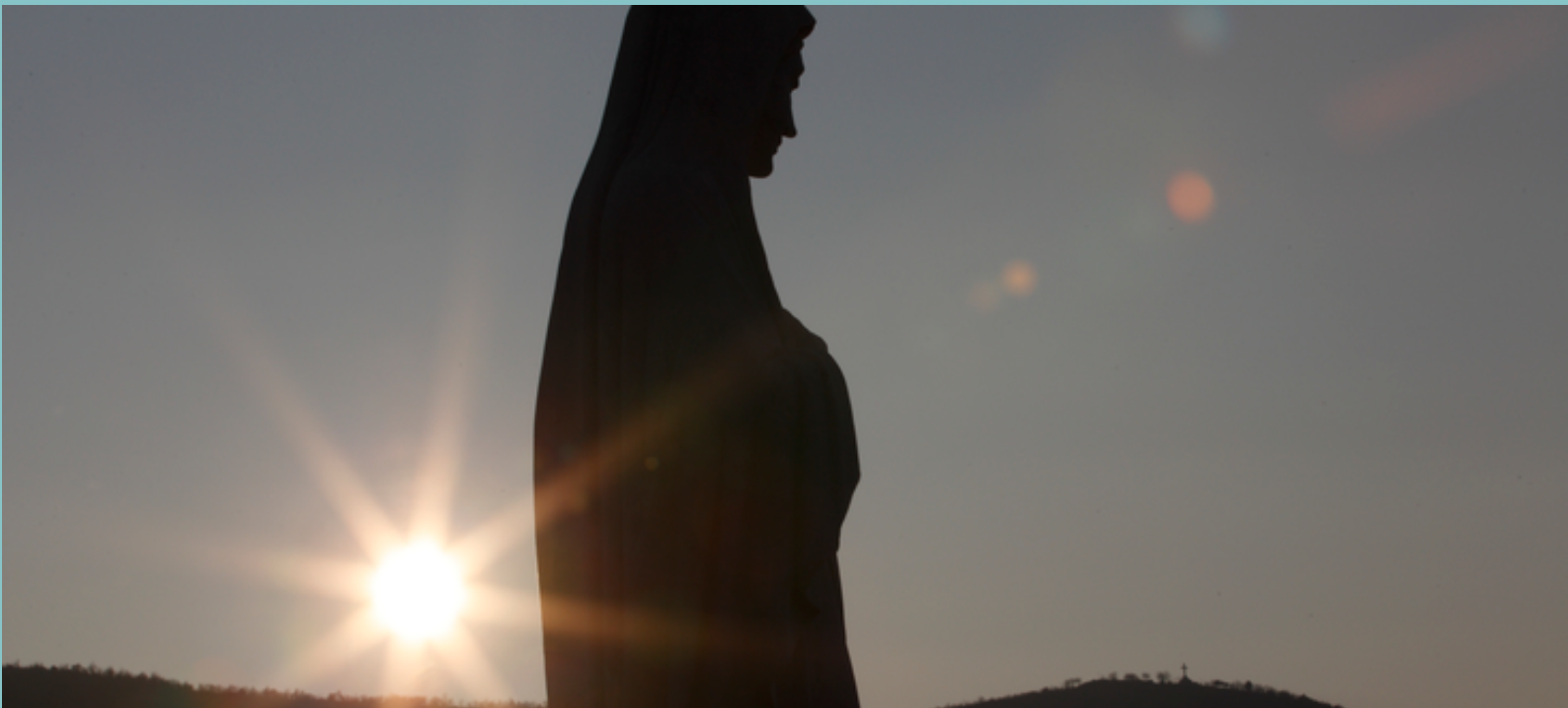


ISSUE 3

MONTH OF MARY

7 MAY 2020



*The loveliest
masterpiece of
the heart of God
is the heart of
a mother.*



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

Happy Mother's Day

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A Personal Note of Thanks and Prayer

To you, our Parish Catechists, thank you for your prayers for tens of thousands of families like our own at this time of no SRE classes in public schools.

Like you, I have done Catechist SRE training, for which I am also thankful to our CCD Faith Education Officers (FEOs), and for their refresher courses to learn new things – university theology study is one thing: teaching kids is another!

Again, with many thanks, I share that SRE training has taught me how to teach SRE lessons to children, to help them eagerly set up a prayer place, including our own at home (“Dad, don’t you know our catechist already showed us how to do that?!”) and how to help children to learn and pray by using words and ‘doing activities’ that they understand and really enjoy – Bible paper-plate craft is still a hit in our household.

I am also thankful for our kids’ local public school teachers who are wonderful. The understanding, care and support of so many teachers and our Department of Education is to be highly commended – I hope we can all find ways to thank school teachers and administration staff when we return.

Please keep praying for the well-being of all students, their families, school teachers and our Department of Education staff as we also keep praying for one another.

May God continue to bless you and, Mary, pray for us – happy Mother’s Day to you and all families,

Doug
Director CCD

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4

Director's SRE Update

Schools supporting parental choice of SRE

Parents/caregivers can now access approved SRE curriculum materials to use at home from CCD's NSW Catholic SRE webpage.

- Please note: this new webpage is not a portal for SRE teachers to contact any of their students or to add any material.
- Our NSW Catholic SRE CCRESS webpage has approved CCD Sydney SRE activity sheets to download and CCD Broken Bay PowerPoint slides to view, which have voice-overs (that read the text on the slides) and music embedded – FYI: CCRESS means the CCD's "Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools" NSW network. This is a work in progress, see: <https://www.ccress.org.au/>
- Schools have been asked by the Department of Education to inform parents/caregivers that approved SRE-SEE material are now available online for families to use during the pause in SRE.

Real life note: yes, our family's local public primary school emailed the approved SRE-SEE web-links to us and all school parents yesterday (6 May), along with a kind note from our school principal who signed off: "I know I speak on behalf of all of our wonderful Scripture and SEE teachers, they are also missing working with our lovely students and are looking forward to meeting them once again once the appropriate time arises."

Planning for SRE classes to resume

We look forward to SRE classes resuming in schools. CCD is working closely with our NSW Department of Education (DoE) to support school principals and teachers as they manage a safe return to normal school operations.

The DoE has advised that there will be a "managed return" of students to schools.

- Schools will begin to have students return for at least one day each week from 11 May 2020 – this is called "Phase 1."
- SRE will be able to resume in "Phase 4" which means when students are at school 5 days per week with full school activities.

More information:

- "Managed return to school for families" chart is available at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/managed-return-to-school-guide-for-families>
- "The Plan for Term 2" is available at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Catechist Connection

A few notes from our wonderful catechists:

"I loved that last newsletter. It was very interesting reading and my children and I even made those delicious chocolate cookies, which worked perfectly, by the way. Thank you for everything you're doing for us."

-Rachel El-Haddad Catechist Coordinator, St John Vianney's, Greenacre

"Our catechists have been contacting me every so often to ask when they are able to return to their scripture classes. They are ready to resume their love of teaching and sharing the Catholic faith to the students."

-Christine Jennifer (Jenny) Mah, Catechist Coordinator, Holy Family, Maroubra

"Although we are isolated physically it doesn't mean we have to lose connection with others mentally or spiritually. We need to encourage each other especially to those who find it difficult to cope at this time. I have colleagues who are very worried of their children and elderly family members and I just try to comfort them by saying something positive to them. I think it is very important that we support each other especially as followers of Christ, we share our faith, hope and love with those who need most."

-Amy Wong, St Kevin's, Eastwood

"My prayer place this month is dedicated to Our Lady. I have surrounded my prayer place with enough rosaries for each student in my Year 6 class, it reminds me to pray for all students. Spending the 'lockdown' days at home means that over the last few Thursday mornings (our usual scripture lesson time) I have been able to prepare about 100 rosaries in separate organza bags so they are all ready for distribution."

The rosaries were donated by one of our retired catechists Mrs Lina Xuereb. Lina was a catechist for over 30 years and even though she is unable to teach these days, she still likes to feel connected by donating rosaries and prayer cards for our students. May God bless Lina for her generosity. Thank You!"

-Laura Argiro, Catechist Coordinator, St Gabriel's, Bexley

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

PROVERBS 31:25-26



Good News Stories

The light of Christ continues to break through the darkness of Covid-19 with wonderful testimonies of His action. Here are some examples:

- The Covid-19 curve is flattening across Australia.
- Fr Stephen De Bono, Parish Priest at St Therese, Padstow is happy with the growing number of parishioners and the school community joining a Zoom Liturgy of the Word each Sunday morning. He is grateful for a parish family who have helped to organise these liturgies with their talents by singing and playing instruments.
- In maintaining social distancing, parishioners from St John of God, Auburn meet outside their church at 8:15 am every morning to pray a rosary to Our Lady for the needs of the world.
- Our CCD Sydney Website has received over 800 clicks during the month of April.

**If you have any good news stories, we'd love to hear from you at
office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au**

Promotions

Pentecost Pilgrimage - Online

Have you registered for the **free online Pentecost Pilgrimage**? To prepare for Pentecost, each Wednesday and Sunday morning, a video session from a world renowned Catholic speaker is being released online and can be accessed readily by registered participants. With a lineup of speakers which includes Dr Ralph Martin, Dr Mary Healy, Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Ken Barker, Fr Chris Ryan, Robert Falzon, Daniel Ang, and so many more.

For more details and to register, visit: www.pentecostpilgrimage.com



The banner features a dark background with a large, glowing orange and yellow light source at the top, creating a silhouette effect of a crowd. The text 'PENTECOST PILGRIMAGE' is prominently displayed in white, with a circular logo to the left. Below this, the dates 'APRIL 26 - MAY 31' are shown in large, bold, white letters. A row of five circular portraits of speakers is presented, each with a name tag below it: Dr Mary Healy, Dr Ralph Martin, Alex Jones, Archbishop Julian Porteous, and Robert Falzon. At the bottom, white text encourages registration for 20+ free talks featuring international and acclaimed Catholic speakers, and a yellow text box provides the registration link.

PENTECOST PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 26 - MAY 31

DR MARY HEALY DR RALPH MARTIN ALEX JONES ARCHBISHOP JULIAN PORTEOUS ROBERT FALZON

Register for 20+ FREE talks
featuring international & acclaimed Catholic speakers

register FREE at pentecostpilgrimage.com

*"The light
shines in the
darkness, and
the darkness has
not overcome it."*

"JOHN 1:15

A Sign of Hope

St Martha's, Strathfield has sent a message of hope to parishioners and friends nationwide, through the delivery of "hope" tokens. These tokens made by Frank from Trophyland (www.trophyland.com.au) have been purchased by parishes and distributed to parishioners. We all need hope during these uncertain times. This little token is a daily reminder that hope in our Lord will keep us all safe. See Catholic Weekly story for more information: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/even-in-lockdown-st-marthas-keeps-busy/>



Power of the Rosary

On October 1571, the Ottomans invaded Cyprus and took 15,000 Christians captive. The Turkish army greatly outnumbered European forces and it seemed like all hope was lost.

St Pope Pius V persuaded Italy and Spain to work together to fight the Turks. The pope also commanded all Catholics to pray the Rosary. Churches across Western Europe were filled with Christians praying for an unlikely victory. On the morning of 7 October, Don Juan of Austria led his 80,000 person fleet against the Turks' 120,000. The Christians nearly lost, but Don Juan regrouped and won. The Christian captives were recovered and set free. The pope had a vision of the victory.

In recognition of this extraordinary victory, St Pope Pius V declared a feast day for Our Lady of Victories. This is known as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 7 October.

Resources

Look, Listen & Live Book Series

How long has it been since you read your teacher's manual? Have a closer look at the authorised curriculum for the Year Level you teach. You may learn something new. As an example, the Look, Listen & Live Book Series listed in the teacher manuals is a highly recommended resource. Your parish may have these books for you to borrow. If not, a text series is available online at:

<https://globalrecordings.net/en/looklistenlive>

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

Mary, Our Mother, Pray for Us

Mary, Mother of Mercy, for generations you have come to the aid of those who invoked you. Watch over me and all those I love.

Mother of those who suffer the violence of war, pray for us.

Mother of refugees and exiles, pray for us.

Mother of those who fear, pray for us.

Mother of Jesus, pray for us.

May the blessing of Mary's prayerful spirit be on us.

May the blessing of Mary's loving service be on us.

May the blessing of Mary's spirit of joy and praise be on our lips and in our hearts.

May the blessing of Mary's union with Jesus be ours.

May the blessing of Mary's courage, faith and hope be on us.

Amen.

Prayer Intentions

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, please continue to pray for:

- Your Catholic SRE students and their families especially during the day/time of your Scripture/SRE class.
- Pope Francis, Archbishop Anthony Fisher and all clergy.
- Godly wisdom for our Prime Minister and State Leaders.
- Protection for all front line staff; doctors, nurses, paramedics, medical receptionists, dentists and teachers.
- A cure to be found quickly for Covid-19.
- Healing of all people suffering with Covid-19 and their loved ones.
- Thanksgiving for all God is doing and will do during this time.

Be Not Afraid

Catholic artists from across the world joined together from their homes to sing, *Be Not Afraid*. A beautiful reminder that God is with us through life's journey.

<https://youtu.be/RF0DlpFOoBg>



*"Here am I, the
servant of the
Lord; let it be
with me
according to
your word."*

LUKE 1:38

CCD Online Training: Level 1

Catechists are encouraged to take advantage of this opportune time of social distancing to strengthen their teaching skills set by either updating or completing CCD training modules online. Each module consists of videos and readings followed by questions to check understanding. Catechists can work at their own pace and progress is automatically saved if a break is needed. Level One online modules available are:

- Child Protection
- The SRE Teacher in the Parish and School
- Development of the Child and Adolescent
- Introduction to the Bible
- Classroom Skills- Questioning
- Classroom Skills - Behaviour Management

To enrol into our CCD online training, please contact:
office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CCD ZOOM Webinars

Level 3 course dates via ZOOM (Open to those who have completed Level 2)

Wednesday 10 June Unit 3.1

Wednesday 17 June Unit 3.2

Wednesday 24 June Unit 3.3

Wednesday 1 July Unit 3.4

Wednesday 8 July Unit 3.5

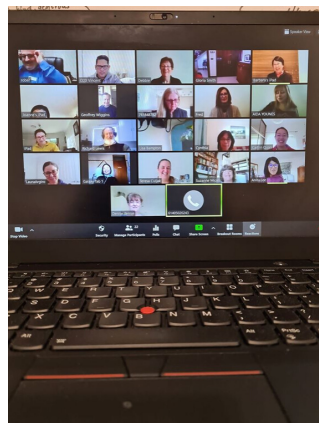
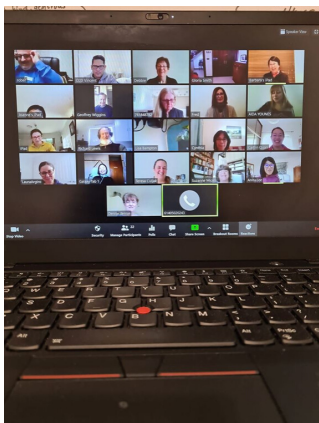
ALL COURSES COMMENCE 9:45am and FINISH 1pm.

For expressions of interest and registration for Zoom Webinars, contact CCD Office at: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Please note: Work books will be mailed for each of the units in Level 3.

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates."

PROVERBS 31:30-31



Healthy Granola Recipe



Carmen Vella, Catechist Coordinator at Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park shares her favourite granola recipe and pictures.

Carmen's tips: Seal granola in a jar and it will last for months. Take a handful of granola to nibble on as a snack, place it on your cereal or on top of your dessert for some crunch.

Ingredients

- 2 cups raw walnuts, chopped
- 2 cups almond flakes or slithered almonds
- 1 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1 cup coconut flakes
- 2 cups traditional oats (omit if gluten intolerant)
- ¼ cup linseed
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 egg white
- ¼ cup honey (warm)
- 3 tbsp coconut oil (melted)
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp water

Method

1. In a small bowl, whisk egg white and water together 30 seconds.
2. In another bowl, mix melted coconut oil and warm honey.
3. Combine egg mixture with coconut oil and honey mixture.
4. Add vanilla extract, cinnamon and salt.
5. Add walnuts, almonds, pumpkin seeds, coconut flakes, oats and linseed to mixture. Use your hands to toss and ensure all is coated well.
6. Preheat oven to 140 degrees fan forced oven.
7. Use 3 baking trays lined with baking paper and spread mixture.
8. Cooking time is approx. 30 minutes. (Every 10 minutes, mix granola with spatula to ensure even colour). It is important to keep watch ensuring granola does not burn.

*"I wait for the
Lord, my whole
being" waits, and
in His word I
put my hope.*

PSALM 130:5



Recipe for a Fabulous Mothers Day

INGREDIENTS

- 1 homemade card/gift short bread biscuits
- Shortbread biscuits
- 1 testimonial from a loving child
- 1 prayer/blessing
- 1 hand pamper
- 1 bouquet of flowers

METHOD

- Prepare each ingredient with care and love.
- Layer ingredients gently, one ingredient at a time, and place on a special serving tray.
- Store in a special place for at least 24 hours prior to serving.
- On the day garnish with bouquet of flowers and serve.

****Best served slowly throughout the day***

****Supplied with thanks to the Family & Faith program team | Sydney Catholic Schools***

Contact Us

CCD Staff continue to work through this difficult time by working remotely. For all queries, staff can be contacted via email. Phone access to staff is still available, however please leave a message if your call is not answered immediately. We will return your call as soon as practical.

CCD Office (Administration)– Contact Laura Argiro/Verna Wing

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Online: ccd.sydneycatholic.org | Ph: 9307 8330

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCDSydney/>

CCD TEAM AND CONTACT DETAILS

CCD DIRECTOR

Doug Mawhinney

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS (FEOs)

CENTRAL AREA

Suzanne Miceli

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

EASTERN AREA

Robert Milan

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

NORTHERN AREA

Anita Lee

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

SOUTHERN AREA

Denise Humphreys

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

Josie D'acciaro | Christine Zakaria

Email: southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

WESTERN AREA

Teresa Culjak

Email: teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Vincent Haber

Email: vincent.haber@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

"Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones."

ISAIAH 49:13