



## Welcome to Term 3!

We look forward to supporting you as Catholic SRE (Scripture) commences in most schools across NSW within the next few weeks.

For those Catechists and Helpers who are able to return to scripture classes this term, or in Term 4, please ensure you have read and follow the "Return to SRE Guide". As always, may the Holy Spirit go before you, and be with you and your students, as you are gathered together in Jesus' name, to encounter the love and peace of Christ, in living lives of thanksgiving. "Peace begins with a smile" - Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

For those Catechists and Helpers who are unable to return to scripture classes this term, your ministry as catechists has changed, not ended. You continue to be a vital part of the Catechist family and we thank you. Please continue to intercede daily for your fellow Catechists and Helpers who are able to go into schools at this time, and for the students they will pray with and teach, that they may encounter and receive the love and light of Christ.

With a heart of thanks,

**From your CCD Parish Support Catechist Team**

**\*CCD NEWSLETTER INFORMATION/LINKS ARE FOR  
CATECHIST PERSONAL USE ONLY**

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# *A Beautiful Testimony...*

**By Hannah Welch, Saint Joseph's Parish, Como-Oyster Bay**

I completed my Primary and Secondary schooling through the Catholic system and then ended up attending a Catholic University. I graduated from Notre Dame University with a degree in Primary Education (Religious Education) in 2018.

As I began University, I continued to study religion through theology-based subjects. A year later, my father attended a parish mass, and the parish catechist coordinator made an impassioned plea to the congregation. "We are so short of people to teach scripture in our state schools. Please help."

When he came home, he spoke to me about the mission and decided to follow in my footsteps, and teach scripture. We could support each other in the journey together.

During the next four years we compared notes often. My father was able to share his teaching manuals and activity book content to help me with my assignments. I had the opportunity to go to classes with him and I began teaching scripture. This gave me an incredible insight into the impact of teaching the scriptures to those wonderful and attentive young children. The children seemed so interested in finding out about what faith is and why it means so much to be a Catholic Christian.

I believe it is vital for these children to understand who God is and what love and happiness He brings to our lives. To know He sent His son Jesus to teach the world how to love, and that the Holy Spirit will always be there with us to help us make the right choices.

I am now in my 2nd year of full-time teaching and I have a beautiful Year 4 class this year. I am thankful for all that I have been given.



*"The LORD had  
his heart set  
on you and  
chose you ..."*

DEUTERONOMY 7:7

# *St Thomas the Apostle*

**Feast Day: 3 July**

**By David Lazarus, Catechist**

**St Gertrude's Parish, Smithfield**

St Thomas arrived in India on a Spices Vessel and was greeted by Jewish importers of spices. He was liked and appreciated by Kings of all neighbouring kingdoms. He was a good carpenter and built a palace for a king, including seven churches in Kerala.

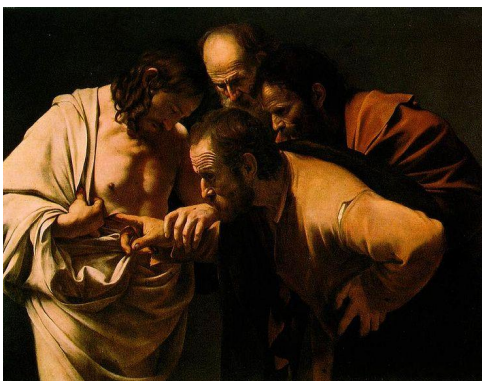
St Thomas built a sundial on the beach of Madras (now known as Chennai). It is still present and accurate today.

Tradition says that one day during bad weather, a large tree fell across a river preventing the supply of water. Kings from surrounding kingdoms utilised a fleet of elephants to remove the tree but failed. An official requested the King to seek the assistance of St Thomas. Hence, St Thomas went to the site and tied the tree to one end of a girdle and the other end to the foot of an elephant. It is recorded in one of his writings that the girdle was given to St Thomas by Our Lady before she was taken up to heaven. St Thomas asked the handler of the elephant to start moving and in the presence of neighbouring kings, the tree was pulled out of the river with just one elephant. The kings were pleased with St Thomas and he was liked throughout the various kingdoms.

Trying to escape persecution from the Jews, St Thomas fled to the mountains and hid within caves. Within one cave, it is believed that St Thomas started to draw a picture of Our Lady but never completed the artwork. Tradition states that the artwork was completed in the sixteenth century by a blind artist who had visions of the Blessed Virgin with child. Upon starting the completion of the drawing, the artist received his sight and converted to Christianity.

At St Thomas Mount, a pilgrimage site dedicated to St Thomas, there is a cave with an impression of St Thomas' right-hand fingers; the fingers which he had placed inside the wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a place where miraculous healings and other miracles have taken place. On the Feast of St Thomas, 3 July, thousands of Christians and non-Christians gather in this place.

St Thomas was buried in the Church of St Thomas on the beach of Chennai and to this day many people visit the grave and collect the soil.



*"The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, Peace be with you."*

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing."*

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"*

JOHN 20:26-28



# St Benedict

**Feast Day: 11 July**

St Benedict was born in 480AD into a distinguished family in Nursia, Italy. He was educated in Rome and was repelled by the vices of the city and fled. He decided to live the life of a hermit and settled at mountainous Subiaco.

Despite Benedict's desire for solitude, his holiness and austerities became well known and he was asked to be the abbot of a community of monks at Vicovaro. He accepted, but when the monks resisted his strict rule and tried to poison him, he returned to Subiaco.

St Benedict's life attracted great numbers of followers and as a result, he organised them into twelve monasteries, made manual labour part of the program and soon Subiaco became a centre of spirituality and learning.

In about 525AD, St Benedict settled at Monte Cassino where he wrote his rule and in about 530AD commenced building the most famous monastery and the birthplace of Western monasticism—Monte Cassino.

St Benedict was never ordained a Priest. He died at Monte Cassino on 21 March, 547AD. He was canonised in 1220.

The St Benedict Medal is one of the most powerful weapons of spiritual combat.

The front contains an image of St Benedict holding a cross and his famous monastic rule. On his left and right are words meaning, "The cross of our holy father, St Benedict." The outer edge contains the words in Latin, "May we at our death be fortified by his presence."

The back of the medal is even more interesting. It contains a series of initials that stand for a Latin cleansing prayer, as well as a prayer for guidance.

*"I have fought  
the good fight, I  
have finished the  
race, I have kept  
the faith."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:7



# Our Lady of Mt Carmel

**Feast Day: 16 July**

Mt Carmel is near the modern city of Haifa, Israel. According to legend, a religious community was established on Mt Carmel prior to the time of Christ. The mountain overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, where the prophet Elijah successfully challenged the priests of Baal and turned the people to the true God.

References in the 12th-century recorded a community of monks living on the holy mountain. They built a monastery and church dedicated to the Virgin Mary on Mt Carmel in 1263. Saint Louis, King of France, had visited Mt Carmel in 1254 and brought back six French hermits for whom he built a convent near Paris.

The spread of the Carmelites in Europe is largely attributed to the work of Saint Simon Stock (1247-1265). The Carmelite Order was formally approved in 1274 at the Council of Lyon.

## The Brown Scapular

The brown scapular was given to St Simon Stock Father General of the Carmelites on 16 July 1251 by Our Lady with the following promise:

*"Receive, My beloved son, this habit of thy order: ..... It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace."*

## Novena to Our Lady of Mt Carmel



*Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days:*

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven.

Oh, Blessed Mother of the Son of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.

Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother.

Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.  
(Mention your request here)

There are none that can withstand your power.

Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee x 3

Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands x 3



# CCD Faith Formation via ZOOM

Do you want to understand your Catholic faith better?

Do you want to have a closer relationship with Jesus?

Do you want to know how to live your Catholic faith in a deeper and more meaningful way?

Do you want to know how to put into practice what you teach?

Do you want to lead others to Christ?

If you answered YES to the above, then we have an exciting new Faith Formation Series for you! If you answered NO to any of the above, what better opportunity to discover more by joining in! You have nothing to lose but everything to gain!

Join us in our CCD Faith Formation Series via Zoom Webinar (each session is from 10.30am to 11.30am) as we explore, learn and discover our beautiful Catholic faith together.

We are blessed to have been able to confirm a wonderful line up of dynamic priests in store for you:

**Thursday 30 July: Fr Michael McLean on "Understanding the Apostles' Creed"**

**Friday 14 August: Chris Lee on "Bringing the young ones to Jesus Christ"**

Feedback for the Faith Formation series has been overwhelmingly positive.

Some include:

- \* It was brilliant. So deep meaningful and inspiring. Such a high standard and quality speaker.
- \* Very insightful and dense-so much to unpack.
- \* The talk was overwhelmingly deep and richly exemplified. Father unpeeled a very philosophical topic making every point so easy to understand. I was hoping we had more time but the hour went by so quickly.

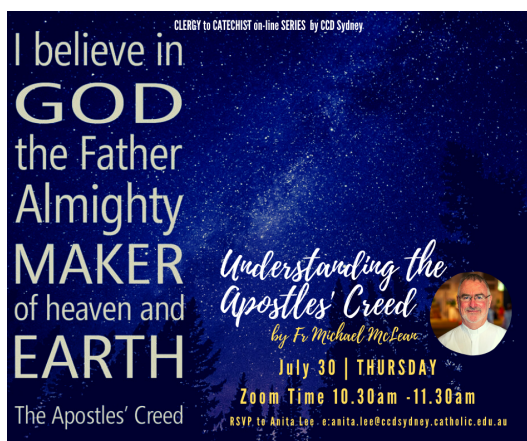
You can attend all sessions or choose your preference. A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

RSVP is essential by emailing Anita Lee with your details:

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

*"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 YouTube Channel

CCD Sydney now has its very own YouTube channel.

The first session of the CCD Online Faith Formation Series presented by Fr Daniel Russo on the 'Gift of Faith' has been uploaded.

**<https://youtu.be/zpAPMgtThfQ>**



For more information on events, news and stories visit our  
CCD Sydney Facebook page.

Search for **CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools**  
and click "**LIKE**"

*"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

# Safeguarding Training

The CCD's continued commitment to the safety and care of children and young people is evident in the effort made to maintain, educate and inform all parish SRE volunteers in up-to-date Safeguarding policies, guidelines and best practices. In your effort to continue to remain current on all Safeguarding training, the CCD is providing you with every opportunity to upgrade your Safeguarding training.

**It is now an Archdiocesan requirement that Safeguarding Refresher Training is undertaken every three years.**

To receive online Safeguarding Refresher Training, as an SRE catechist in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, there are two options available:

**Option One - Online training** Complete the Safeguarding Training via the Online Training Platform

or

**Option Two - Zoom Webinars** Register for ONE of the upcoming ZOOM Safeguarding Training (see below for dates and times)

Date	Time	RSVP by:
Monday 24 August	6.15pm-7.45pm	Wed 12 Aug
Friday 28 August	9:45am-11:15am	Wed 12 Aug
Tuesday 1 Sept	9:45-11:15am	Wed 19 Aug
Thursday 3 Sept	6:15pm-7:45pm	Wed 26 Aug
Wednesday 9 Sept	12:45pm-2:15am	Wed 26 Aug
Friday 11 Sept	9:45am-11:15am	Wed 26 Aug
Monday 14 Sept	9:45am-11:15am	Wed 2 Sept
Wednesday 16 Sept	3:45pm-5:15pm	Wed 2 Sept
Tues 22 Sept	9:45-11:15am	Wed 9 Sept
Thursday 23 Sept	12:45pm-2:15pm	Wed 9 Sept

Thank you for your continued commitment and we look forward to your participation.

**REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL TRAINING SESSIONS**

**RSVP is essential as there is a limit of 20 per ZOOM training.**

Email: [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au) or Phone: 9307 8330

Your registration email requires the following details;

your full name, email address, contact phone number (preferably mobile number),  
home address (to send out booklets), Parish name, date and time of training session.

As a suggestion, should a catechist not have access to a computer and/or an email address, it is recommended that arrangements be made at your parish to gather together to view a computer.

To gather around a computer in your parish to access ZOOM training as a group, approval is required from your Parish Priest to ensure COVID-19 restrictions are observed.

For a group registration, only one member of the group should register on behalf of the whole group.

It is recommended that the group member who registers the group should also be responsible for arranging an appropriate parish meeting space and computer access with the parish priest and parish office staff.



# *Level 2 Course dates via ZOOM*

(Open to those who have completed Level 1)

The course will cover the Old and New Testament; the Story of the Faith Community (Exodus Story); the Church, Beatitudes and Mary; and the Sacraments.

In addition we will look at the Child learner from Early Stage One (Kindergarten) to Stage Three (Years Five and Six) and their Moral Development.

**Monday 10 August Unit 2.1** (RSVP 30 July)

**Monday 17 August Unit 2.2** (RSVP 6 August)

**Monday 24 August Unit 2.3** (RSVP 13 August)

**Monday 31 August Unit 2.4** (RSVP 20 August)

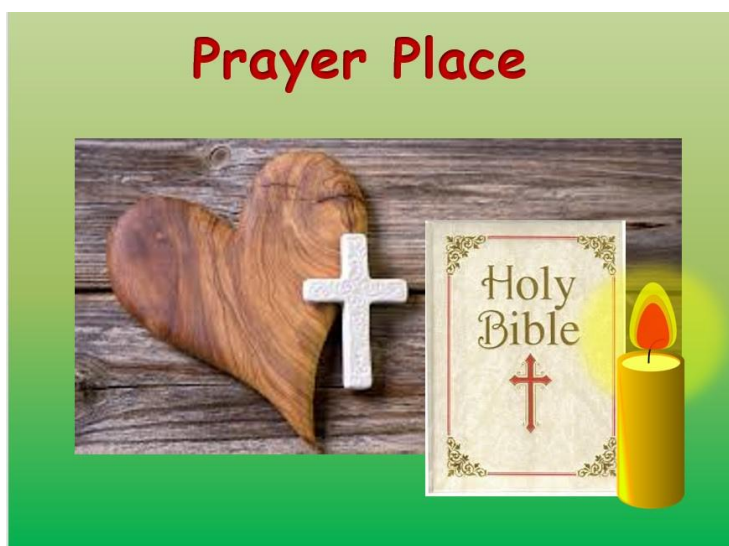
**Monday 7 September Unit 2.5** (RSVP 27 August)

**LEVEL 2 COURSES COMMENCE 9:45am and FINISH 1pm.**

**CCD ZOOM Webinar Review:** *"Your course was well organised and a great learning experience."*

Registration for ZOOM Webinars contact: [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**RSVP is essential to ensure work books are mailed on time.**



*With the return of SRE in Term 3, there are different ways that catechists can organise their prayer place in the classroom without the need to bring in separate items.*

*One coordinator in the Western area has decided to prepare a different prayer place on PowerPoint each week to show on the smartboard.*

*Another coordinator in the Southern area has decided to print and laminate a photo of their prayer place (A3 size) to display in a prominent place in the classroom.*

**Please share with us any resourceful ideas and tips that you have found helpful.  
Email us at: [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)**

# Ice breaker Games

With SRE lessons set to resume in Term 3, Richie Leilua, Catechist Coordinator (All Saints, Liverpool) has developed a YouTube clip demonstrating how to use icebreaker games in our introductory lessons with students in both primary and high school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4oEK2LkX4A&t=69s>

# Relief Catechist Recruitment

For any family and friends that may be interested in becoming a catechist, please forward the following YouTube clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lONdRTBJwxo>



# 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.

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

NUMBERS 6:24-26

# DECIDING IF OR WHEN I SHOULD RETURN TO TEACH SRE

This infographic is a summary only



Talk about your personal health decision with your family and parish. Consult a doctor if necessary.



NO PRESSURE. SRE does not necessarily have to begin at the start of Term 3. Your decision will be respected!



See and act on NSW Health guidelines and the AHPPC advice.



Let your Parish know if and when you can return. Knowing your decision will help your parish and school negotiate when and how Catholic SRE will resume.



Remember, the SRE plans of others must not override your informed personal health decisions. Ultimately the decision about when to return is yours.

READ THE 'RETURN TO SRE GUIDE FOR CATECHISTS AND HELPERS'

CCD Parish Catechist Support | June 2020 | office@ccdsydneycatholic.edu.au | 9307 8330

# RETURN TO SRE

## Checklist for SRE Catechists and Helpers.

2



Practice good hygiene as per the External Visitors to Schools Site form.

1



Let your Catechist Coordinator know as soon as possible when you can return to teach SRE.

3



If unwell or with symptoms, stay home.

4



Prepare your approved curriculum SRE Lessons.

6



Pack a pen to complete the "External Visitors School Site form" every time you visit your school.

5



Always wear your SRE Authorisation "Green Card" nametag.

7



Pray for your students, their families and school community.

FOR THE FULL 'RETURN TO SRE GUIDE FOR CATECHISTS AND HELPERS' PLEASE CONTACT CCD OR YOUR PARISH COORDINATOR

CCD Parish Catechist Support | June 2020 | office@ccdsydneycatholic.edu.au | 9307 8330

# 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

#### **Suzanne Miceli**

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

### EASTERN AREA

#### **Robert Milan**

**Email:** [robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

### NORTHERN AREA

#### **Anita Lee**

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

### SOUTHERN AREA

#### **Denise Humphreys**

**Email:** [denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

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

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

### WESTERN AREA

#### **Teresa Culjak**

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

#### **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