

CATECHIST NEWS



Supporting
Parish Catechists



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY



Dear Catechists,

Thank you for your co-operation during these unprecedented times.

We continue to remain connected in prayer, encouragement and support during this time of physical distancing and COVID-19 safety measures.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: The Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass for 2020 has been postponed until Catechist Sunday, 7 February 2021. Mass starting time is 2.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral. Due to Covid-19, restrictions will apply to attendees, and further details will be advised nearer the time.

Given the number of awardees, it is best that we celebrate the 2020 and 2021 Catechist Masses and awards ceremonies separately.

The Archdiocesan Catechist Mass for 2021 itself will be celebrated on 19 September next year. We look forward to being able to gather together safely to give thanks to God and to recognise the service of all Catechists.

We wish you all a good term and may you continue to delight in this rewarding mission. The CCD is here to help and looks forward to supporting you and your Parish through the remainder of this year.

May our loving God continue to bless you and your students, today and everyday.

From your CCD Parish Catechist Support Team

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

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Congratulations to all award recipients

2020

SAINT JOHN PAUL II AWARD - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christine Florence Riley Rockdale City

CARDINAL GILROY AWARD - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary Hudson	Ashfield
Jamelie Morabito	Denistone
Michela Augimeri	Eastwood
Lorraine Mary Corkeron	Georges Hall
Mary Grace McGregor	Moorebank

LIFE MEMBER AWARD - 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Anna Overlunde	Cabramatta
Antoinette Batti	Clemton Park
Arlie McHatton	Clovelly
Mary Camilleri	Georges Hall
Nancy Morosin	Horsley Park
Connie Ciaramidaro	Mt Pritchard
Gino Ciaramidaro	Mt Pritchard
Caterina Marcellino	Ryde
Catherine Harrington	Strathfield
Helen Mary Blayney	Strathfield
Rosa Gentile	Villawood

CARDINAL FREEMAN AWARD - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marion Binns	Blakehurst
Lidia Krslovic	Bonnyrigg
Anna Pace	Bonnyrigg
Pina Pisano	Bossley Park
Lorraine Impala	Georges Hall
John Romanous	Hurstville
Carmela Cessario	Maroubra Bay
Mary Fanara	Miranda
Marielle Elza Martens	Moorebank
Maria Lumley	Peakhurst
Felicia Riviera	Smithfield
Lilian Mary Andrew	Smithfield
Rosa Gentile	Villawood

APOSTOLIC BLESSING - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Myrna De La Pena	Belmore
Maria Giglio	Bonnyrigg
Nirmala Dillon	Carnes Hill
Edna Troy	Carnes Hill
Dorina Giuttari	Clovelly
Maria De Silva	Concord West
Kathryn Wynne	Cronulla
Margaret Chiu	Eastwood
Mary Wong	Haberfield
Louise Hartin	Holsworthy
Maria Donohue	Leichhardt
Merrell Frew	Liverpool
Lesley Anne Beswick	Maroubra Bay
Maria Mesiti	Marsfield
Corry Setio	Mascot
Celine Athayde	Miranda
Gayle Pagano	Miranda
Julie Elizabeth Prociuk	Moorebank
Elizabeth Stapleton	Mortlake
Margaret Mary Bradbery	North Ryde
Imelda R Acosta	North Ryde
Peggy Lin-Maison	North Sydney
Leonie Guthrie	Panania
Dzung Doan	Punchbowl
David Kelson-Mickelburgh	Punchbowl
Richard Dobson	Revesby
Maureen Kelly	Revesby Heights
Judith Elizabeth Connolly	Riverwood
George David Andrew	Smithfield
Danitza Vranjes	Smithfield

**THE 2020 ANNUAL CATECHIST
MASS HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO
SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021
FURTHER DETAILS TO BE ADVISED**

Catechist Testimony

MY REFLECTION OF 25 YEARS AS A CATECHIST:

BY CARMELA CESSARIO - MAROUBRA BAY / MAROUBRA BEACH

For the past 25 years, it has truly been a blessing to be a catechist and coordinator in my Parish of St Mary & St Joseph Maroubra Bay/Beach.

During this time, there have been challenges and rewards, but it has especially been a time of joy. It is the joy knowing my Faith has grown along the years, and I have shared the Faith with so many children.

I remember going to Mass 25 years ago, and there was an appeal for catechists. It was just the right time in my life to say yes in this ministry. Soon after, I accepted the role of Parish Catechist Coordinator and also to assist with the Sacramental Program.

My 25 years of catechetical service has been possible because of the support and encouragement of four parish priests, friendships, the time and talents of our growing Parish catechist team, the prayers of parishioners, the guidance of the CCD, and last but not least, the understanding and love of my family.

We do not always get the opportunity to hear or see the rewards of being a catechist. The journey is not always smooth, but when something wonderful happens, it provides you with the strength and encouragement to continue. I want to share one of those special, memorable moments.

Many years ago, just before a children's Christmas Mass, I was approached by a tall, young man around 17 years of age, who smiled and said,
"Hello Mrs Cessario, do you remember me?"

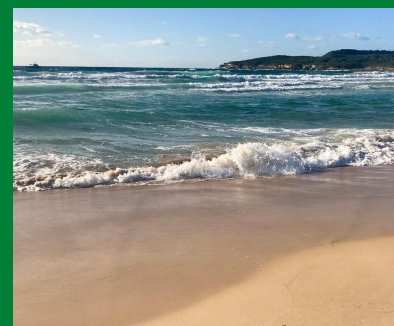
Looking up at him, I soon realised that he was a student that I taught in my scripture classes many years ago. He was no longer the little boy in my class but a very tall, confident young man. I was so pleased to see him, and so I asked him how he was. He replied, "You taught me when I was in Years 5 & 6 in the scripture classes. Those classes had a real positive impact on my life. You gave me hope! I have since become baptised and made my First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

I am now involved in a Catholic Church youth group and the music at Church." It was after this experience with a past student that I realised the time you give a child, even as little as 30 minutes each week, can have a significant impact on their life.

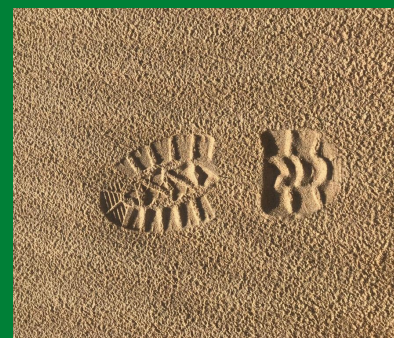
***"You have taught me since I was young,
and I still tell of your wonderful acts." (Psalm.71: 17)***



Left to right, catechists Lesley Beswick, Paola Romeo, and Carmela, pictured here at the 2018 Annual Catechist Mass.



Maroubra Beach on a windswept day.



"You gave me hope!"

CCD Faith Formation Series

via Zoom

"Glory to God
for all things."

- ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
Feast day: 13 September

Join us in our CCD Faith Formation Series 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 speakers.

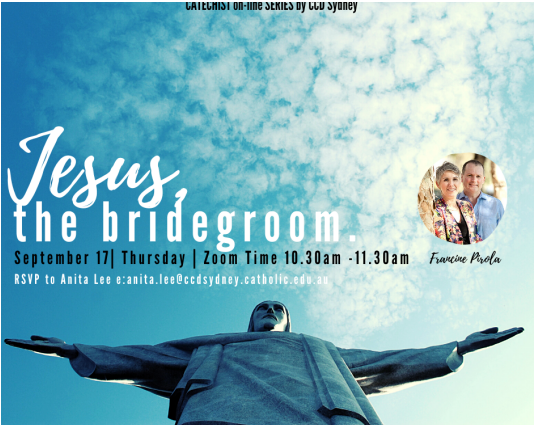
Our most recent sessions have attracted over 160 participants from across NSW. Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at the sessions.

10.30AM - 11.30AM

RSVP IS ESSENTIAL BY EMAILING ANITA LEE:

anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Date	Speaker and Topic
• Friday 4 th Sept	• Sr. Judy Bowe on <i>"Bringing God's Love"</i>
• Thursday 17 th Sept	• Francine Pirola on <i>"Jesus, the Bridegroom"</i>
• Monday 28 th Sept	• Fr. Peter Joseph on <i>"What will we be like at the resurrection of the dead?"</i>
• Thursday 8 th Oct	• Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP on <i>"Holy Spirit"</i>
• Thursday 15 th Oct	• Sophie York on <i>"The hidden treasures of our Catholicism"</i>
• Friday 23 rd Oct	• Chris Meney on <i>"25 years on: Why the Gospel of Life (JPII) matters for catechists"</i>
• Friday 13 th Nov	• Fr. Greg Morgan on <i>"Contemporary Martyrdom: A leadership that inspires new saints rather than haunts old ghost"</i>



Catechist Training

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING WEBINAR - VIA ZOOM

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 Sessions:

Monday 14 September	9.45am - 11.15am	RSVP BY FRI 4 SEPT
Wednesday 16 September	3.45pm - 5.15pm	RSVP BY WED 9 SEPT
Tuesday 22 September	9.45am - 11.15am	RSVP BY FRI 11 SEPT
Thursday 24 September	12.45pm - 2.15pm	RSVP BY WED 16 SEPT

LEVEL 2 TRAINING WEBINAR - VIA ZOOM

This course is open to catechists that have completed all 5 units of Level 1.

Unit 2.5 - Moral Development/The Sacraments

Monday 7 September	9.45AM - 1.00PM	RSVP BY THURSDAY 27 AUG
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RSVP is essential for all training sessions, as there is a limit of 20 per Zoom training.

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

OR Phone: 9307 8330

Reminder to include 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.

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

"Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Catechist Resources/Handy hints

Included with this edition of newsletter, (following page 9) we have included two resources, that you may find useful for your SRE classes.

The CCD office has received a few requests for a copy of the prayer place that was published in our last newsletter. An A4 size of the poster is included for you, which is ready for catechists to: **PRINT, LAMINATE AND DISPLAY.**

An age-appropriate explanation/resource to use in your class for Year 3 and 4 students to help them understand The Lord's Prayer and a short explanation of the start of Praying at Mass.

Our Father (The Lord's Prayer)



Jesus said God is his Father and our loving Father. So we pray with Jesus and people everywhere:

Our Father,

We cannot see God, but God hears us and wants us to listen, too. So we pray:

who art in heaven,

God's name is holy and special.

So we pray:

hallowed be thy name.

God wants all that is good for our world.

We can help make the world a better place. So we pray:

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

We do have basic 'needs' like food, water, shelter, clothes and God, to live each new day well. So we pray:

Give us this day our daily bread;

God forgives us when we do wrong. He wants us to forgive people who do wrong to us. So we pray:

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Wherever we go, God is with us. God helps us to know and do what is right. So we pray:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Praying at Mass



Before we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, who said, "I am the Bread of Life", we start Mass by praying together.

When the priest says:

The Lord be with you.

We say:

And with your spirit.

We gather as God's people and we say we are sorry for the times we have not been as loving as we should be.

So we say with the priest:

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy.

After the first reading, the reader says:

Word of the Lord.

We are glad to hear God's word.

So we say:

Thanks be to God.

After the priest has read the Gospel, he says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

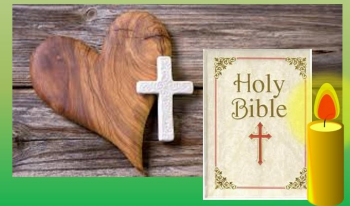
We are glad to hear the Good News that Jesus taught.

So we say:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to share your own helpful ideas, please contact us at:
office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Prayer Place



"We plant the seeds that one day will grow"

Attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero

Photo Gallery



Congratulations to Eleanor Emmerson for her outstanding contributions to the Church's mission through her services as Parish Reader, Extraordinary minister of Eucharist, and for over 26 years of service with the CCD.

Eleanor is pictured receiving the Dempsey Medal from Fr Mani Malana msfs, on Sunday 23 August 2020.

Well done Eleanor!



2019 Caringbah Catechist meeting prior to Covid-19 restrictions



2020 Caringbah Catechist meeting with Covid-19 safe distancing restrictions

Prayers & Intentions

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

- Your 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.

*"O God,
to turn from you
is to fall,
to turn to you
is to rise,
and to stand with you
is to abide forever.*

*Grant us help in all we do,
guidance in all
our confusion,
protection in all
our dangers,
and a place in all
our sorrows:
through Jesus Christ, our
Lord."*

- ST AUGUSTINE
Feast day: 28 August

The Prayer of St Oscar Romero

This is what we are about. We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

ccd.sydneycatholic.org

For your own copy of this prayer attributed to St Oscar Romero, click on the link below to a very good Caritas resource:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/primary-school-resources/be-more-romero-prayer.pdf>

Contact Us

CCD Staff continue to work through this difficult time by working remotely. For all queries, please contact staff via email. Phone access to staff is still available by leaving a message. A staff member will return your call as soon as practical.

CCD TEAM AND CONTACT DETAILS

CCD DIRECTOR: Doug Mawhinney

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CCD OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION: Laura Argiro | Verna Wing

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Josie D'acciaro | Christine Zakaria southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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Teresa Culjak teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Vincent Haber vincent.haber@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Level 6, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street

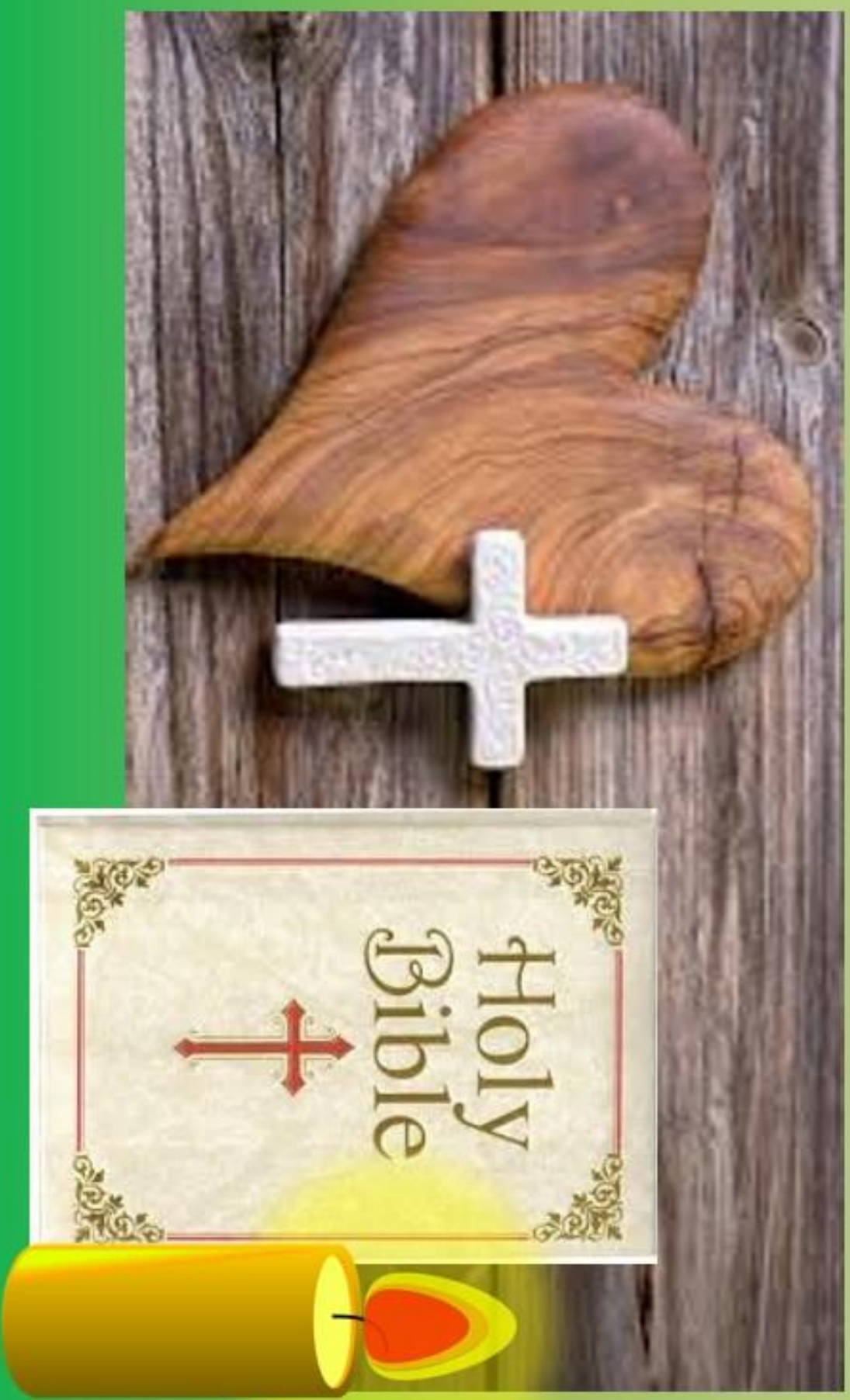
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone: 9307 8330

Website: ccd.sydneycatholic.org

**Facebook: CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public
Schools**

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Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.