous service to our Parish children in public schools. Now we are in the “Advent and Christmas” Term, may you delight with the students in helping them to learn how to wait well and prepare to celebrate the wonderful truth of Christmas: that our loving God chose to be born among us. We usually have only a handful of lessons in Term 4. To help teach the Archbishop’s curriculum, Denise has prepared the following information to show how the Advent and Christmas lessons build upon each other, year by year . . .*

## Christmas Lessons in the Curriculum

What do we teach each year at Christmas?

It is often tempting to give our students too much information each lesson. In our curriculum students are introduced to the nativity story found in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke, but not all the story at once. Each lesson has a part of the Christmas story and a ‘To Remember’ statement – this is what we hope the students will remember about the lesson.

### **Stage 1 (Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2)**

For Kindergarten this may be the first time they have heard the Christmas story. We keep it at an age-appropriate level – Mary is the mother of Jesus, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas – the shepherds come to visit.

In Year 1 and Year 2, we introduce the Visit of the Wise Men, the concept of gift-giving and the Flight into Egypt.

### **Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4)**

These lessons cover Jesus as the Good News and look at how Mary shared this Good News with Elizabeth. Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem where Jesus, God’s greatest gift, was born. The Journey of the Wise Men and the meaning of their gifts is covered. Students are encouraged to identify different styles of Christmas Cards.

### **Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6)**

We encourage our Year 5 and Year 6 Catechists to involve their students in the Archdiocesan Art Exhibition during Term 3, well away from the commercial hype of Christmas. Students’ work is judged both on artistic effort and upon their written reflection. They are encouraged to reflect on the Incarnation and Birth of Jesus, who we believe is both human and divine.

Our SRE lessons tend to end in early December, well before Christmas, but just as Advent starts, which allows our Year 5 and Year 6 Catechists to cover lessons on Mary and Advent during the last couple of weeks of SRE lessons.



# CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

## Building up the Christmas Story in the Curriculum

### Kindergarten

- Mary is the Mother of Jesus – Feast of the Annunciation.
- Advent: we prepare for Jesus at Christmas.
- Christmas: we remember the birth of Jesus.
- The shepherds came to visit the baby Jesus.

### Year 1

- Mary is the Mother of Jesus – Feast of the Annunciation.
- Advent a time to prepare for Christmas – Advent is the season we wait for Jesus.
- Christmas: the birth of Jesus. The wise men visit.
- Jesus was born on Christmas Day.
- Christmas: the flight into Egypt – Joseph and Mary looked after Jesus.

### Year 2

- Advent – we remember the people who waited for the coming of Jesus.
- Church seasons – the Church's seasons help us celebrate the life of Jesus.
- Christmas: the birth of Jesus – Jesus is our Guiding Light.
- Christmas: Gifts for a King – we bring the gift of Jesus to others at Christmas.

### Year 3

- During Advent, we remember John the Baptist who prepared for the Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- Mary said 'Yes' – Like Mary we can say 'yes' to God.
- Mary shares the good news with Elizabeth. Mary is the Mother of God.
- Jesus, the Good News, was born in Bethlehem.
- At Christmas, we remember the birth of Jesus, God's gift to us.

### Year 4

- Advent – a journey to Christmas – a time to prepare for Christmas.
- Advent – a journey in faith – my life is a journey with God.
- Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem – Jesus is the Son of God.
- The journey of the Magi – at Christmas we remember and celebrate God's gift of Jesus to us.

### Year 5

- Mary has been greatly blessed by God and she is honoured by all generations. Mary continues to be honoured through her feast days.
- The Church's year begins with Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.
- In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We are given time to reflect upon, and live out, the hope and expectation of Christ's coming.
- At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour.
- Christmas is the great feast of the Incarnation, one of the key mysteries of our faith. We celebrate that Jesus is both true God and true man.

### Year 6

- Mary is the Model disciple for all believers.
- During Advent, we are reminded of the people who are part of Jesus' family story. Their patience and hope are part of God's message.
- During Advent, we are preparing to receive God's greatest gift to us.
- At Christmas, we celebrate our belief that the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary, became human and lived among us.
- At Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is both true God and true man.

## When and how to renew your WWCC

Just like a driver's licence, the Working With Children Check expires after 5-years and your Working with Children (WWC) number stays with you and needs to be renewed before it expires.

We expect many Catechists will need to renew their WWCC by March 2019. See the 3-step diagram below:

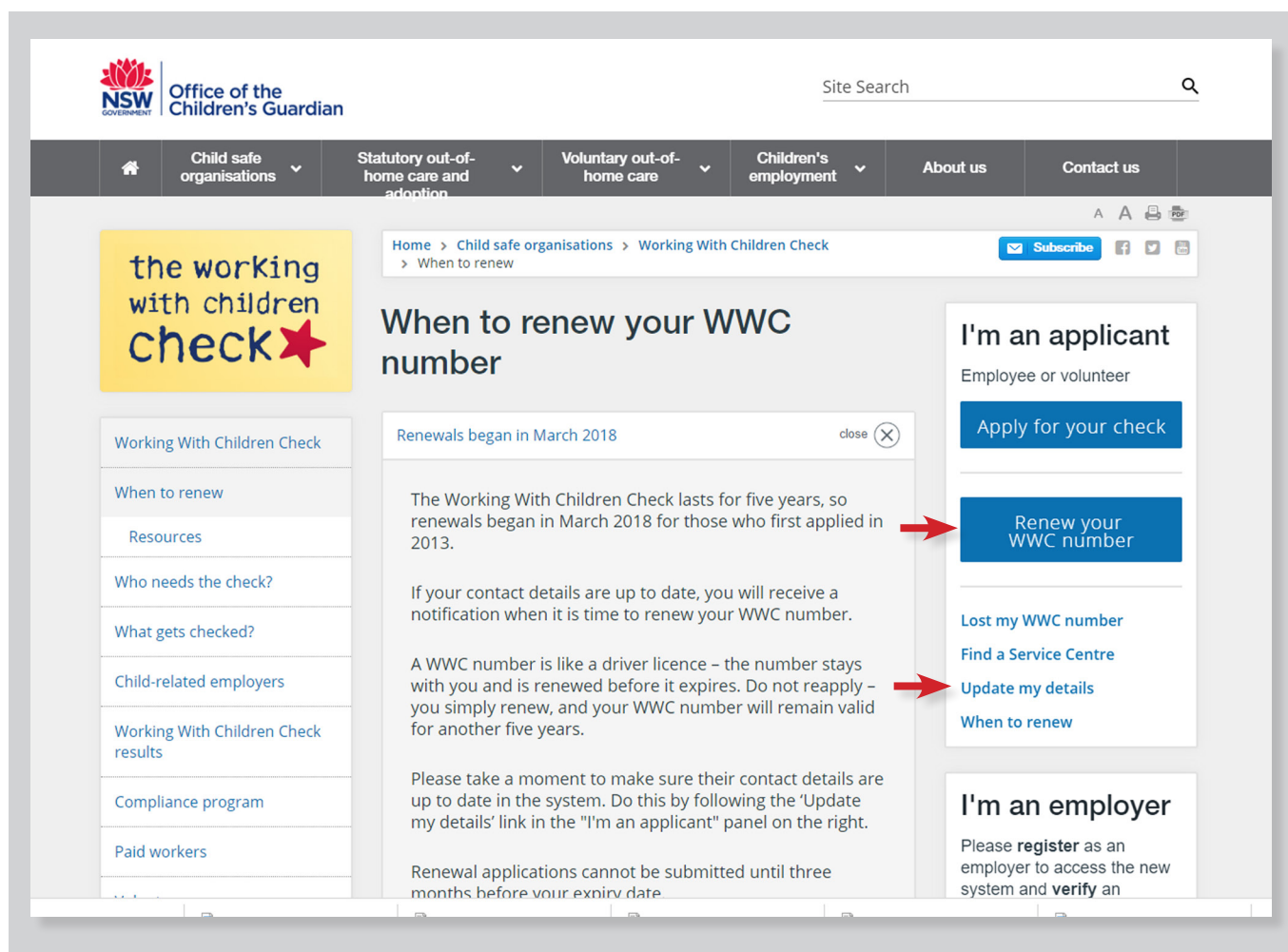
Note: for those who originally applied by post, you or your Parish can update your details via a computer to then complete your renewal online.

Or, if you have changed your email address, you may not receive a reminder email. To update your details do an internet search for "wwcc nsw update details" or type in to the address bar: <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check/renew>





Here is what the WWCC webpage looks like with "the red arrows" pointing to "Renew your WWC number" or "Update my details" ...



## Archdiocesan Catechist Mass – thank you

Congratulations to those Catechists who were awarded service milestones and certificates of training at the Archdiocesan Catechist Mass. Thanks be to God for you all and you heard the thanks of all those who filled the Cathedral and their resounding applause. See Anita's article on page 16 with special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and choir. To the CCD team for making this significant celebration of parish life happen, thank you.

It is a testament to Catechists that a former Scripture student was our main celebrant, Very Rev Michael McLean, who is now also our Episcopal Vicar for Education. There are many testaments to faithful Catechists - so many of you have told me of uplifting "in the street" chance meetings with former students.

Photos are available from Giovanni Portelli, our award-winning charismatic photographer, who is happy to share his webpage link should you wish to order photo prints:

<https://giovanniportelliphotography.zenfolio.com/p929316273>

Password: 212

Some photos by Giovanni appear on pages 12-13.

### Initial Induction and Ongoing Training

Come to refresh yourselves at training “to receive in order to hand on” more ways of getting the “To Remember” across. Not only do you receive good teaching tips and tactics but good company (con-pane means to break bread with) gathering as we do in Jesus’ name to learn and lunch together.

The revised Training Courses are proving a hit with Catechists. As Jesus said, “Come and see” ...

- o How to use the authorised curriculum, the Bible and resources, classroom management and safeguarding – these topics make up our “induction/refreshers” training; then, you are welcome to attend our Level 2 (Intermediate) training where we cover:

- o How children learn and how to teach about God, Creation and the Old Testament stories;

- o How Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 children learn and

what we believe and how to teach about Jesus and the New Testament;

- o Year 3 and Year 4 learners and what we believe and how to teach about the faith community, the Commandments and about Moses;

- o Years 5 and 6 learners and what we believe and how to teach about the Beatitudes and about Mary;

- o Moral development and how we teach about the sacraments

- o Our Level 3 (Advanced) training then looks across history to contemplate the Holy Spirit gathering a People for God.

These training courses aim to offer you simple yet effective ways to help create lasting, joyful memories for children, to help build solid foundations upon rock not shifting sands.

### Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Art Competition and Exhibition

In early December, we look forward to Archbishop Anthony recognising our Year 5 and 6 students for their Christmas artworks and reflective writing. These artworks will be on public display at Notre Dame University, Broadway until early January should you wish to see what incredibly creative students we have in our Parishes.



2017 “Artistic Achievement” and “Highly Commended” awardees, Emma and Michael Pictured here with Denise Humphreys, John Charadia (Catholic Schools Officer: Gifted Education, Creativity & Critical Thinking) and Doug Mawhinney.

## Combined Area Co-ordinators' meeting

**Date claimer - Friday 1st February 2019, 10am-1pm (lunch included)**

We invite our Catechist Co-ordinators to gather in the city for a combined Area meeting (venue to be advised). Friday 1st February is the first Friday of Term 1. CCD will report on the training that School Principals are to receive on the new SRE Procedures and the increased support you can expect from schools issuing from the NSW SRE-SEE Review. A meeting agenda with more details will be provided to you. We look forward to celebrating the New "School" Year with you!

## Catholic SRE class information for parents

"What is Catholic SRE? Information for Parents" pamphlets are available to offer to interested parents at school open days/enrolment information evenings and for 2019 new Kindy students (to "put it in your bag") and for new Year 7 students enrolled in Catholic SRE to take home to their parents. Remember to let your school office/principal know when you are handing these out to your students at Scripture time.

The pamphlet also has a welcome from Archbishop Anthony and a section inviting parents to consider becoming Catechists.

If you need more of these blue and white pamphlets, please ask your Area Faith Education Officer (FEO) or contact our city office.

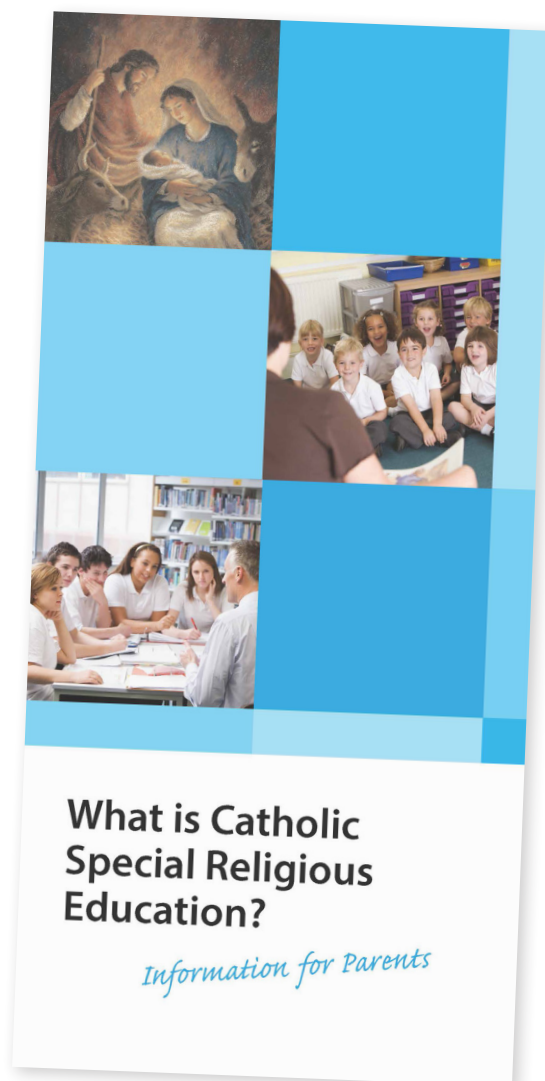
### For our journey together ...

If you need help, please contact us. We are here to help.

I wish you, your family, friends and students a wonderful Christmas season.

As you are blessed and sent forth from Sunday Mass, out to your parish's children in public schools nearby, may you take with you the hope and joy of God-with-us, Emmanuel.

**Doug Mawhinney**  
**Director, CCD (Sydney)**  
**Email:** [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)  
**Tel:** 9307 8330 CCD Sydney office





## Catechist Recruitment

### "To Remember" recruitment recap of what works

Regular "taps on shoulders", appeals at Mass and parish bulletins announcements do work. *What works well is to highlight a great good – tell of the number of parish children in your local public school who will benefit from hearing the Good News – and issue an invitation: Come and delight in a most spiritually fulfilling mission; our Parish kids in state schools are hungry to hear the story of Jesus and the joy and hope he brings.*

**"The 3 blockages"** to volunteers stepping forward to be Catechists and where clergy and existing Catechists maybe able to assist are:

- ☐ "I don't know enough about my faith" (show a lesson by having a step-by-step Teacher's Manual and Children's Activity book on hand – you can teach this – start as a helper)
- ☐ "I want to take holidays without being hampered by a weekly commitment" (we have backup support – the fact is it is easier to cover a 6-8 week cruise than a school year)
- ☐ "I doubt if I can handle a classroom full of kids" (we have training, in class support; which will even help with your own children and grandchildren)



Many parishioners simply need your reassurance to gain the confidence to work with their clergy and catechist team to evangelise and catechise "on and beyond" Sunday.

**Recruitment resources** are available year-round on the CCD website: [ccdsydney.catholic.org](http://ccdsydney.catholic.org), e.g. a recruitment poster and brochure template are available to download for you to insert your local details and print.

Recruitment materials will also be delivered to your parishes with the "Catechist Sunday" packs, which is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of February in most parishes.

## A great idea from Marsfield

Recently St Anthony's Parish, Marsfield, held a function entitled

### MEET YOUR CHILD'S SCRIPTURE TEACHER

It was a very worthwhile initiative suggested by a catechist on our team.

The object of the evening was to give parents of the children attending Catholic SRE "Scripture" classes an opportunity to meet with the Catechist teaching their child, to discuss the curriculum and to enquire about their child's progress in class.

Permission was granted from each school before sending home an invitation to the parents.

The evening was a huge success with eight families attending with their children. Our team of catechists provided supper and were on hand wearing name tags highlighting which class they were teaching. Sample activity books of each grade were on display and bookmarks were given out (outlining St Anthony's Parish Mass times and information on St Anthony).

As the Catechist recruitment video screened quietly in the background, we were able to mingle with the families, enjoy a cup of tea and hopefully help bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the Church and State School families.

*Madeleine, Catechist & Co-ordinator*

## A testimony to real teamwork from Lanie Catechist, St Kevin's Parish, Eastwood

Organising an event can be daunting. This is even more challenging if you have only known the people that you will be working with for a short period of time.

I accepted the Catechist Co-ordinator role this year not knowing what to expect. I have heard people speak at Mass, promoting the work of Catechists.

They invite people to join the ministry and share the Catholic faith with children in public schools. I was approached, not so long ago, to be a Catechist.

I couldn't answer the call then as I was unsure whether I could commit wholeheartedly to the cause. But look where that invitation led me.

As I began this journey, I felt warmly welcomed when I was introduced to the group during our first Catechist meeting. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by good people in our parish.



People have known each other for so long that they have formed friendships that will last a lifetime. Our previous Catechist Co-ordinator is very supportive and well-organized. She's still guiding me every step of the way.

As I was made aware that we will be hosting the Northern Area Mass this year, I was quite anxious whether we could live up to the expectations or not.

This was a first for the Parish of St. Kevin and we wanted everyone to feel welcome as we celebrated the importance of this ministry in our community.

With the support of Fr Martin Maunsell everything went smoothly as planned. Jobs were assigned, and Catechists volunteered to help.

After weeks of liaising with all the people involved, from altar servers, readers, musicians, projectionist, ushers, servers ... everything was set and ready to go.

Mass booklets were printed; visual presentations were finalized; food, drinks, tables and chairs were set-up, and even the designated parking areas were all accounted for.

From the Mass to the luncheon, everything went well! Teamwork was evident. Catechists from other parishes were congratulating us for all the work we had done. I felt very proud of the St. Kevin's Catechists.

They should all be commended for their huge effort in making this celebration a success! The support that you have given to this ministry is truly remarkable!

*Lanie, Catechist & Co-ordinator*



# One year countdown – 2019 Youth Festival Update

## Preparing for the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

More than 5000 young Catholics are expected to converge on Perth next year from 8-10 December for ACYF.

As the largest Catholic gathering in Australia, the ACYF promotes and engages with the lives and voices of young Catholics, equipping them to live faith-filled lives in the world.

The ACYF19 will be held at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre (PCEC), centrally located to allow the festival's large plenaries, workshops, expo and experiences to be hosted under one roof. The festival will use the scriptural focus of the Plenary Council 2020 by adopting the theme 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying (Rev 2:7)'. Prayers for and discussion about the Plenary Council will ensure vital consultation with Australia's youth



takes place in this important journey in the life of the Church.

Help inspire and 'stir hearts' by letting our young people know about ACYF to show that the People of God, the

Church, is bigger than their Scripture class and, like Jesus, is forever young.

Please keep Vincent Haber and his team in your prayers as they organise ACYF Perth 2019

## Plenary Council 2020

The **Plenary Council 2020** is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future.

How you can be involved:

- Many parishes have nominated parish ambassadors to lead listening and dialogue sessions in the local community. If your parish does not have an ambassador, it may be that your parish is conducting discussion and feedback in other ways. Talk with your parish priest about this or to become a parish ambassador. To know more contact 9390 5100 or [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)

- Look out for a listening and dialogue session near you or for more details contact us on 9390 5100 or email, as above.

- You can make an individual and direct response to the national Plenary Council by emailing: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>

- Share your response with us at the Sydney Archdiocese via: [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)

- Want to know more? Watch the videos at: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/watch/>

## Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.  
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia  
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories  
and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other  
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.





## Student Catechist Program – feedback



Southern Cross Student Catechists with local Parish SRE Catechists

(photos and names used with school permission)

Each Wednesday and Thursday, Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College students attend nearby Catholic SRE classes at Burwood and Croydon Public schools. The children love having these high school students in their classes and wait eagerly for them each week. Please read reflections, below, from Mr Michael Portelli, a Southern Cross teacher who is very supportive of the program, and two dedicated students who have contributed to the program throughout 2017 and 2018. These exceptional young men have attended classes weekly for two years and are now mentors for the new Student Catechists from Southern Cross.

**Suzanne Miceli (CCD Sydney)**

Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College, Burwood, is a unique school for Year 11 & 12 students that focuses on employability skills. Students enrol at the school to study VET courses or trades, such as, Hospitality, Automotive, Hairdressing, Event Management. As a Catholic school, we require students to engage with the broader community and to volunteer their time and skills in serving others. This is what we call social outreach and the Student Catechist Program has become a significant part of our Social Outreach Program here at Southern Cross. This has proven to be a very successful program with students gaining a significant amount of experience in sharing their faith and education as well as working with children. Young people today are on their own faith journey and by being part of the Catechist Program, students can question, enhance and develop their own faith, which in turn draws them closer to the Church.

**Michael Portelli (Leader of Catholic Life and Mission)**

I have been helping with the Croydon Public School Catechist Program for 2 years now. For me, the benefits of participating in this program are being able to not only educate and help these kids understand their Catholic faith and their values in life but also in learning new skills in educating the younger generation. I have learnt how to be a person they can look up to. Helping these kids is a wonderful experience and being able to show my interest and knowledge to them is a real achievement for me. To me, being able to sit in a room with fun, energetic and engaging kids is a real treat because then I know I'm making an impact on the next generation, the generation that is our future, the generation that is going to be able to make an impact on other generations.

**Cooper (Year 12 student)**

I have been a student catechist for just under two years now for Croydon Parish and have been going to Croydon Public School every Thursday to participate in the Catechist Program. This is a unique opportunity for me to give up my time to help teach Catholic values and beliefs to kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn or explore their faith. My role as a student catechist is to assist the catechist in any way that I can. This includes helping students that may be struggling and ensuring that they are focused, engaged and on task. This can be quite difficult but also very rewarding as each year group offers different challenges and different perspectives. You never know what you're going to get as each week is just so different.

**Douglas (Year 12 student)**



## 2018 ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHIST MASS



Certificate of Accreditation



Cardinal Freeman Medal- 25 years service



Celebrating priests



Card



## 2018 ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHIST MASS



Life Member's Award- 30 years service



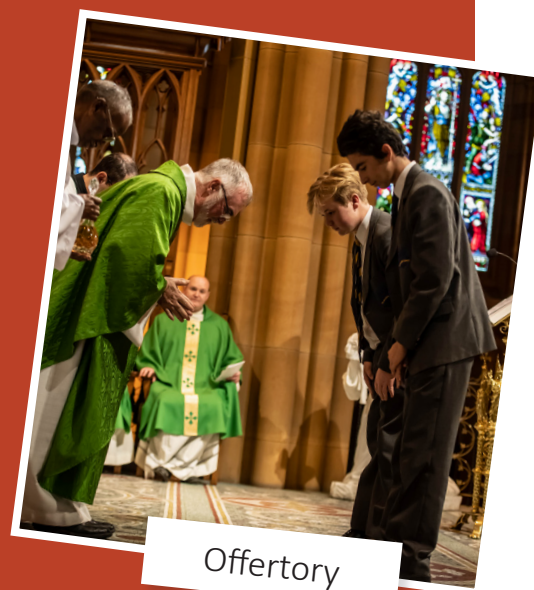
CCD Staff



Apostolic Blessing- 20 years service



Cardinal Gilroy Award – 40 years service



Offertory





Student Catechists at the 2018 Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass



### Dempsey Medal for Service awardees in this Year of Youth

The Australian Catholic Bishops designated 2018 at the Year of Youth. It is fitting that two young Catechists who have demonstrated characteristics of commitment, initiative and sustained enthusiasm in giving of their time and talents were recognised recently by our Archbishop.

One of our former Student Catechists from Bethlehem College, Ashfield, Jessica Manganaro, who became a Parish SRE Catechist, primary school teacher and Ashfield Parish youth group and young adult group initiator, was awarded the Archbishop's Dempsey Medal along with Chehade Richa, husband, dad, family business operator and high school catechist, who has been covering four high schools, since his appearance (as Judas!) in the Sydney World Youth Day Passion Play.

Congratulations, Jessica and Chehade, from the CCD team, with our thanks for your witness and practical help in leading The Way. May your evident love of God and service inspire many.





## Student Catechist Program – history & feedback

The High School Student Catechist Program was introduced to the Sydney Archdiocese following a CCD Sydney staff member attending the Parramatta Diocese's Annual Catechist Mass in 2008. The program had developed under the directorship of Mr. Paul Worthington, CCD Parramatta, from its 1996 foundation by Ms. Veronica Sultana, who became the CCD's Blue Mountains Regional Coordinator, initially working in collaboration with the staff and students of Glenmore Catholic Girls High.

The pioneer year in the Sydney Archdiocese was 2009 when five schools commenced the program with a total

St Clare's have been exceptional in selecting future leaders who have a genuine interest and serious attitude towards the program. In one of the years all the girls chosen to be catechists were selected as part of the College Student Representative Council (SRC) and this continues today. The 2018 student cohort contributed to a recent interview about the program (as pictured with their current REC, Mr. Mark McCoy). The students gave an overall picture of satisfaction with the Student Catechist Program; for all, the program had enhanced their confidence in a number of ways. They were impressed by the interest and curiosity of the Waverley Primary students; furthermore,



(photo used with permission)

of 48 students. Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield, were the founding school that attracted 26 students. For CCD Sydney's Eastern Area – made up of Deanery 6 (City) and Deanery 7 (Eastern), St Clare's College was the first to come on board and partner with Waverley Public School in 2012.

The College selected 12 students through its Leadership Program as organised by Ms. Martina Cooper, the then REC. Training was organised with Mr. Robert Milan, Faith Education Officer of the Eastern Area, during a school day. Students were educated in Child Protection, Classroom Management and the Use of the Christ our Light and Life SRE Curriculum with practical mock teaching and presentations in groups.

The number of students from St Clare's College, Waverley, alone began to grow over the following nine years with the current number of students involved in the program being 26.

they found the program easy to prepare for by following the COLAL curriculum. For a couple of the High School students, it gave them an understanding of being a teacher and an insight into what it is like to be on the other side of teaching. In all, they had high praise for the program with all recommending participation for future students and would like to reconnect as catechists in their local parish at some point in the future.

A word of gratitude to the leadership team at St Clare's College and in particular, Mr. Mark McCoy (current REC); Mrs. Sussan Farrugia, Mrs Julie Bjazevich and Ms Martina Cooper. The Principals of St Clare's, Waverley, have been a tremendous support by continuing to back the mission of catechesis and the Student Catechist program. Thank you to Mrs Mrs Antoinette McGahan (current Principal) and her predecessor Ms Marie Therese Hirschhorn.

– Robert Milan

## Northern Area Faith Education Officer



**Anita Lee**

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### Welcome to Term 4!

There are so many people whom I would like to thank for organising the many events in Term 3 that went very well and were so meaningful for our catechists. So many of you helped with preparing for training, our parish meetings and celebrations, including our Area Mass and the annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass.

Congratulations again to those who were awarded for their completion of training and years of service milestones in St Mary's Cathedral, which we filled, that beautiful afternoon of Sunday 23rd September. As it was our Area's turn to help make this Archdiocesan Mass happen, thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents, including those who formed our combined Northern Parishes choir to lead us so beautifully in song. Thank you.

I am also grateful to Madeleine and Lanie for agreeing to share their stories with us (on pages 8-9) that are testaments to the love of serving others and their YES or "Fiat" to God's calling.

This last Term is always full of excitement as we are prepare the children to celebrate well the wel-coming of baby Jesus into the world.

I hope you will find time in this busy Term to reflect back upon our Mother Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel. Like her you are all wonderful Catechists who have said 'Yes' to this special ministry of making present the best present of all, Jesus, Christ our Life and Light.

I thank each one of you and wish you a very meaningful and happy Christmas. As always, I look forward to catching up with you soon.

May our celebrations of the baby Jesus fill your hearts with peace, hope and many blessings,





## Southern Area Faith Education Officer



### To the Catechists of the Southern Area,

I hope this finds you all well and full of energy for the last 6-8 weeks of SRE lessons. Our European holiday people should now be back in class and thankfully, the 'flu season should have ended. Make sure you know the date of the last SRE lesson so you are not caught by surprise and miss those Advent Christmas lessons.

Thank you to all the catechists who attended our Annual Catechist Mass on 23rd September. Once again, it was a great celebration. Congratulation to Pat Cutcliffe who was recognized for 40 years of service. Pat has taught at Kirrawee High School and Bates Drive Special school for most of this time. In 2019, it will be the Southern Area's turn to host the Annual Catechist Mass. We will be looking for a choir and helpers on the day.

In Term 3, Safeguarding workshops on Reporting and Complaints Handling Procedures for SRE catechists were held at Engadine, Menai, Oatley, Sans Souci, Brighton-Le-Sands, Hurstville, Oatley, Carlton and Cronulla. All catechists must have their safeguarding updated to the 2018/2017 standard. I will be contacting you with the names of those who do not yet comply – we can organize a session for your parish. Just a reminder that all new and resuming catechists must complete this course before they enter a classroom.

During Term 3, I have had the opportunity to visit Year 5 and Year 6 classes who participated in the Archdiocesan Art Competition. The artwork and reflections some of our students produced was amazing. They are truly exploring the true meaning of Christmas.

Among the many symbols that help us to understand Christmas, light is of particular spiritual significance.

Indeed, the "O" antiphon refers to the Rising Sun, the splendor of eternal light, who comes to enlighten us, guiding us to the salvation promised by God and realized in Jesus Christ. "As we prepare to celebrate the Savior's birth let us keep our Christian traditions to the fore. Let the lights of our streets and the candles of our churches remind us that God is with us, born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary; he is the light of our lives and of the world! With Mary let us, in awe, await his coming!" (Saint Pope John Paul II)

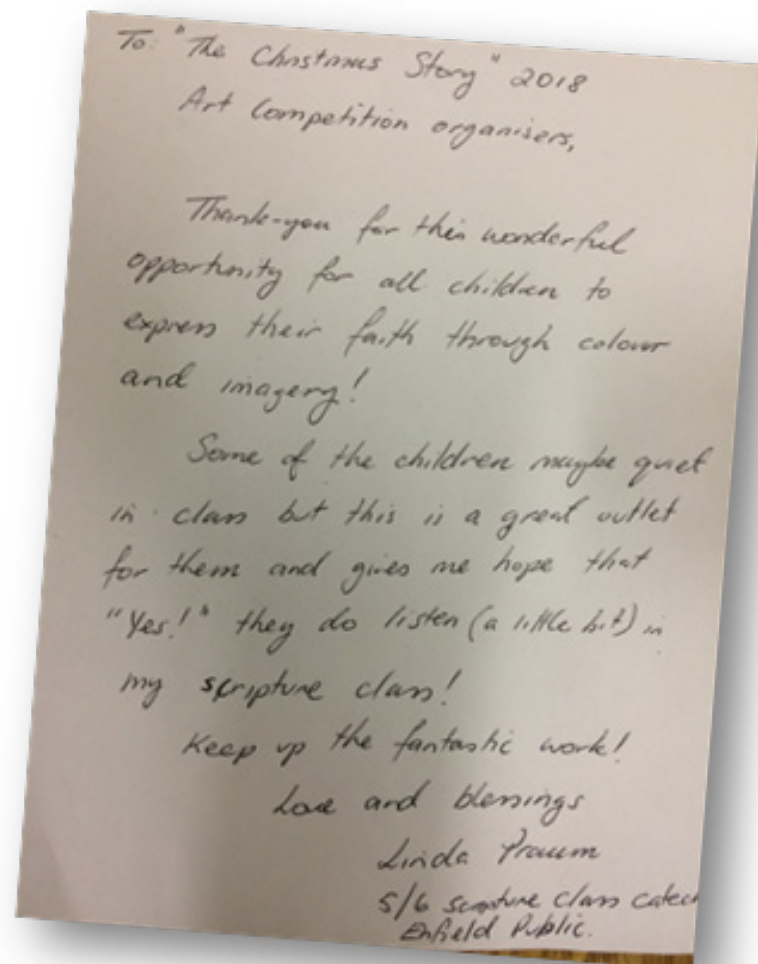
Please email me if you need help.

### Denise Humphreys

**Email:** denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

**OR:** southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

**Tel:** 9524 6400 Miranda  
CCD Office



## Central Area Faith Education Officer

### Dear catechists,

It is hard to believe this the final report for 2018. Where has the year gone? I hope your SRE classes went well in Term 3 and you look forward to enjoying the final weeks with your class in Term 4. During the past Term, the final Central Area Mass was held at St Mel's, Campsie, because we are realigning our parish support Areas into the Archdiocese's new Deanery boundaries (parish groupings).

Therefore, given I will no longer be the Area FEO for several Parishes, a candle ceremony during the Mass at Campsie marked the handover of some parishes back to Denise Humphreys, FEO for the Southern Area, and to Teresa Culjak, FEO in the Western Area.

The following parishes will move to their new Deaneries:

The Parishes of Georges Hall, Revesby, Panania-Revesby Heights and Padstow are now part of the South-Western Deanery and will be looked after by Teresa, CCD's Western FEO.

The Parishes of Beverly Hills, Earlwood-Clemton Park, Kingsgrove and Riverwood will return to the St George Deanery (after 14 years) to be looked after again by Denise, Southern FEO.

I would like to sincerely thank Fr

Anthony Mifsud, Parish Priest of Campsie, for presiding at the Mass. Many thanks also to Diane Daher, the Parish secretary, Jenny Spinks, Campsie co-ordinator and all the catechists who worked behind the scenes to make this final Central Area Mass and luncheon a memorable event.

Many thanks, especially to the co-ordinators of these parishes, Lorraine Corkeron, Maureen Kelly, Lorraine Patrick, Josephine D'acciaro, Pauline O'Shea, Elizabeth Gooley, Josephine



Quinn, Barbara Martin, Norina Fincato and Peter Coleman for their support over the past 18-months. It has been a pleasure working with you. I wish you all the best for the future and look forward to seeing you at joint catechist events.

I will now be working with Anita Lee in Deanery 3 (Central) and Deanery 4 (Concord). I am fortunate to be



able to continue co-ordinating the remainder of the Parishes from the old Central Area that are now spread across new Central and Concord Deaneries. I look forward to strengthening the relationships we have developed.

Thank you to all the student catechists who have worked in Central Area



schools this year. Your contribution to SRE classes is appreciated and valued. I hope you have enjoyed working with the children. I know they look forward to seeing you each week.

I would like to wish you all the best for the final Term of the year. Don't forget to plan your lessons so that you get to teach the Christmas lessons in our curriculum. Thank you for all your dedicated service throughout the year. May you and your families experience the peace and joy of the Holy Family in your own families throughout the coming Christmas season.



**Suzanne Miceli**

**Email:** [Suzanne.miceli@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Suzanne.miceli@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**Tel:** 9787 3579 Campsie  
CCD Office



## Eastern Area Faith Education Officer

A congratulations to all awardees at the 2018 Annual Catechist Mass especially, Narelle Ann Hills, Rose Bay, 25 Years' Service Cardinal Freeman Medal; and Paola Romeo and Stella Maria Cessario (deceased) of Maroubra Bay, 20 Years' Service Apostolic Blessing.

It is always with sadness that we farewell our inspirational catechists. This year we farewelled Stella Maria Cessario from the Maroubra Bay parish who passed into eternal life and was due to receive the Apostolic Blessing for 20 years of service. Maria's husband Michael and her grand-daughter, Sammy-Lee, received the award on her behalf at the Annual Mass. Maria is missed by all, may she rest in peace. Sister Antonine from the Missionaries of Charity was received into eternal life this year. Sister Antonine was assigned the role of Coordinator for the Surry Hills/Darlinghurst catechists and inspired many through her ser-

vice, charitable and pleasant nature. We remember Sister Antonine sharing with catechists the saintly life of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta at the Catechist Retreat in 2016 and at the Life Member's Function of that same year. May Sister Antonine rest in peace.

**WWCC renewals:** An important reminder that Working with Children (WWC) renewals will be coming up. I received my reminder via email on 10th September because my WWCC is due for renewal by 9th December. Please ensure your WWC number is renewed prior to the due date. See page 4-5 for more details

Thank you all for being the hands, mouth, feet, heart and living witnesses of Jesus Christ and I wish you all a most blessed and uplifting Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

I wish to remind you that the Archdiocese has reorganised a few of its



parishes into new Deanery groupings.

The good news is that your situation does not change with regards to your Deaneries, or your Faith Education Officer,

as I will continue to serve the City parishes (Deanery 6) and Eastern parishes (Deanery 7).

God be with you and as always please you are welcome to email me your comments, questions or concerns that are pressing on your heart.

**Robert Milan**

**Email:** Robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

**Tel:** 9307 8332 City CCD Office



**Maria Cessario**

**25 March 1948 – 1 May 2018**



**Sr. M. Antonine MC**

**15 Feb 1948 – 7 Aug 2018**

*For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

1. ROMANS 14:8



## Western Area Faith Education Officer



Greetings to all in the South-Western and Western Deaneries!

It is with great joy that I've returned as Faith Education Officer after 18 months working for the Catholic Church in Los Angeles, USA. It was a great experience to see how our brothers and sisters in the Northern hemisphere proclaim the faith.

It is interesting to note, that there are over 78 million Catholics in the United States. They have AMAZING programs, speakers and facilities, yet there is not one Catholic who receives Special Religious Education (SRE) in the public school system. SRE is unique to Australia. A gift, a grace, a blessing given by the Lord to proclaim His great love to our youngest; many of whom may be distant from the Church.

In 1606, a Portugese Navigator de Quiros sighted Australia and declared Australia to be the 'Great South Land of the Holy Spirit':

Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures and all those here present witness that I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, in the name of Jesus Christ, hoist this emblem of the Holy Cross on which Jesus Christ's person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the

ransom and remedy of the human race, on this day of Pentecost, 14 May 1606, I take possession of all this part of the South as far as the pole in the name of Jesus, which from now on shall be called the Southern land of the Holy Spirit and this always and forever to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy, sacred Evangel may be preached zealously and openly.

Many are the voices who oppose SRE. However, God has blessed this 'Great South Land of the Holy Spirit' and has entrusted us with the task, to seize the opportunity to evangelise through our public school system. The Lord has chosen you for this mission and trusts you. He is confident in His choice of you. Therefore, I encourage you to be the best catechist you can be; to place our children not only in touch but in communion with Jesus Christ.

There are multiple ways we can increase our catechetical giftedness. On a spiritual level, we can offer Masses or pray a decade of the Rosary daily for our students, join or start a Bible Study/prayer group, attend a retreat, read the lives of the saints and or good spiritual books. On a practical level, we can attend our CCD training (Levels 1, 2 and 3), visit

fellow catechist classes for new ideas/inspiration, or spruce up our lesson by using different and varied classroom resources.

A special thank you to Fr Liem Duong, Mary Pankiw and the catechist team at Sacred Heart, Cabramatta, for hosting this year's Western Area Mass. With over 200 catechists in attendance the catechists at Sacred Heart provided a beautiful liturgy and a feast to feed the thousands!

Congratulations to all our awardees who received significant years of catechetical service awards at our annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass. Thank you for your extravagant witness and helping to build the civilisation of love.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and holy Christmas.

**Teresa Culjak**

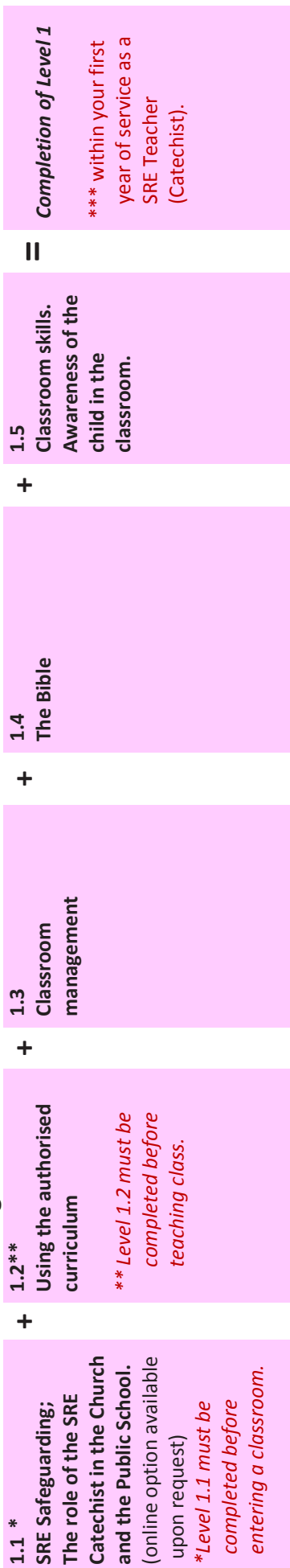
**Email:** [teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**Tel:** 9307 8332 City CCD Office

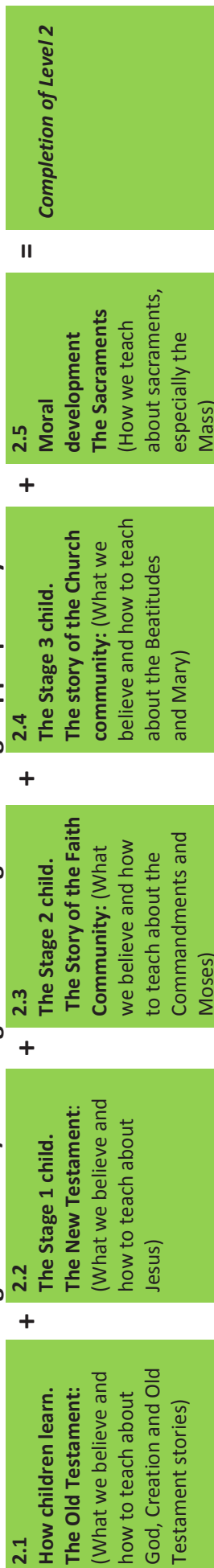


# TRAINING COURSE OUTLINE

## Level 1 – SRE induction training \*\*\*



## Level 2 – Understanding the learner / How to get the message across age-appropriately



## Level 3 – Holy Spirit gathering a People for God



+

Two years'  
experience as a  
Catechist

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION





# Course Information

## COURSE LOCATIONS

<b>Campsie</b>	St Mel's Parish, 16 Duke Street, Campsie
<b>City</b>	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
<b>Maroubra Bay</b>	St Mary & Joseph, 246 Malabar Road, Maroubra Bay
<b>Miranda Parish</b>	CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

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

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

**COURSES ARE SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE - BOOKINGS  
ARE ESSENTIAL**

To book, kindly contact the CCD office: EMAIL: [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)  
TEL; 9307 8330 OR online at [ccd.sydneycatholic.org](http://ccd.sydneycatholic.org)

## Level 1 – SRE induction training

### 1.1 – Safeguarding & Role of the SRE Catechist

Friday 26 October	City
Tuesday 30 October	Miranda
Wednesday 7 November	Maroubra Bay

### 1.2 – Using the authorised curriculum

Friday 2 November	City
Tuesday 6 November	Miranda
Wednesday 14 November	Maroubra Bay

### 1.3 – Classroom management

Friday 9 November	City
Tuesday 13 November	Miranda

### 1.4 – The Bible

Friday 16 November	City
Tuesday 20 November	Miranda

### 1.5 – Classroom skills and resources

Friday 23 November	City
Tuesday 27 November	Miranda

## 2018 - TERM 4

NSW Special Religious Education Teacher training for Catholic SRE Parish Catechists and Helpers

### Level 2 – understanding the learner / how to get the message across age-appropriately

#### 2.1 – How children learn/The Old Testament

Friday 19 October	Campsie
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#### 2.2 – The Stage 1 child/The New Testament

Friday 26 October	Campsie
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#### 2.3 – Stage 2 child/Story of the Faith Community

Friday 2 November	Campsie
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#### 2.4 – The Stage 3 child; The story of the Church community

Friday 9 November	Campsie
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#### 2.5 – Moral development/The Sacraments

Friday 16 November	Campsie
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### 3.1 – Pentecost to the Council of Nicaea

Monday 22 October	Miranda
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### 3.2 – Charlemagne to the Crusades; Eastern Church and Western Church; The Liturgical Year

Monday 29 October	Miranda
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### 3.3 – The Inquisition to the Reformation; Holiness and Sainthood

Monday 5 November	Miranda
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### Level 3 – Holy Spirit gathering a People for God

#### 3.4 – From Europe to 'the ends of the earth' – the Catholic Church in Australia

Monday 12 November	Miranda
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#### 3.5 – Vatican II; The Human Person; Christian Ethics

Monday 19 November	Miranda
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## OCTOBER 2018

Monday 15 **Start of Term 4**

## NOVEMBER 2018

End of SRE classes – check with your school

## DECEMBER 2018

Friday 19 **End of Term 4**

## JANUARY 2019

Tuesday 29 **First day of Term 1**

## FEBRUARY 2019

Friday 1 **Combined Area Co-ordinators'; meeting**

**10am-1.30pm. Lunch included, Venue to be advised**

**Sunday 3 Catechist Sunday**

**Visit your CCD Team on Level 6 for all Parish catechist enquiries & support**



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

For updates, events, pictures, news and stories....

Search for **CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools** on FACEBOOK   
& click '**LIKE**'  Like



*A great reason to be on Facebook.*

### **CATECHIST SUNDAY SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2019**

"Dear God, Please send us a Catechist. We will work hard, pay attention And do really good drawings. We miss hearing stories about Jesus. Do you think we can please have a new scripture teacher soon?"

### **CCD Head Office**

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SYDNEY NSW 2000

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**Website:** [www.ccd.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.ccd.sydneycatholic.org)

Contact us for all  
Curriculum and Sacramental  
book orders.

– Eleanor & Priscilla

Christ our Light & Life Curriculum and Gratia Series  
Sacramental Programs are available at the CCD Office  
Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney or  
email: [books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**Online orders:** [www.ccdsydneycatholic.org](http://www.ccdsydneycatholic.org)

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