

# MONTH OF MARY



Supporting  
Parish Catechists

20 MAY 2020



**Dear Catechists,**

From Friday 15 May, a maximum of 10 people are allowed to attend church for private prayer, confessions or Mass.

**On Monday 25 May, schools will return to five days a week. However, SRE Scripture will not commence until further notice.**

In the coming days, let us unite together in the Upper Room with Mary, as the church prays for a new and fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost.

We wish you and your families a Holy Spirit filled Pentecost!

**From your CCD Parish Catechist Support team**



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# PENTECOST NOVENA

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!



*"And I will ask  
the Father, and  
he will give you  
another  
Advocate, to be  
with you forever.  
This is the Spirit  
of truth..."*

JOHN 14:16-17

**The Pentecost Novena is the first of all novenas, nine days of prayer.**

After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, He commanded His disciples to come together in the upper room to devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). They prayed for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

On May 4, 1897, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed: *"We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Whit-Sunday (Pentecost), in all parish churches."* (Encyclical On the Holy Spirit, 13)

Let us join the Church in praying a novena for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost – beginning on Friday 22 May, the day after Ascension Thursday.

**Pentecost Sequence: Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)**

*The Pentecost sequence can be recited daily in preparation for Pentecost.  
(The prayer is sung at Mass on Pentecost).*

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,  
From the clear celestial height  
Thy pure beaming radiance give.  
Come, thou Father of the poor,  
Come with treasures which endure;  
Come, thou light of all that live!  
Thou, of all consolers best,  
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow;  
Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  
Pleasant coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
Light immortal, light divine,  
Visit thou these hearts of thine,  
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.  
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.  
Thou, on us who evermore  
Thee confess and thee adore,  
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:  
Give us comfort when we die;  
Give us life with thee on high;  
Give us joys that never end.

# *A Beautiful Testimony...*

## **Why am I a catechist? By Eunice Woo (Eastwood Parish)**

I grew up as a Protestant Christian while attending a Methodist girls' school for ten years. I was fortunately blessed to hear about Jesus and the scriptures in the school chapel every week.

On the 25th October 2015, my Protestant husband and I became Catholics and received the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher. We owe much of our conversion to Fr. Anthony Bernard, Parish Priest at St Joseph's, Camperdown.

I am truly blessed to have Jesus in my life. He is definitely the greatest gift ever. There are many people who still do not know Him. Jesus words in Matthew 9:37, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few,"* has been in my heart ever since I was a child. I desire to share my faith so that more people will come to know and love Jesus.

One Sunday at Mass, I watched a video inviting parishioners to become catechist's. The Holy Spirit stirred within me. I wanted to join the ministry but did not know how as I did not have any experience. Thankfully, full training and support was provided and I started out as a catechist helper.

Since joining as a catechist in 2018, I have taught almost 50 students. I continue to see some of my scripture students and their parents in church and at the local shopping centre. It is a joy to teach the children about the sacraments, how to read the Bible and so much more.

I have witnessed a transformation in my students who were initially not interested and have since increased in their faith and understanding. Jesus has come alive in their hearts.

Our students hearts are open to receive the Word of God, we just need to reach out and share the goodness of the Lord to them today, especially in their formative years.



*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

ACTS 1:8

# *SRE & Covid-19*

## **Status of SRE Scripture for Term 2.**

**From Monday 25 May, schools will be returning to five days a week. However, SRE Scripture classes will not be returning until further notice.**

## *Working With Children Checks*

### **Renewals in 2020**

Working with Children Checks are to be renewed every five years. Your WWCC number is like a driver's licence – the number stays with you and is renewed before it expires. An email or letter is sent to those whose checks are expiring, a reminder to renew.

You can either renew online at: <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>, contact your parish to assist or fill in the renewal form at a Service NSW Centre. Then, visit a Service NSW Centre with proof of identity to complete the renewal process.

After renewal, an email or confirmation letter will be sent with a new expiry date for your WWCC number. Your parish will need to re-verify your renewed WWCC number and new expiry date.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Children's Guardian has extended all WWCC clearances that were due to expire from 26 March 2020 to 26 September 2020. An additional six months has been granted from the date of the person's current expiry date. For further assistance, contact: Office of the Children's Guardian on 9286 7276.

## *Pentecost Prayer Place*

### **Year 6, Lesson 13 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

An example of a prayer place to assist in teaching the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



*"Now the Lord is  
the Spirit, and  
where the Spirit  
of the Lord is,  
there is freedom."*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

# 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 has flattened across Australia.
- From Friday 15 May, a maximum of 10 people are now allowed to attend church at any given time for private prayer, confession or Mass.
- 500+ homes watched the Easter Vigil online from, St Francis Xavier' Parish, Lurnea.
- Catechist coordinators have been printing and delivering the CCD E-Newsletter to those catechists without email access.
- Parishioners from Mary Immaculate, Bossley Park have been meeting on Thursdays via WhatsApp to meditate and discuss the daily readings and to pray for those suffering in the community.
- ZOOM Catechist Meeting at St Therese parish, Padstow: Fr Stephen De Bono and catechists at St Therese Parish, Padstow had their first successful Zoom Catechist Meeting. The 40-minute session allowed everyone to see each other again and have their questions answered about SRE, Sacramental Programs and Masses. Zoom Catechist Meetings will continue monthly, until all can gather again without social distancing.
- Holy Innocents', Croydon is currently running a colouring competition for children in the parish. As it is the month of May, the theme is Our Lady. This entry has been submitted by Scarlett who attends SRE classes at Marie Bashir Public School at Strathfield. Beautiful work Scarlett!



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

## Catechist Connection

**A note from Bibian Querubin, Catechist Coordinator, St Francis Xavier, Lurnea:**

*"I loved that last newsletter. It was very feminine with beautiful scripture quotes and a great recipe. Perfect for Mother's Day and Our Lady's month of May."*

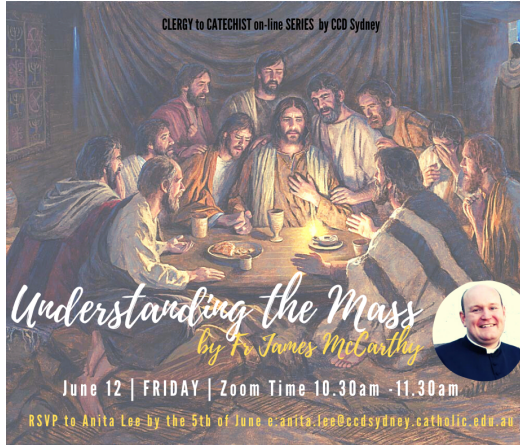
*"The light  
shines in the  
darkness, and  
the darkness has  
not overcome it."*

"JOHN 1:15

# CCD Faith Formation via ZOOM

The CCD will be hosting an online faith formation series via ZOOM.

Priests from across the Archdiocese of Sydney will be presenting on various faith topics with an opportunity for Q & A's:



Register your RSVP to:

[anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

Thursday 28 May (RSVP 22 May)

Tuesday 2 June (RSVP 26 May)

Friday 12 June (RSVP by 5 June)

Upon registration, each participant will receive a ZOOM ID to enter the webinar.  
Due to screen capacity there will be limited places.

## Pentecost Pilgrimage

### 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](http://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com)

*"Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."*

ISAIAH 30:18

# CCD Online Training: Level One

## A reminder to all newly joined catechists/helpers in 2019/2020

Level One Accreditation Course.

Catechists/helpers are encouraged to take advantage of this time of social distancing to complete training that is available online.

CCD's online training modules consists of videos and readings followed by questions to check understanding. Catechists/helpers can work at their own pace. 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** (RSVP 2 June)

**Wednesday 17 June Unit 3.2** (RSVP 9 June)

**Wednesday 24 June Unit 3.3** (RSVP 16 June)

**Wednesday 1 July Unit 3.4** (RSVP 23 June)

**Wednesday 8 July Unit 3.5** (RSVP 30 June)

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

### CCD ZOOM Webinar Review:

*"Your course was well organised and a great learning experience."*

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

**Please note: RSVP is essential ensuring work books are mailed on time.**

*"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."*

EPHESIANS 3:16-17



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust Australia to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day next week.

**Prayer :**

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

## *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.

*“Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun...”*

SONG OF SONGS 6:10

# Celebration Cake

**Carmen Vella, Catechist Coordinator at Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park shares her go to 'Celebration Cake.' Pentecost is the perfect opportunity to bake a cake, celebrating the birth of the Church!**

## Ingredients

200g unsalted butter  
2 tbs olive oil  
100g pistachios, plus extra chopped to serve  
1/2 cup (50g) almond meal  
200g caster sugar  
200g plain gluten-free flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 1/2 tsp gluten-free baking powder  
150g plain yoghurt  
5 eggs, at room temperature  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract

## Syrup Topping

200g lemon curd  
350g mascarpone  
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon  
75g icing sugar, sifted

## Method

1. Grease and line the base and sides of two 20cm round cake pans with baking paper. Preheat oven to 180°C. Melt the butter in a saucepan over low heat.
2. Add oil, then remove from heat and set aside to cool. Whiz pistachios in a food processor until very finely ground. Place in a bowl and sift in all the dry ingredients. Make a well in the centre. Add butter mixture, yoghurt, eggs and vanilla, and whisk to make a loose batter.
3. Divide batter between pans, then bake for 25 minutes or until golden and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool slightly.
4. Meanwhile, whisk the lemon curd and mascarpone in a bowl until thick. Chill until needed. Combine the lemon juice and 25g icing sugar in a pan over low heat, stirring, until mixture is clear. Set aside to cool.
5. While cakes are still warm, pierce all over with a skewer, then slowly drizzle 1 tbs lemon syrup over each cake. Set cakes aside to cool completely.
6. When cakes are cool, slice each cake in half horizontally so there are four cake layers. Place one cake layer on a plate and spread with one-third lemon curd mixture. Repeat layering two more times, finishing with a final layer of cake.
7. Combine remaining icing sugar and lemon syrup to make a thick icing, adding a little water to loosen if necessary. Stir in lemon zest, then drizzle the icing over the cake, letting it drip down the sides. Scatter the chopped pistachios over the cake to serve.



*"May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions."*

PSALM 20:5

# 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](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**Online:** [ccd.sydneycatholic.org](http://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](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

## **FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS (FEOs)**

### CENTRAL AREA

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### EASTERN AREA

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### NORTHERN AREA

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#### **Josie D'acciaro | Christine Zakaria**

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### WESTERN AREA

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#### **Vincent Haber**

**Email:** [vincent.haber@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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