

# 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.

For those catechists who are able to return to providing SRE classes in Term 4, we are here to support you: your CCD FEOs are currently meeting with your parish Catechist Co-ordinators. Those who were able to safely return to SRE in Term 3, we hope you enjoy a break over these school holidays.

May God bless each of you and your loved ones in the coming weeks and please pray that God will continue to bless this wonderful community.

**From your CCD Parish Catechist Support Team**

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

CCD Director's Update  
Pages 2-3

Book of Remembrance  
Page 4

Catechist Testimonies  
Pages 5 - 8

Faith Formation Series  
Pages 9 - 10

Catechist Training  
Information & Course  
Dates  
Pages 11 - 12

Prayers & Intentions  
Page 13

Contact Us  
Page 14

# CCD Director's Update

## Term 4 and 2021 planning

Your CCD Faith Education Officers are meeting with your Catechist Coordinators regarding end-of-year SRE matters and 2021 advice.

In brief:

**Recruitment:** SRE depends upon parishioners volunteering to be Catechists. Please keep promoting the positive benefits of being a Catechist. CCD can help.

**Training:** CCD's updated safeguarding training meets both Government and Parish safeguarding (SALT) training compliance.

See pages 11-12 for more information on the need for updated training.

**Curriculum:** CCD recommends that, where possible, 2020 student activity books be sent home at the end of the year with students in accordance with school infection control procedures (Catechist Coordinators are being advised by CCD FEOs about this).

Please note: for 2021, revised Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 student activity lessons will be printed in colour.

For 2022, revised Years 3-6 lessons will also be printed in colour.

More information will be provided about these revisions.

Why colour? Where 'colouring in' is required, CCD is partially colouring activity books to focus students on colouring "the point of each lesson" so activity book work is a 3-5 minute 'Step 3' activity, as per the Teacher's Manual lesson plans, which start with prayer, telling the story, then 'I wonder' questioning – 'how will I put it into action this week' activities and end with prayer.

### **Updated CovidSafe advice (as at 24 September 2020):**

SRE will go ahead in Term 4 where parishes are able to deliver classes in accordance with the "Return of SRE in Term 3" guidelines.

SRE teachers (Catechists) are to follow NSW Health-Department of Education advice: most importantly, stay home if unwell and, if you have covid-like symptoms, get checked (see your CCD Return to SRE Guide).

Whilst other NSW school activities are now also able to resume in Term 4, such as, singing and the use of wind instruments, school camps, regional sporting competitions and end-of-year socials, we must not become complacent about infection control.

Thank you again for your care and co-operation during this most extraordinary year.

## Sacramental Preparation PowerPoints

To help parishes run CovidSafe online 'zoom' small groups or to help guide parents to pray and work through the Gratia Series Children's Activity Books with their children at home, CCD has developed PowerPoints with voiceovers/scripts.

Please help spread the word about the practical recommendations and resources that are available to support parishes on this webpage:

<https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/sacraments/>



## Vatican's new Directory for Catechesis

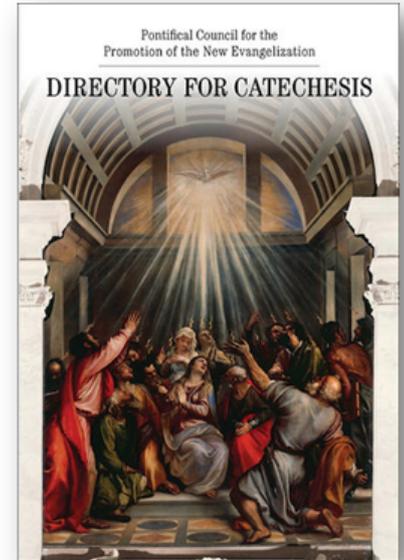
As a parent, I am heartened by the down-to-earth wisdom in the new Directory for Catechesis that aims to help us be present to God and build up parish life.

I encourage parishes to consider its practical and achievable pastoral guidelines. It is available from the Archdiocese's Mustard Seed Bookshop:

<https://mustardseed.org.au/shop/directory-for-catechesis-revised/>

This new Directory for Catechesis represents the work of over 80 experts over five years that reflects a dynamic renewal in catechesis and the wisdom of the most recent episcopal synods and Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The Directory places catechetical instruction and formation of Catechists clearly within the realm of evangelisation. It clarifies the importance of catechetical renewal in Christian communities.



### “The one thing necessary”

Whilst definitely not being the sharpest tool in the shed, I have read the new Directory through the eyes of a dad who delighted in being up-skilled for 'dad duties' by doing CCD catechist training.

This review aims to evidence the need for 'upskilling'. By offering catechist training more widely, my hope is that our kids may more clearly 'see and hear' from each of us about 'the one thing necessary'.

Here is a web-link to view this initial review:

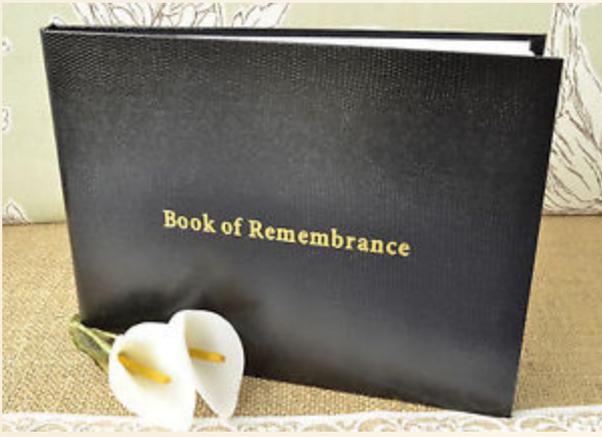
[http://sydarch.org.au/adclerum/2020/New-Directory-for-Catechesis-initial-review\\_08August2020.pdf](http://sydarch.org.au/adclerum/2020/New-Directory-for-Catechesis-initial-review_08August2020.pdf)

### Thank you

On behalf of your CCD team, thank you for supporting our parish families in public schools, including my own with our kids in Kindy, Year 2, 4 & 6 SRE classes.

May our loving God, who is closer to us than our very breathing, bless you this day and every day – Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Doug Mawhinney - CCD Parish Catechist Support



October 2019 – September 2020

# We Remember

2019	<i>Marilyn Dowd</i>	<i>Padstow</i>
October 2019	<i>Tony Galluzzo</i>	<i>Peakhurst</i>
October 2019	<i>Margaret Mary Davies</i>	<i>Denistone</i>
October 2019	<i>Therese Farrington</i>	<i>Croydon</i>
November 2019	<i>Doreen Quinn</i>	<i>Clemtown Park</i>
December 2019	<i>Jeanette Lam-Po-Tang</i>	<i>Woollahra</i>
March 2020	<i>Fr Raymond Farrell</i>	<i>Auburn</i>
April 2020	<i>Narelle Hills</i>	<i>Rose Bay</i>
June 2020	<i>Maryanne Weir</i>	<i>Bass Hill</i>
June 2020	<i>Meg (Elsie) Campbell</i>	<i>Kogarah</i>
June 2020	<i>Carmen Caruana</i>	<i>Mt Pritchard</i>
July 2020	<i>Mary Hardaker</i>	<i>Padstow</i>
July 2020	<i>Hilary Sladky</i>	<i>Padstow</i>
August 2020	<i>Margaret Tosello</i>	<i>Smithfield</i>
August 2020	<i>Margaret Williams</i>	<i>Liverpool</i>
August 2020	<i>Jovie Casuso-Reyes</i>	<i>Rockdale City</i>
September 2020	<i>Ray Byers</i>	<i>Oatley</i>
September 2020	<i>Marie Claire Perrine</i>	<i>Holsworthy</i>
September 2020	<i>Rhodora Cruz</i>	<i>Bossley Park</i>
September 2020	<i>Patricia Ambrose</i>	<i>Enfield</i>

*Grant all of those who have died  
the grace of your eternal light and life.*

*Amen.*



# Catechist Testimony

**BY RENEE HOURANI - SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH - ENFIELD**

When I was 18 years old and a student at Southern Cross Burwood, I became a student catechist.

After graduating from high school, I made the decision to continue in the ministry as a catechist. Being a catechist has increased my passion for religion and teaching and I have decided to become a Studies of Religion teacher.

Last year, I taught Year 1 and 2 at Enfield Public School with Suzanne Miceli. It was indeed a privilege to be able to pursue my passion for teaching, especially about the faith of the Catholic Church. During this time, I was able to assist in lesson planning and activity work. This helped me to develop my lesson planning skills and also the confidence in deciding which activities to use for this particular age group, from the authorised curriculum.

This year, I was given the opportunity to continue teaching this class myself. I was so happy and eager to start teaching students at such a young age about the faith and encouraging them to participate. It has been a memorable experience, one I'll never forget. Watching them learn and understand more and more each week has been rewarding. What an achievement!

Becoming a catechist has been life-changing and a commitment I'll always cherish and hopefully continue, for many years. It has led me to the easy decision of my career path in becoming a teacher.

I feel happy and very blessed and I hope more young students pursue this pathway, as it is something I'll never regret.



*"My help comes from  
the LORD, who made  
heaven and earth."  
(Psalm 121:2)*

# Spotlight on Nina Laureti

Nina Laureti is an outstanding Parish Catechist Coordinator in the largest parish in the Archdiocese of Sydney, John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg.

Nina:

- coordinates 65 adult catechists and 45 student catechists across six local public schools
- coordinates 1150 students
- teaches four Catholic SRE classes weekly and
- is a French/Italian teacher, Languages Leader of Learning, and Student Catechist Coordinator at Freeman Catholic College.

The CCD invited Nina to share a little about her tireless devotion to the catechetical ministry.

## ***How long have you been a Catechist?***

I have been a Catechist for 32 years and a Catechist Coordinator for 18 years.

## ***Why did you become a Catechist?***

In 1988, my amazing friend and Parish Priest, RIP Fr John Langtry pushed me into the ministry. Upon my first meeting with Fr John, I revealed I was a teacher, but due to having small children at home, I had stopped working. Fr John invited me to knock at the door to the Sisters of Charity who organised our parish catechetical ministry. Now 32 years later, I am still enjoying and leading a most special catechetical ministry.

## ***What is the secret in coordinating so many catechists/classes?***

I am incredibly meticulous and precise. I really love to be organised and that assists with all the administration. At John the Baptist Parish, we teach scripture to over 1150 children across six schools. I designate one catechist per school to be the School Coordinator, who liaises with their school and catechists. I coordinate two schools and I am blessed to have four fantastic School Coordinators: Vicki Scutella, Connie Giannone, Louise Pace and Trudi Simpson. We work exceptionally well as a team. It is also about building relationships and being available for my catechists in good times and to support them in their difficulties. Having a good relationship with the Parish Priest is also helpful.



outside  
the holy  
sepulchre

# Spotlight on Nina Laureti

## ***You are an incredibly busy woman, why do you continue to be a catechist?***

*I love teaching high school. It is amazing! Yet, it's the faces of those adorable little children that melt my heart. The squeals of delight when they see you at school, Church or even the shopping centres makes it all worthwhile. Faith is such an important part of my life, and I love to share it with others.*

## ***How have you grown in your faith as a catechist?***

I am continually learning and amazed at how much we can learn from the students in our classes. As a catechist, I have worked closely with wonderful priests, and with their guidance, their witness has enriched my faith for Christ and His Church. Through this, I have grown as a person helping me to be a better mother/grandmother/daughter/sister and friend.

## ***What is your favourite year group to teach?***

I love the innocence of Year 1 and the curiosity of Year 4. However, I love teaching Year 6! I recognise that I have a responsibility to give them the best year of learning and discovering their faith. For many students, it will be their last year attending Catholic SRE.

## ***What is the best advice you can give to catechists?***

1. Pray before class for yourself, your students and their families.
2. Never go into your class unprepared.
3. Remember it's not about finishing everything in the lesson.
4. Sharing a little of your life story allows your students to feel comfortable with you, and it will assist them in building a relationship with God.
5. Students can ask some tricky questions, don't make up the answer. It is best, to be honest, and advise the students that you will find the answer and share it at the next lesson.
6. At the end of each term, share some time with your catechists and celebrate the 'end of year' with a Thanksgiving Mass and dinner.

## ***What are some of the graces that you have received since becoming a catechist?***

Some graces include humility, forgiveness, leadership, witness and the grace to encourage others. Life can be challenging, so it is important to acknowledge that we cannot do it on our own, but through the grace of God, he will gently help us in our times of need.

# Spotlight on Nina Laureti

## ***Was there a particular lesson where the Holy Spirit was very present in the classroom?***

Yes, in 2019, I had just found out that one of the children in Kindergarten had passed away. As I went into my Year 4 Scripture class, I was not expecting his older brother to be at school, nor did I expect him to want to talk about his little brother and how much he loved him. Boy, was I wrong! I had a lesson prepared on Baptism, but we spent the whole lesson talking about how his family felt, how others were helping them, and why God had taken his little brother. I cannot even remember what I said, but I know the Holy Spirit was guiding me. Other students in the class also shared stories, and at the end, we all said a prayer. After class, the young boy who had lost his brother told me how much he appreciated that time in class and was eager to go home to tell his mum. I later received a thank you note from his mum, which touched my heart. There are times like this that make being a catechist rewarding and humbling.

## ***Do you have any other roles in your parish?***

Yes! I am the Readers' Coordinator and a member of the Liturgy Team. I was also on the Parish Council from the first Initiating Group to 2019.

## ***What is your favourite lesson/season to teach?***

The Easter Season. Having been on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I had many beautiful encounters with the Lord. It changed my life. I feel closer to My Lord than ever and desire for others to experience those same feelings.



Nina Laureti, Fr Michael McLean, and Freeman Catholic College Students at the 2018 Annual Catechist Mass (Photo Giovanni Portelli)

# CCD Faith Formation Series via Zoom

Since May we have had the blessing of having a long line of speakers who have connected with us via this new medium of Zoom and brought us their teachings and insights to help us discover the richness of our Catholic faith. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

If you have not been able to join us, please see links below to the recordings via youtube:

## **Fr Daniele Russo – “The Gift of Faith”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpAPMgtThfQ&feature=youtu.be>

## **Fr Michael de Stoop - “The Gift of Confession”**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xEuv\\_tKjWc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xEuv_tKjWc)

## **Fr James McCarthy - "Understanding the Mass, Postures and Gestures”**

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

## **Fr Dan McCaughan - “Everyday Saints”**

<https://youtu.be/OAJQlkvYz1Q>

## **Fr Geoff Plant – “The Real Presence of Jesus Christ on the Eucharist”**

<https://youtu.be/RLks9TBX414>

## **Steve Buhagiar - “The Way of Beauty: An encounter with God through Creation, Art and Wonder”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1KiQIV9Bws>

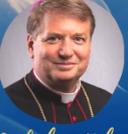
# CCD Faith Formation Series via Zoom

CATECHIST on-line SERIES by CCD Sydney



**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

Oct 8 | Thursday | Zoom Time 10.30am - 11.30am  
RSVP to Anita Lee e:anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Archbishop Fisher

CATECHIST on-line SERIES by CCD Sydney



**The Hidden Treasures of our Catholicism.**

15 October | Thursday | Zoom Time 10.30am - 11.30am  
RSVP to Anita Lee e:anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



by Sophie York

CATECHIST on-line SERIES by CCD Sydney



**25 years on:  
Why the Gospel of Life (JPII)  
matters for Catechists?**

23 OCTOBER | FRIDAY | Zoom Time 10.30am - 11.30am  
RSVP to Anita Lee e:anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



by Chris Money

CATECHIST on-line SERIES by CCD Sydney



**Our Blessed Mother Mary:  
UNDERSTANDING THE  
FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS**

30 October | Friday | Zoom Time 10.30am - 11.30am  
RSVP to Anita Lee e:anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



By Fr. John Flader

**FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS ARE FROM  
10.30AM - 11.30AM**

**RSVP IS ESSENTIAL BY EMAILING ANITA LEE:  
anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au**

# Catechist Training Information

## SAFEGUARDING

Dear Catechists and Catechist Helpers,

NSW legislation has been updated recently to help keep our children safe.

All SRE Catechists are required to receive updated SRE safeguarding training. By completing training, you are helping to grow a “Culture of Life” wherein the dignity of every person is respected.

For those of you who have yet to receive CCD’s updated safeguarding training, you can book in – see dates on the following page.

This update will help you to know:

1. What behaviour is now regarded as “reportable conduct”
2. What you need to do if you become aware of any reportable conduct

Be assured that, if you ever need to make a report, you will be fully supported by your CCD team and the Archdiocese’s Safeguarding Office.

Your CCD Faith Education Officer (FEO) will also work with your Parish Clergy and Catechist Coordinator to help ensure SRE ‘initial and ongoing training’ requirements are met.

**Note: Parish ‘SALT’ safeguarding training DOES NOT cover our Government SRE requirements.**

### **Note to Catechist Coordinators:**

The NSW ‘CCRESS’ online SRE training is currently under revision and will not be offered until further notice; therefore, CCD Sydney is initiating other online training options, as advertised on the following page.

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

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

*"Lord, may we follow  
and serve you."*

*- ST SIMON & ST JUDE  
Feast day: 28 October*

# Course Training Dates

## TRAINING WEBINARS - VIA ZOOM

### UNIT 1.1 SRE INDUCTION TRAINING WEBINAR

*(The Role of the SRE Catechist in the Church and the Public School and SRE Safeguarding)*

All **new** SRE Catechists must complete CCD's SRE Induction Training. CCD Sydney 'Zoom' induction training opportunities is offered on the following dates:

Monday 19 October	9:45am-1pm	Robert Milan
Tuesday 10 November	9:45am-1pm	Robert Milan
Saturday 21 November	9:45am-1pm	Robert Milan
Monday 7 December	9:45am-1pm	Robert Milan

### REFRESHER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING WEBINAR

*(SRE Safeguarding)*

Please contact your FEO if you have any questions about the following training dates or to arrange future training options.

Refresher Training is offered to **existing** Catechists via 'Zoom' on the following dates:

Monday 26 October	9:45am-11:15am	Robert Milan
Monday 23 November	9:45am-11:15am	Robert Milan
Friday 4 December	9:45am-11:15am	Robert Milan
Tuesday 15 December	9:45am-11:15am	Robert Milan

**RSVP is essential for all training sessions.**

**Limit of 20 catechists per Zoom training.**

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

**OR Phone: 9307 8330**

#### **Remember to include:**

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

# Prayers & Intentions

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

- Your SRE students and their families, especially during the day/time of your SRE 'Scripture' 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.



## QUOTE FROM SAINT JOHN PAUL II

*"Remember that you are never alone,  
Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives!  
He has called you and chosen you to live  
in the freedom of the children of God.  
Turn to him in prayer and in love.  
Ask him to grant you the courage and  
strength to live in this freedom always.  
Walk with him who is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life!'" -*

*From the 12th World Youth Day in Paris France. August 1997*

## FEAST DAYS

*2 October  
The Holy Guardian Angels*

*4 October  
St Francis of Assisi*

*5 October  
St Faustina*

*7 October  
Our Lady of the Rosary*

*15 October  
St Teresa of Avila*

*17 October  
St Ignatius of Antioch*

*18 October  
St Luke*

*22 October  
St John Paul II*

*28 October  
St Simon & St Jude  
the Apostles*

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

**CCD OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION:** Laura Argiro | Verna Wing  
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 [denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)  
Josie D'aciaro | Christine Zakaria [southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**WESTERN AREA:**  
Teresa Culjak [teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)  
Vincent Haber [vincent.haber@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vincent.haber@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

**Level 6, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street**

**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

**Phone: 9307 8330**

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

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