

CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

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"God doesn't call
the equipped.
He equips the called."



CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools

September 13 at 6:50 AM · 🌐

Sometimes we question or doubt our abilities to do a task or a mission that our heart may desire or God may have called us to do because we are afraid, we feel we are not good enough, don't have the skills or lack the experience. So we say NO when asked to help out in our Parish, give a testimony, lead a youth group or even be a Catechist.

But the work of ministry is never just ours. It is the work of the Holy Spirit too. 😊 When we are doing God's ministry He will give us many gifts to do His work and mission. All He wants is our YES and our desire to serve. 🙌

So next time you are asked to join a mission, lead a group, share your testimony or be a Catechist, PRAY and ask God to grant you the gifts to fulfill His mission and say YES. After all, God loves you and He will never abandon you. ❤️

[#beacatechist](#) [#jointhemissionthis2022](#)
[#godscall](#) [#godswill](#) [#discernment](#)
[#catholicscripture](#) [#specialreligiouseducation](#)

*Stay Safe and
God Bless*



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



Supporting
Parish Catechists



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

From the Director

Update | Special Religious Education (SRE)

Dear Catechists and Coordinators,

I hope and pray this message finds you well as we pray for our school communities and one another. The Department of Education is continuing to work towards schools welcoming students back to face-to-face learning from mid-Term 4 under Level 3 CovidSafe measures that limit student mingling.

SRE will only begin after the Department allows schools to move to Level 2 restrictions.

If yes: if the Department advises SRE can resume before Christmas, CCD will supply you with an updated "Return to SRE Guide".

If no: if the Department advises SRE cannot resume this year, CCD will provide a suggested letter template for parishes to email to schools to advise parents about SRE, e.g. to alert parents when children will bring home **SRE Student Activity Books** along with providing a way for families to **access online Advent/Christmastide resources** and any **parish invitations to online/face-to-face Christmas celebrations**.

Either way: whether SRE returns before Christmas or not, CCD will advise Clergy and Catechist Coordinators about the **importance of holding Term 4 meetings with schools** (as per [NSW SRE Procedures 3.4](#)), to discuss end-of-year SRE requests to support students and advise parents; and, to plan for 2022 SRE classes (best avoid asking anything of schools during the planned return-to-school weeks of late Oct-mid Nov).

Christmas cards: we appreciate that many Catechists lovingly hand out Christmas cards or, particularly for Year 6, little Catholic Life-Prayer items – with their parish and school's permission. Whilst there is no expectation to do this, if this has been your practice, I'm sure many schools would welcome such acts of kindness, given shared concern for student wellbeing. Again, asking if Christmas cards may be given out is best discussed by Clergy/Catechist Coordinators with school leaders during a Term 4 online/phone meeting (schools infection-control rules can help with this).

Recruitment: this is essential and CCD will provide a pack. I have asked in the Clergy Newsletter for these [recruitment videos](#) to be played before or after online Masses – I trust you will give "continual and unwavering encouragement" until your parish kindly does so. It is also worth noting, if any Catechists have **health concerns**, there is no rush for you to make decisions about your continued SRE service, given we do not yet know if SRE will return this year.

We will keep you posted and, right now, I wish to simply ask for us all to continue to pray that all families at home are inspired to go gently and lovingly.

God bless you and Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Doug

Catechist Reminders

SRE pamphlets - Information for Parents

Some schools have already contacted coordinators to have pamphlets included in enrolment packs, as many schools have begun planning for 2022 enrolments.

If you need more of these pamphlets, please contact your FEO.

SRE classes postponed until further notice

Please note any information regarding SRE will be advised to catechist coordinators. See page 2 for latest information.

Contacting CCD Staff

As CCD staff continue to work remotely, a reminder that your FEO may be contacted directly via email.

For those without email access, please leave a phone message on 9307 8330, and your call will be returned.

Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass 2021

The Annual Mass that was scheduled for 19 September has been postponed to 30 January 2022. Awardees will be notified accordingly.



REMEMBER:

As bookings are essential due to capacity restrictions, please advise if you are no longer able to attend a training session.



Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFhMI2vHjG0>

Meet the CCD Team

Meet the great people that work at CCD Sydney.

This month we meet Suzanne Miceli – Faith Education Officer for the Central Area. Suzanne commenced working at the CCD in 2017, and provides support for almost approximately 20 parishes. From Ashfield, Bankstown, Belmore, Dulwich Hill, Greenacre, Punchbowl, to Strathfield South and Summer Hill.

Suzanne has also worked at her local parish as a catechist, catechist coordinator and sacramental coordinator. Let's meet Suzanne:



In my spare time I enjoy Paper craft - I like to make cards and scrapbooking.

My coffee order is nothing. I only drink tea. I also love a good soy hot chocolate.

My ideal travel destination: A lovely warm and sunny Pacific Island such as Fiji. At present this is only a dream!

The best gift you could give me is your friendship. I treasure the loyal friends I have had for many years.

Three saints I would invite to dinner are St Maximillian Kolbe, St Joseph and St Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

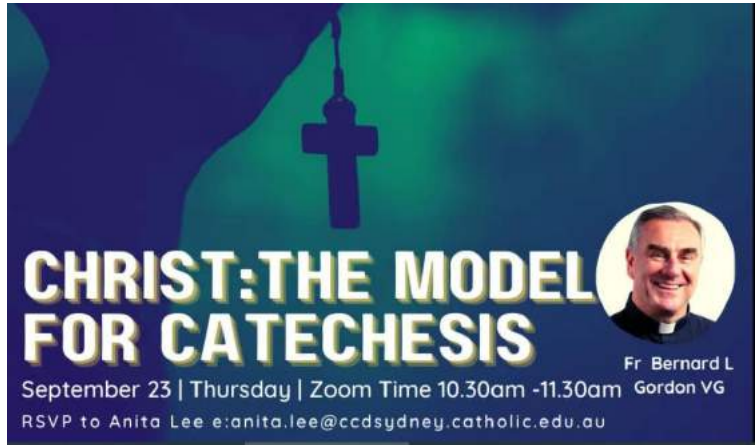
My favourite lesson to teach in COLAL is: Year 2 Lesson 16 - The Good Samaritan. I love the Echo Pantomime in the Teacher's Manual. The children absolutely enjoy this activity.

My favourite Bible verse is Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd.

"It has been a wonderful blessing to meet such amazing and dedicated catechists. I have formed so many new friendships with my Central area coordinators and the wonderful CCD staff. I thank God constantly for the opportunities he has given me in my role as an FEO" - Suzanne Miceli



CCD Faith Formation Series via Zoom



Save the date for the following upcoming speakers:

Friday 1 October, Sr Maria Jose RSM
Thursday 14 October, Fr Dominic Nguyen
Friday, 22 October, Fr Khoi Nguyen MSC
Thursday 28 October, Bishop C. Prowse
(Canberra)

FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS
10.30AM - 11.30AM

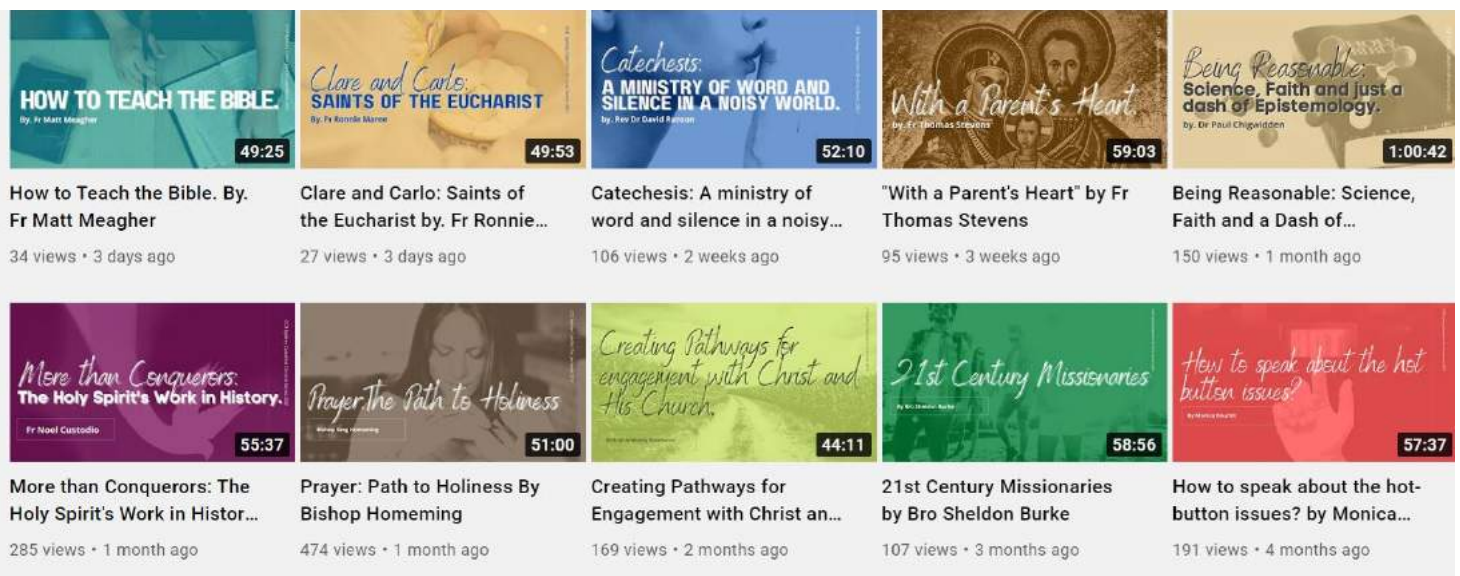
RSVP IS ESSENTIAL via EMAIL:
anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Did you miss Fr Chris Ryan's talk on
"Catechesis is for Transformation, not just the communication of Information"

Here's the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTU_gahuHjo&t=5s

Please visit our YouTube page and enjoy the choices available to you on-demand:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpE0VVfzzuE9F12ngh-9KXA>



Course Training Dates

SRE TRAINING

SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING WEBINAR

Catechists that completed child protection in 2017-2018 are now due for refresher training. Our Archdiocese requires safeguarding refresher training every 3 years. See dates below.

Wednesday 29 September	9.45am-11am	WEBINAR via Zoom
Tuesday 12 October	9.45am-11am	WEBINAR via Zoom
Thursday 25 November	9.45am-11am	WEBINAR via Zoom

LEVEL 1 TRAINING

1.1 - The Role of the SRE Catechist in the Church and the Public School and SRE Safeguarding - INDUCTION

Monday 1 November	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
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1.2 - Using The Authorised Curriculum

Monday 8 November	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
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1.3 - Classroom Management (*new/updated course*)

Monday 15 November	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
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1.4 - Classroom Management - Insights & Upskilling (*new/updated course*)

Tuesday 21 September	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR fully booked
Tuesday 27 September	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
Monday 22 November	9.45am-1.00pm	WEBINAR via Zoom

1.5 - Classroom Skills and Resources (*new/updated course*)

Tuesday 28 September	9.45am-1.00pm	**WEBINAR fully booked
Monday 11 October	9.45am-1.00pm	**WEBINAR via Zoom
Monday 29 November	9.45am-1.00pm	**WEBINAR via Zoom**

1.5 webinar participants:

***you will need your Teacher Manual and Student Activity book for this session**

**** numbers are capped at 15 and you must join by PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android NOT BY TELEPHONE**



For the latest course updates follow link to the CCD website:
<https://ccd.sydney.catholic.org/catechist-resources/courses-and-registration/>

REMEMBER:

As bookings are essential due to capacity restrictions, please advise if you are no longer able to attend a training session.

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

Course Training Dates

SRE TRAINING

LEVEL 2 TRAINING

Understanding the Learner/How to Get the Message Across Age-Appropriately

(Open to catechists who have completed Level 1)

2.1	Tuesday 26 October	9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom
2.2	Tuesday 2 November	9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom
2.3	Tuesday 9 November	9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom
2.4	Tuesday 16 November	9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom
2.5	Tuesday 23 November	9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom

LEVEL 3 TRAINING

Holy Spirit Gathering a People for God

DATES TO BE ADVISED

**Bookings: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
OR Phone: 9307 8330**

Remember to include:

Full Name:

Email Address:

Contact Ph: (preferably mobile)

Parish Name:

Date & Time of training:



Bookings are essential due to capacity restrictions

Email:
office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
OR
Phone: 9307 8330

CCD Mass with Fr Michael McLean

Join us on zoom for Mass & Prayer with Fr Michael McLean

Friday 1 October - 9.00am Mass

Followed by Faith Formation Series - Sr Maria Jose RSM

Friday 15 October - 11.00am Mass & Prayer

Parish Catechist Coordinators will be informed of Zoom link details via Email



CATHOLIC ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING LOCKDOWN

SRE classes in Greater Sydney public schools are postponed until further notice.

We have FREE and EASY to FOLLOW ONLINE LESSONS for families to access and use during the lockdown.

But it is also available FOR YOU and for YOUR FAMILIES to use too.

“Catholic SRE Learning from Home” web-link: Click here.

<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

The Education Department has advised all NSW public schools to make families aware of these online resources.

Our Chancery has also advised all Parish Clergy about these resources to let families know via digital parish bulletins and parish webpages.

You may wish to follow up with your priest about this.

We at CCD Sydney want to support ALL families and parents during this time, to pray and learn with their kids, both in Primary and Secondary, to live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Help us spread the word by SHARING this information.

FEAST DAYS

**21 September
St Matthew**

**23 September
St Pius of
Pietrelcina
(Padre Pio)**

**27 September
St Vincent de Paul**

**29 September
Saints Michael,
Gabriel &
Raphael
Archangels**

**30 September
St Jerome**

**1 October
St Therese of the
Child Jesus**

**2 October
The Holy
Guardian Angels**

**4 October
St Francis of
Assisi**

**7 October
Our Lady of the
Rosary**

Invitations to Prayer



Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for an online retreat into silence, 24-26 September.

You will provide the silent times and spaces over the course of the weekend. The sisters will provide common times for Mass, communal and private prayer, and talks that delve deeper into the theme of silence.

For more information or to register:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTYGD>

Inviting all Sydney Catholics to an online Holy Hour for the spiritual needs of our people and parishes on Thursday 30th September, the eve of the first Friday in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Feast Day of St Therese, patron saint of missionaries. St Therese knew that her daily union with Christ in prayer was the most effective help she could offer for the Church's proclamation of the Gospel. As we await the end of lockdown, let us unite ourselves with Christ and pray that many hearts will be open to his love and granted the grace to encounter Him in this time of challenge and to live ever more deeply as his disciples.

Registrations essential.

Online Holy Hour for Parish Renewal

Date: Thursday 30 September

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Online via Zoom; please register at

www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

THURSDAY
30 SEPTEMBER
7:00-8:30PM

GO MAKE DISCIPLES

GO MAKE DISCIPLES PRAYER NIGHT:
**OPENING HEARTS
TO CHRIST**

An online holy hour for parish renewal and conversion of hearts
More details and online registration at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Catholic Care

Testing times calls for a helping hand

Keeping in touch during COVID hasn't been easy for everyone, particularly for educators in the Catechist community who have been encouraged to isolate for the benefit of those most vulnerable and their wellbeing.

Forced lockdown, a major strategy to fight COVID-19, has also been a significant cause of anxiety in the community.

Social connectedness is vital during this public health emergency. It has been a strong focus for the CCareline telephone support team since the beginning of the pandemic. In response to easing feelings of anxiety and isolation within the community, CatholicCare's CCareline team uses their rich knowledge and experience to direct people experiencing distress to counselling services available within CatholicCare.

Our counselling services are widely accessed by people from across Sydney from many different backgrounds, beliefs and dealing with a variety of circumstances.

It is no surprise that the main issues people face in lockdown are financial stresses and mental health concerns. The correlation between fear and uncertainty surrounding the pandemic is indeed taking a toll on many.

CatholicCare's services are almost entirely adapted to assisting online or via the telephone. An experienced intake consultant will lend a friendly ear and apply the best referral options relative to your concerns. If you need some support, please get in touch with CCareline on 13 18 19.

We are only a phone call away to help you through these testing times.

CCareline 13 18 19

8am-6pm weekdays



During this time of uncertainty it can be difficult to know where to turn to for help.

CCareline **13 18 19** is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health.

For help finding help, call

CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

Contact Us

For all general enquiries, please contact the CCD office on 9307 8330. If the office is unattended, kindly leave a message and your call will be attended to as soon as practical. Alternatively, your Faith Education Officer can be contacted via email as listed below.

CCD TEAM AND CONTACT DETAILS

CCD DIRECTOR: Doug Mawhinney

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CCD OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION: Laura Argiro Mon/Tue/Wed
Verna Wing Wed/Thur/Fri

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 denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Josie D'acchio josie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Christine Zakaria christine@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

WESTERN AREA:

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

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

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Phone: 9307 8330

Website: ccd.sydneycatholic.org

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