

# CATECHIST NEWSLETTER



**Grace at Christmas Dinner**

*Don't forget to say grace before your Christmas dinner.  
Here's one from Archbishop Anthony you might use:*

Christmas Lord, after this difficult year we thank you for the doctors, nurses and officials, teachers, priests, and loved ones, who have worked so hard to keep us safe.

Above all, we thank you, our God, for bringing us through this together - to gather around this table and celebrate your birth and our salvation.

We continue to pray for all those affected by COVID and lockdowns.

Lord, you were born amidst poverty and stress, and your family had to flee as refugees.

You know what we experience and come close when we are anxious.

Keep our family safe in 2022 and bring this pandemic to an end.

Bless those gathered here and all those we love. Bless our food, gifts and company.

Help us, like the shepherds and wise men, to see what really matters and to respond with faith and love. Make of our home and hearts a crib for Baby Jesus. Amen.

**\*\*Prayer as seen in The Catholic Weekly**

**Share Christmas Joy**

#ShareChristmasJoy - Advent and Christmas digital booklet to view and other family-fun activities to do

<https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/share-christmas-joy>

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director	2
Coordinator Reminders	3-4
2022 Training Dates	5-7
Christmas Message	8
Facebook	9
Holsworthy Catechists	10
Evangelisation Series	11
Contact Us	12

**The CCD Office will  
close on  
Wednesday  
22 December 2021  
and will re-open on  
Wednesday  
6 January 2022.**



Supporting  
Parish Catechists



CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SYDNEY

# From the Director

## Return of SRE 2022

SRE classes are expected to commence in Term 1 by Week 4 (end of February).

Public schools currently require all adults accessing school sites to be vaccinated. Catechists who are unable to return can help in other ways. CCD will advise Clergy and Catechist Coordinators of any updates and supply a 2022 Return to SRE Guide.

## Catechist recruitment

Recruitment is vital – even if you have your classes covered, I recommend finding helpers to be a helpful presence and to enjoy a tea or coffee afterwards. Again, our Clergy have been asked to show parishioners Catechist recruitment videos before or after Masses – please encourage them to do so (see video links on page 4).

## Bipartisan support for Special Religious Education



Our Premier, Education Minister, Opposition Leader and Shadow Education Minister have conveyed their thanks to you during the online 2021 Celebration of SRE. Summaries of their transcripts are attached to this newsletter.

## Postponed 2021 Archdiocesan Catechist Mass

The 2021 Annual Mass that was scheduled for Sunday 30 January 2022, has been postponed to Sunday 3 April 2022.

## Thanking Clergy and Catechist Coordinators

CovidSafe plans have required significant extra work in parishes by clergy, parish staff and our volunteer Catechist Coordinators – thank you all for your care.

On behalf of your CCD team and also my own family who with all the other Catholic families make up ‘the other half’ of our parish families in public schools, thank you for your faithful commitment this year, as we ‘countdown’ with child-like delight to the birthday of Jesus.

**Doug Mawhinney**

**Director - CCD Sydney**

# Catechist Coordinator Reminders

## COLAL BOOK ORDER FOR 2022



For all book orders and merchandise queries contact:

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

Phone: Priscilla on 9307 8340

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

[www.mustardseed.org.au](http://www.mustardseed.org.au)



## Catechist Sunday 2022

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney will be celebrating Catechist Sunday on **6 February 2022**. Alternatively, some parishes may choose another Sunday that may suit the parish and catechists.

Coordinators will receive certificates for 5, 10, and 15 years of service. Please look out for these, and have your Parish Priest sign certificates before presentation on Catechist Sunday. This pack will also include training certificates for catechists who have completed all 5 units of a particular level during the past few months of 2021, which we recommend be presented at Parish Masses.

## 2021 Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass - POSTPONED

The 2021 Annual Mass that was postponed to Sunday 30 January 2022, has been rescheduled to **Sunday 3 April 2022**. Awardees will be notified of details closer to the time.

## Save the date for the 2022 Coordinator Meetings

### Central Area

Monday 24 January - Holy Innocents' Parish Hall, Corner Queens Rd & Cheltenham Rd, Croydon Park

### Southern Area

**\*\*\*Note: revised date:** Thursday 27 January - Miranda CCD Office  
or

Wednesday 2 February - St Thomas More Parish Hall, Brighton

### Eastern & Northern Areas

Monday 31 January - Polding Centre

### Western Area

Friday 4 February - All Saints Parish (Loreto Place)  
48 George Street, Liverpool

# Catechist Coordinator Reminders

## Catechist Recruitment

The following Catechist recruitment ad has been recommended to Parish Priests for inclusion in parish bulletins. This advertisement may (a) help to meet local needs and (b) to recommend a regular weekly spot, where this is not already the practice, given recruitment is vital:

### *Become a Catechist or Helper in 2022*

*Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022.*

*Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools.*

*Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>*

*"Being a catechist is the most spiritually fulfilling thing I've done"- Rose.*

*Contact Fr (INSERT NAME) as Parish Priest or Catechist Coordinator (INSERT NAME/CONTACT DETAILS)*



### CCD Youtube Recruitment Video Links:

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

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

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

## 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>

# Catechist Training

## SRE TRAINING

### LEVEL ONE - SRE INDUCTION

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

1.2 - Using the Authorised Curriculum

1.3 - Classroom Management

1.4 - Classroom Management - Insights & Upskilling

1.5 - Classroom Skills and Resources

**Bossley Park:** Mary Immaculate, 110 Mimosa Rd, Bossley Park

**Brighton:** St Thomas More, Parish Hall, 298 Bay St, Brighton

**City:** Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

**Croydon:** Holy Innocents, Cnr Cheltenham & Queen Streets, Croydon

**Five Dock:** All Hallows, 2 Halley Street, Five Dock

**Liverpool:** All Saints Parish, 48 George St, Liverpool

**Miranda:** CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda

**Revesby:** St Luke the Evangelist, 1 Beaconsfield St, Revesby

**Ryde:** St Charles Borromeo, 582 Victoria Rd, Ryde



# Catechist Training

## SRE TRAINING - TERM ONE, 2022

Catechists that completed child protection in 2018 - 2019 are now due for refresher training. Our Archdiocese requires safeguarding refresher training every 3 years.

### SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING DATES:

Tuesday 15 February	9.45am - 11.00am	WEBINAR via Zoom
Wednesday 16 March	10.30am - 12 noon	Miranda
Friday 25 March	9.45am - 11.15am	WEBINAR via Zoom
Wednesday 27 April	9.45am - 11.15am	WEBINAR via Zoom

### LEVEL ONE - 1.1

Monday 24 January	9.45am - 2.15pm	Revesby
Wednesday 9 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Brighton
Thursday 10 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Miranda
Friday 11 February	9.45am - 1.15pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
Saturday 12 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Croydon
Monday 14 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Ryde
Monday 21 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Liverpool
Monday 21 February	<b>6.30pm - 9.30pm</b>	Bossley Park
Monday 7 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	City - Polding Centre
Friday 11 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Five Dock

### LEVEL ONE - 1.2

Monday 31 January	9.45am - 2.15pm	Revesby
Wednesday 16 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Brighton
Thursday 17 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Miranda
Friday 18 February	9.45am - 1.15pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
Saturday 19 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Croydon
Monday 21 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Ryde
Monday 28 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Liverpool
Monday 28 February	<b>6.30pm - 9.30pm</b>	Bossley Park
Monday 14 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	City - Polding Centre
Friday 18 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Five Dock

# Catechist Training

## SRE TRAINING - TERM ONE, 2022

### LEVEL ONE - 1.3

Monday 7 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Revesby
Thursday 24 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Miranda
Friday 25 February	9.45am - 1.15pm	WEBINAR via Zoom
Saturday 26 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Croydon
Monday 28 February	9.45am - 2.15pm	Ryde
Wednesday 2 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Brighton
Monday 7 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Liverpool
Monday 7 March	<b>6.30pm - 9.30pm</b>	Bossley Park
Monday 21 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	City - Polding Centre
Friday 25 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Five Dock

### LEVEL ONE - 1.4

Thursday 17 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Miranda
Wednesday 30 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Brighton

### LEVEL ONE - 1.5

Thursday 24 March	9.45am - 2.15pm	Miranda
Wednesday 6 April	9.45am - 2.15pm	Brighton



# Christmas Message

## To CCD's Front Liners,

Thank you for your perseverance and commitment to the mission. Despite the challenges we have all faced this year, God has been faithful to us. We have survived 2021 knowing that we have conquered our fears and we have tried our very best. Let us celebrate!

To those that will no longer be able to join us in 2022, thank you. You will be missed!

To the rest of us, let us continue to trust in God and fulfil our mission. 2022 is a brand new year to serve God and families in the Public Schools, with more passion and joy. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families. In Christ,

**Vincent Haber**

As catechists, you work tirelessly without seeking reward. May God's blessings be with you and your families this Christmas and in 2022. May you hear the angels singing, and may you experience the music of Heaven. Sing from your hearts, "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!" Imagine if the Christmas season would stay all year, and the love people show at this time would never disappear.

Joyfully serving the King,

**Josie D'acciaro**

It has been difficult year for many. Thank you for all the support you have given us this year. Our society is awaiting Christmas and hoping for a better 2022.

Among the many symbols that help us understand Christmas, light is of particular spiritual significance. As we prepare to celebrate the Saviour's birth let us keep our Christian traditions to the fore. Let the lights of our streets and candles of our churches remind us that God is with us, born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary.

May the light of Jesus shine within us and illumine the lives of those around us. May we experience the goodness of God's grace reborn in every kind word and every helping hand, not just today, but every day. May the light, the hope, the joy of Christmas remain with us always.

**Denise Humphreys**

**"Light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it."**

**–John 1:5**

Darkness will not overcome light. Yet, in the darkness of the past few years, there's a need for the healing and nurture of our hearts. St Catherine of Siena says that Jesus is the Divine Madman – infatuated, intoxicated, insane with love for us. May we live each day in this truth; that Jesus is crazy in love with us! This Christmas, may our hearts be a soft bed for Jesus to come, rest and heal.

Wishing you and your families every blessing over this Christmas season and I look forward to continuing our journey together, serving the Lord Jesus Christ, in 2022.

**Teresa Culjak**

## Dear Catechists of Hope,

'O come, O come, Emmanuel ....' Christmas marks the arrival of the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (St John 1:14).

Jesus' name in Hebrew means "God Saves" expresses both His identity and his mission. God enters into our existence as a baby - a most humble gesture of love, innocence and humility.

Fix your gaze on the Infant Jesus, His Mother and St Joseph deep in prayer, reflection and perfect submission and holiness to the Eternal Word, and surrender everything.

A blessed Birth of the Saviour to all catechists and their families.

**Robert Milan**

Many thanks to all of the catechists from the Central and Northern areas for your hard work and dedication throughout 2021. May you and your families receive many blessings this coming Christmas season.

We look forward to working with you again in 2022.

**Anita Lee and Suzanne Miceli**

"A good teacher is like a candle, it consumes itself to light the way for others." Thank you to all the catechists for being a 'candle and lighting the way'. Whether the year is difficult or not, your commitment and love is constant, a reflection of God's love and faithfulness to us... What a blessing!

Merry Christmas to you all! May the Holy Family bless you and bring you an abundance of joy, peace and hope!

**Christine Zakaria**





# As seen on Facebook & Instagram

 **CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools**  
December 12 at 8:41 PM · 🌐

Gaudate Sunday. Third Sunday of Lent.

Please join us in prayer as we light the third candle this Advent.

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?  
Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is:  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Let us rejoice and be glad for the Lord is near.

Let us pray for joy, in our hearts, our families and in the world. ❤️ 🙏

[#gaudatesunday](#) [#thirdsundayofadvent](#) [#Advent](#)  
[#lightacandle4christmas](#)



 **CCD Sydney - Catholic Scripture in Public Schools**  
December 11 at 7:21 AM · 🌐

Nativity sets are staple Christmas decorations for most Catholic families. ❤️ And we love them.

But they are more than just Christmas decorations. 😊

They are a reminder of the long journey that Joseph and Mary took and the challenges they faced. But despite that, they persevered and trusted. 🙏

Most importantly, it's a reminder of the awaited birth of our Saviour. ⭐

May your Nativity be a true witness to you and your family of the love of God. ❤️

Let's keep on preparing and remind one another the true reason for this season. 🙏

Have a good weekend. 🙌

Share a pic of your Nativity sets here. 😊

[#advent](#) [#Christmas](#) [#Nativity](#) [#nativityset](#) [#holysfamily](#) [#Mary](#) [#Joseph](#)  
[#jesus](#) [#godslove](#)

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

# Farewell to Holsworthy Catechists

This dynamic duo from St Christopher's, Holsworthy, have almost 50 years of catechist service between them.

Maureen, like any good catechist, encouraged Lila to become a catechist for a Kindergarten class, with eight children that didn't have a Scripture teacher.

Lila took up the role and soon realised that the eight children had become 28, and the numbers kept growing and growing... thank you Jesus for courage!

Maureen and Lila have decided this will be their final year teaching Catholic SRE. Thank you both, for your beautiful witness of love, generosity and joy.

***'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'***  
***Numbers 6:24-26***



Photos supplied by Teresa Culjak:  
Lisa Fraser (left) & Maureen Howe (right)

# Evangelisation Series

Online Renewal Series 2021-2022

## RECLAIMING EVANGELISATION

*How Jesus' Great Commission Will Renew Our Parishes*

*Why Make Disciples?  
What Scripture tells  
us about calling and  
forming disciples*

*Live online with*

**Dr Mary Healy**

*Saturday 12 February*

*10 - 11:30am*



Registration and information  
[gomakedisciples.org.au](http://gomakedisciples.org.au)

### **Reclaiming Evangelisation Series Continues with Dr Mary Healy Live Online, Saturday 12 February 2022, 10 – 11:30 AM**

You are invited to attend Dr Mary Healy's live online address to the faithful of Sydney on the topic 'Why Make Disciples? What Scripture tells us about calling and forming disciples.'  
Dr Mary Healy is a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as an accomplished author and international speaker.

Places limited.

Registrations essential via [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au) .

Enquiries [parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org)

# 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

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Verna Wing Wed/Thur/Fri

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

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