

CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

"The aesthetic value of creation cannot be overlooked. Our very contact with nature has a deep restorative power; contemplation of its magnificence imparts peace and serenity.

The Bible speaks again and again of the goodness and beauty of creation, which is called to glorify God."

- **St John Paul II (1920-2005)**

"It helped me to look at fields, or water, or flowers. In these things, I found a remembrance of the Creator. I mean that they awakened and recollected me and served as a book."

- **St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)**

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Honouring Mary
see page 12



Lavender Fields, California USA

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Supporting
Parish Catechists



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

From the Director

Update | Special Religious Education (SRE)

Dear Catechists and Coordinators,

Thank you for your continued prayers for our school communities, one another and the SRE ministry.

SRE Update

We have not yet received a Return of SRE update from the Department of Education (DoE). Whilst it is not a school decision to cancel SRE for the remainder of the year, given students will return to schools half-way through Term 4, in my opinion, it is unlikely that NSW Health will enable the DoE to move schools in Greater Sydney to Level 2 restrictions for SRE to begin before Christmas (again, this is only my opinion at this stage, not official advice).

I hope to be able to provide an official update following a DoE SRE-SEE Consultative Committee meeting in late-October. Following that meeting, CCD will provide Catechist Coordinators with an **email message template** regarding what to ask schools to do **“to support parents who have chosen SRE for their children” – such as, sending SRE books home along with an SRE Update letter that links to Christmas resources (CCD to supply)**. I recommend that we all best wait until mid-November before asking schools to do anything, given staff need to focus on settling students back in to face-to-face learning from late October.

If schools request the **“SRE Information for Parents”** (blue and white) pamphlet for enrolment packs, delivery of these can be arranged via CCD FEOs (a digital version is also available).

This year, **we will supply a Year 6 Certificate (see image)**, which aims to link families to our local parishes and Archdiocesan youth initiatives via a ScanMe QR Code icon on the reverse. I realise some schools may not accept this initiative; however, I'm hoping the **email template** wording that CCD will supply encourages schools to support student wellbeing by handing out these celebratory Year 6 Certificates.

Recruitment: The October “Ad Clerum” Clergy Newsletter again asks that these **catechist recruitment videos** (see links below) be played before or after online Masses – please encourage your parish to do so. A digital poster is also available for parish bulletins. (see image on following page).

Online Sacramental Preparation

Gratia Series children's activity book PowerPoints with voice-overs/scripts are available to help run online groups and guide parents at home:

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

Please continue to pray that all families at home are inspired to go gently and lovingly.

God bless you and Saint Joseph, pray for us.

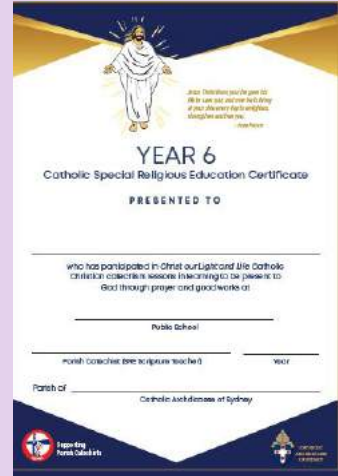
Doug Mawhinney
Director - CCD Sydney

CCD Youtube Recruitment Video Links:

Video 1 - <https://youtu.be/IOtaDbCaVT0>

Video 2 - <https://youtu.be/dfkSB9IPIDk>

Video 3 - <https://youtu.be/oVIB7-NUfu0>



**Where are our families?
HALF of Catholic children and
teens are in Public Schools.**



RESPOND TO THE CALL TO MISSION!

**We will show you how
to pray and explore
Jesus' Good News
with students as a
Catechist or Helper.**



**FOR ENQUIRIES, SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH
PRIEST OR CATECHIST COORDINATOR.**



Supporting
Parish Catechists
in Public Schools



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OF SYDNEY

CGD.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG

2021 Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass Award Recipients

55 YEARS OF SERVICE

Merryl Foster	Ryde
Dianne Mary McGrath	Padstow

SAINT JOHN PAUL II AWARD - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Elisabeth Roth	Mascot
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CARDINAL GILROY AWARD - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary Bowler	Smithfield
Beryl Dinos	Greenacre
Barbara Joan Sherry	Revesby Heights
Maureen Sullivan	Kogarah

LIFE MEMBER AWARD - 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Louise Brady	Denistone
Patricia Byron	Caringbah
John Camilleri	Austral
Margaret Joan Edwards	North Ryde
Christopher Phang Yeok Lim	Clovelly
Neda Lozina	Bossley Park
Robert John Mayor	Mortlake
Marguerite Martin	Ashfield
Victoria Micalizzi	Croydon
Mary Pankiw	Cabramatta
Tony Sakr	Hurstville

**2021 ANNUAL CATECHIST
MASS HAS BEEN
RESCHEDULED TO
SUNDAY
30 JANUARY 2022**

CARDINAL FREEMAN AWARD - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Norina Fincato	Riverwood
Julia Goff	Peakhurst
Josefina Gonzaga	Rockdale City
Nahla Margaret Lawler	Bass Hill
Teresa Levi	Mascot
Rita Machaalani	Marrickville
Barbara Martin	Earlwood
Yvonne McDonnell	Sutherland
Margaret Nohra	Bass Hill
Nadia Pospischil	Bonnyrigg
Janelle Shad	Oatley
Trudi Simpson	Bonnyrigg
Yvonne Vitagliani	Bossley Park
Carol Wood	Sefton

APOSTOLIC BLESSING - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Anne Brotherton	Penshurst
Mary Cail	Marrickville
Peter Collins	Gymea
Roslyn Driscoll	Cronulla
Matilda Indrapradja	Mascot
Celeste Link	Croydon
Mona Massoud	Mascot
Dawn Petersen	Rockdale City
Josephine Quinn	Clemton Park
Mary Catherine Reidy	Carlton
Vittoria Scutella	Bonnyrigg
Karen Thom	Panania
Penny Virgona	Mosman
Catherine Wing Yi Chan	Haymarket

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.

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.**

WWCC - Working with Children Check

Your WWCC needs to be renewed every five years. You cannot teach SRE with an expired WWCC number, or one that has not been verified by your parish. When you receive your new expiry date, remember to advise your parish office.

To update your your WWCC follow link below:

<https://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

Many catechists have advised the CCD they are not receiving some of our emails. These emails end up in your Spam or Junk Mail Folders.

The I.C.T. department has suggested following the steps below to ensure that our emails are received:

For Outlook:

To add people to your Safe Senders List, do the following:

On the Home tab, click Junk, and then click Junk E-mail Options.

Click on the Safe Senders tab, check the Automatically add people I e-mail to the Safe Senders List box.

For Hotmail:

Click "Show Content" to view the body of the email.

Click "mark as safe".

OR

Click on "Options" in the upper right corner of your Hotmail screen.

Then click the link for "Safe and Blocked Senders" in the body of the page under Junk e-mail.

Click the "Safe Senders" link and enter the email address you want to whitelist.

Click "Add" to put it on your list.

For Gmail:

Go to Spam. Open the email. Click the Not spam button.



REMEMBER:

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

Meet the CCD Team

Meet the great people that work at CCD Sydney.

This month we meet Robert Milan – Faith Education Officer for the Eastern Area. Robert commenced working at the CCD in January 2005 and provides support for approximately 33 parishes. From Annandale, Bondi, Botany, Clovelly, Edgecliff, Kensington, Maroubra, Mascot, Randwick, Sydney City, Waterloo to Waverley.

Let's meet Robert:

In my spare time I enjoy researching and preparing content for my YouTube channel, (Reginadécorcarmeli) that features Catholic teaching, devotions and Church approved apparitions. I also enjoy photography especially nature, the moon and any celestial exploration. Over the past 5 years I have collected a number of professional photography gear in order to make these possible.

My coffee order is usually a long black with 2 shots of coffee (at home on our Nespresso Delonghi machine) or when at a cafe/restaurant a large skim latte.

My ideal travel destination: Europe. Lourdes, in France and Assisi in Italy. Both places provide me with peace, serenity and a closeness to Our Lord and Our Lady. I love the nightly processions at Lourdes and the quietness of Assisi.

The best gift you could give me is truthfulness, being straightforward and honesty. All friendships, working and family relationships should be built upon these. Since we are expected to be all these with our Creator, then we should be with each other.

Saints I would invite to dinner are:

St Thomas Aquinas, the greatest scholastic mind of our world;
St Bernadette, a most humble, simple and yet powerful saint that exemplifies the words of her Groom, "Take up my yoke upon you, and learn from me, because I am meek and humble of heart: and you shall find rest to your soul." (St Matthew 11:29)

My favourite lesson to teach in COLAL is any lesson on the Blessed Mother, Our Lady, especially at the High School Level.

My favourite Bible verse is Psalm 51 (RSV2CE) or Psalm 50 (Douay-Rheims Bible), "Misere Mei, Deus", "Have mercy on me, God, according to your merciful love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions".
It is 19 verses and worth a reflection. King David laments his indiscretions and pleads with God to restore Him through salvation.

The CCD has provided me with the opportunity to share, develop and to teach the Catholic faith with volunteers that are self-less, faithful, inspiring and committed.

A long serving catechist once shared her thoughts upon her retirement, "If I can bring one person to Jesus, then my work is done" (paraphrased). This has stuck with me since then. There are many personal stories to share, but another is when a student replied to my question "Who taught/teaches you to pray?", "You did sir." This is a moment that solidified the purpose of our work that we do and put it into perspective. - Robert Milan



CCD Faith Formation Series via Zoom



FRIDAY | 22ND OF OCTOBER
Fr Khoi D. Nguyen MSC
"Heart Spirituality."

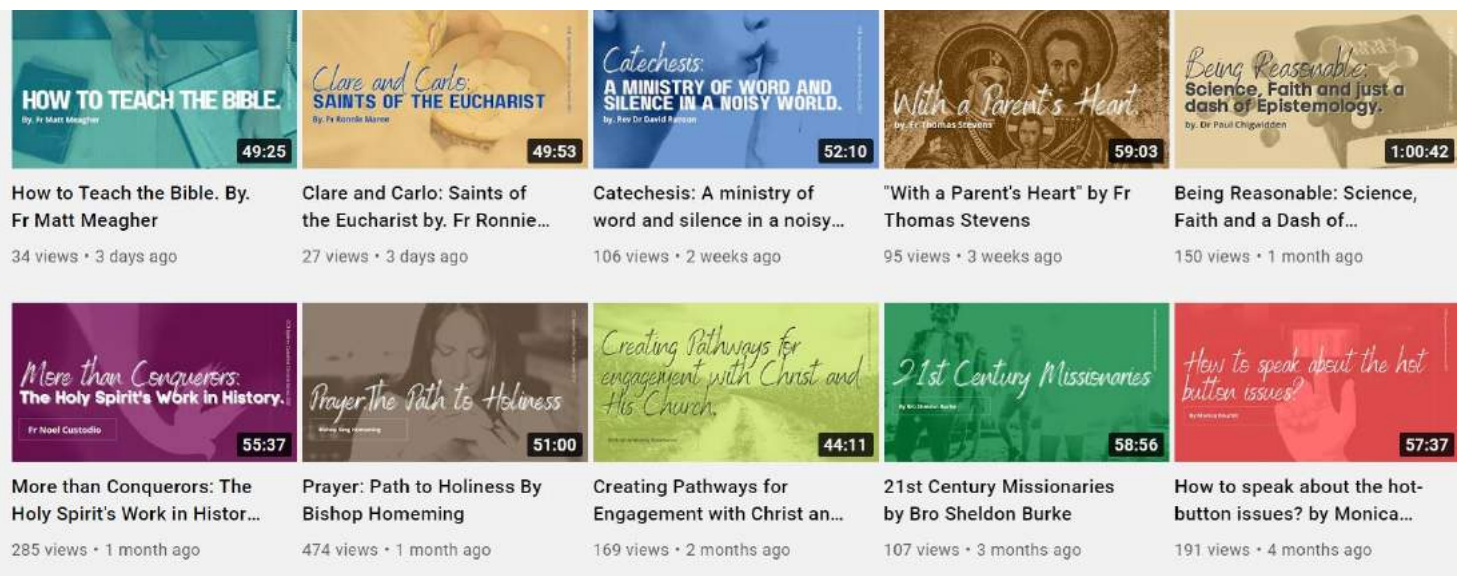
THURSDAY | 28TH OF OCTOBER
Archbishop C Prowse (Canberra-Goulburn)
"Meeting Jesus in the Mysteries of the Rosary."



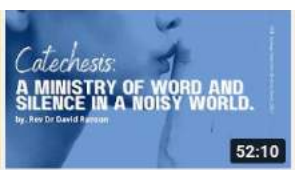







FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS
10.30AM - 11.30AM

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

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

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



 <p>How to Teach the Bible. By Fr Matt Meagher 34 views • 3 days ago</p>	 <p>Clare and Carlo: Saints of the Eucharist by Fr Ronnie... 27 views • 3 days ago</p>	 <p>Catechesis: A Ministry of Word and Silence in a Noisy World. By Rev Dr David Hanson 106 views • 2 weeks ago</p>	 <p>"With a Parent's Heart" by Fr Thomas Stevens 95 views • 3 weeks ago</p>	 <p>Being Reasonable: Science, Faith and just a dash of Epistemology. by Dr Paul Chigwidden 150 views • 1 month ago</p>
 <p>More than Conquerors: The Holy Spirit's Work in History. By Fr Noel Custodio 285 views • 1 month ago</p>	 <p>Prayer: The Path to Holiness By Bishop Homeming 474 views • 1 month ago</p>	 <p>Creating Pathways for Engagement with Christ and His Church. 169 views • 2 months ago</p>	 <p>21st Century Missionaries by Bro Sheldon Burke 107 views • 3 months ago</p>	 <p>How to speak about the hot button issues? by Monica... 191 views • 4 months ago</p>

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.

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

1.2 - Using The Authorised Curriculum

Monday 8 November 9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom

1.3 - Classroom Management (*new/updated course*)

Monday 15 November 9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom

1.4 - Classroom Management - Insights & Upskilling (*new/updated course*)

Monday 22 November 9.45am-1.00pm WEBINAR via Zoom

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

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 all training you will need to have your video on as a safety protocol and to note your attendance.



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

***PLEASE REGISTER NOW AS ONLY A FEW PLACES AVAILABLE FOR LEVEL 2**

LEVEL 3 TRAINING

Holy Spirit Gathering a People for God

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR 2022 DATES

**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:

TRAINING CONFIRMATION LINKS SENT BY THE CCD OFFICE

Many catechists have advised the CCD they are not receiving some of our emails.

These emails end up in your Spam or Junk Mail Folders.

Kindly follow the steps outlined on page 5 of this newsletter to ensure that our emails are received.



Bookings are essential due to capacity restrictions

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



Catechist Testimony

Joanne Russell - Clovelly Parish

In 1980, when I married, I had moved from Canberra to Sydney and was working full-time. After a few years, I decided to leave work. I realised I didn't have many local friends and decided to get more involved in the community.

It all started in 1985 when I asked the parish priest how I could serve in the parish, and he referred me to the Catechist Coordinator. This became a 'what did I get myself into' moment. She took me along to a lesson to see what it was like, and in the middle, told me to take over the class. From then, I signed up, never thinking that I would still be involved 35 years later!

I became the Coordinator around 1995, and in 2001 gave up regular teaching because I found I was not as patient with the students. Being childless myself didn't help. I now fill in for other catechists when required and find that more enjoyable.

Why did I start and stay? I guess it's because I believe that the Catholic children in government schools have a right to hear about God's love manifested in Jesus. And because it is a significant evangelising outreach of the parish (apart from the parish school).

I have enjoyed the CCD training and learned a lot to help my own faith life, particularly from Dr Charles Hill in the Catechist Ministry Certificate. And of course, I have made many friends and met many inspiring and generous faith-filled people.

To remain a catechist, one has to come to terms with not expecting immediate results from the students but knowing you have nurtured their faith along the way. My catechist work helps me too as a believer! Our faith gives us hope that we will see the fruits of our labour when God calls us to eternal life.






Catechist Resources

Workbook Activity from
Year 2, Lesson 5
(Christ our Light and Life)

Lesson 5
The Forgiving Father

• Discuss what is happening in each picture.
• Write the number of each picture near the correct statement.



The son spent all his money.
 His father was waiting for him.
 The son left home.
 The son was hungry.
 His father forgave him.
 A man had two sons.
 The father gives his son his inheritance.

To Remember:
God always welcomes me back.

Page 12



Dear God,
Thank you for being a forgiving Father.
Help me to remember I can always turn back to you
and you will forgive me.
Amen.

Page 13



This resource is in the Year 2 Teacher Manual. (Prodigal Son Resources)
Here is the link for the coloured version from Sydney Catholic Schools:

<https://reonline.sydcatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au/primary-religious-education/year-2-curriculum/>

FEAST DAYS

18 October
St Luke

22 October
St John Paul II

28 October
**Saints Simon &
Jude Apostles**

1 November
All Saints Day

2 November
All Souls Day

4 November
St Charles
Borromeo
Patron Saint of
Catechists

10 November
St Leo the Great

17 November
St Elizabeth of
Hungary

22 November
St Cecilia

As seen on Facebook

 CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools
September 28 at 6:11 PM · 🌐


Have you made something fun and engaging for your Catholic Scripture Classes?

We loved the Level 1.5 Training given by FEOs, [Suzanne Miceli](#) and Josie today via Zoom!

Today, Suzanne and Josie conducted a unit called Classroom Skills and Resources, in which Catechists learnt multiple ways to truly engage their students and reinforce lessons with activities, songs, dance and art. It was so much fun!!!!

As Catechist we always remember that " We learn by doing - We don't learn much by listening for long periods of time."
This is why we must always be prepared to vary our lessons with all activities, songs, dance, arts and crafts.

If you want to attend CCD Training via Zoom, check out the link below for class times and REGISTER!!
<https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/.../courses-and-registration/>

 CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools
September 30 at 6:28 AM · 🌐

26,491. That is the number of students that are listed on our data base as enrolled or have attended Catholic Scripture classes for 2021. 😊😊
💖 There's probably more not accounted for. 😊

A majority of the numbers are from Primary Public Schools and Secondary is falling behind. 😞

We miss teaching our students. But be rest assured that Catechists are praying for them daily. 🙏 Families also have access to Learning from Home Resources. Check out our Bio for the site. 😊

We are praying that we are able to return to class before the year ends to at least remind them about Advent and Christmas.

God willing, we will be able to send them a message of love and hope as 2021 comes to an end. ❤️

If you know families whose child goes to Public Schools, pls remind them to ENROL for Catholic Scripture Class for 2022, especially those in Year 6 now.

Please pray for all 26,491 students and their families. 🙏🙏🙏

And cheers to all our Catechists. 🌟🌟🌟

Honouring Mary in the Month of October

One of the most recited and celebrated Catholic prayers is the Rosary. The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. As we enter the final days of October, let us implore our Mother Mary for her intercession and blessings and make this a time to renew our devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary. Devote time to reflect on how her immaculate intercession has saved nations and individuals in times of conflict and despair. Let us pray...



"Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to "read" Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message."

(Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae #14, H.H. John Paul II)

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

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NORTHERN AREA: Anita Lee

Email: anita.lee@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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Christine Zakaria christine@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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in Public Schools**