

Catechist Newsletter



Supporting
Parish Catechists

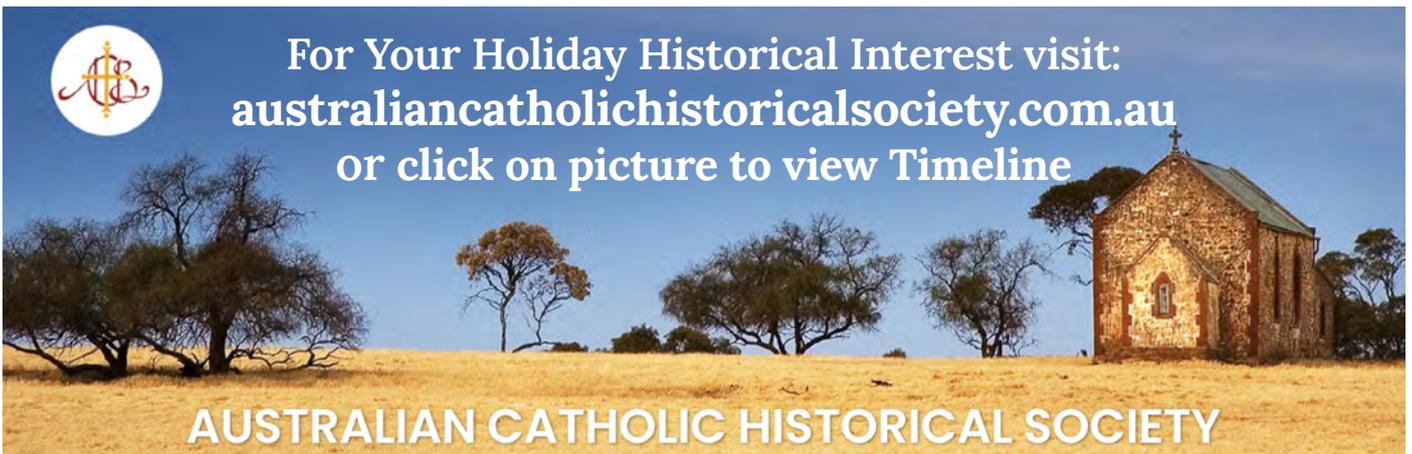


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For Your Holiday Historical Interest visit:
australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au
or click on picture to view Timeline



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.

Psalm 96:11

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

From the team at CCD

Message from the Director

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of your CCD team, thank you for all your volunteer service this year. Coordinators, please convey our thanks and Christmas blessings to your Catechists and Helpers.

Thank you for your efforts that resulted in 270 SRE Catechists being recruited and trained in 2022.

It has been a “reconnecting and rebuilding” year with many schools experiencing teacher shortages and SRE volunteers covering multiple classes. If needs be, especially to avoid burnout, talk with your CCD Faith Education Officer who can suggest ways that may help lighten SRE class loads until more volunteers are recruited.

I wish to let you and your Catechist team know of the following “Catechist Sunday” reminder and “SRE Welcome Letter” information that your priest will also receive in the Archdiocese’s next Clergy newsletter just prior to Christmas:

Catechist Sunday – 5 February 2023

Catechist Sunday is a main recruitment time. Most Parishes celebrate it on the first weekend of February. This enables new recruits to be

trained in time for the early/mid Term 1 start of public school Special Religious Education (SRE) classes.

Catechist Sunday liturgy and recruitment recommendations will be provided to you mid-January, as arranged with your SRE Catechist Coordinator, along with:

- Certificates to present for 5, 10 and 15 Years of Service (require priest’s signature prior to presenting)
- For 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 55 Year Service Awards conferred in the Cathedral this year, you may wish to re-present these also to recognise SRE Catechists in your local community.

Catechist Sunday fits well with the Pope’s Word of God Sunday pastoral initiative, which may be celebrated on the same weekend.

May this provide another opportunity to thank all those who help make Jesus known and loved – children’s liturgy, youth group, sacramental, public school catechists and teachers – to practically support parents who are now called “first catechists” in the new Directory for Catechesis approved by Pope Francis.

SRE Welcome Letter

As many parishes do, we recommend Parish Priests write a Term 1 Welcome Letter to parents who have chosen Catholic SRE for their children enrolled in your local public schools. The 'blue & white' – "SRE Info for Parents" brochure can be enclosed (available from CCD). The Welcome Letter can also include Sacramental Preparation dates or a website link to view these dates once scheduled.

Public schools may also agree to issue Sacramental Preparation invitations/reminders during the year via their school e-news apps if linked to the NSW SRE Procedures.

Examples of SRE Welcome Letters and "SRE-linked" Sacramental Prep information are attached separately.

What does the Holy Spirit do for you?

Bishop Brian Mascord of Wollongong, who is our SRE Bishop for NSW, recently shared an answer that he received from a Confirmation candidate when he asked during his homily, "What does the Holy Spirit do for you?" A child stood up and answered: "The Holy Spirit helps me to be an up-stander not a bystander". What a good reply! Thanks be to God for good catechesis.

We are thankful for the support of Bishop Danny Meagher who also has a heart for Catechists having spent many years teaching in SRE classrooms too. Archbishop Anthony has appointed Bishop Danny as our Episcopal Vicar for Education in Sydney and he has the Australia-wide role of looking out for Catholic families not in Catholic schools. Bishop Danny will be at our start-of-year gathering on 27th January (see page 5). I give thanks for our parish clergy for their support of you all, some of whom feature with some of you in the following 'highlights' photo pages.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas having helped so many children to look forward to celebrating Jesus' birthday well.

Doug Mawhinney
CCD Director



Catechist Coordinator Reminders

Invitation: Friday 27th January Combined Coordinators & Catechists Gathering

This Gathering with Bishop Danny and Anne-Marie Irwin (SALT) is designed to nourish and uplift as we start a new year. We look forward to welcoming those who may be able to gather in Lidcombe Parish Hall. Please see page 5 for more information.

Parish-to-School “SRE Authorisation Letter”

Two things – prior to listing Catechists/Helpers for your priest to sign and sending to your school/s:

1. Please check you are using the latest template that is available here: ccd.sydneycatholic.org/catechist-resources/parish-resources/
2. Then, once signed by your Priest, please give a copy of your Parish-to-School SRE Authorisation Letter to your CCD FEO.

Catechist Census

Your FEOs will be in contact with you before Term 1 SRE starts to support you in your coordinating role, including following up about your parish-to-school SRE Authorisation Letter to update the “Catechist Census” (we need data about who in your parish is currently active).

Ongoing Recruitment

Your CCD FEO can provide advice about your parish running a recruitment campaign. The following link contains a ‘recruitment ideas booklet’ to view and other resources, e.g. a recruitment brochure to download and add in your parish details: ccd.sydneycatholic.org/catechist-resources/parish-resources/

2023 Training Courses

Register for Level 1 Basic training courses on the [CCD Website Homepage](#). Coordinators are still able to contact their CCD Faith Education Officers to talk about tailored training times to suit your parish/neighbouring parishes.

Book orders

Student Activity Book orders received as at 7 December 2022 have been dispatched. The Bookshop is closed 22 December 2022 – 9 January 2023 after which time orders will recommence being dispatched.

NAPLAN is moving to 15–27 March

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 undertake each year. This may impact SRE classes, contact your school SRE Coordinator for further information.

Guest Speaker



Anne-Marie Irwin, PhD

Anne-Marie is an educator based in Sydney, Australia. She has taught in Catholic and independent schools for over 35 years. Anne-Marie is a religious education consultant. She is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney and founder of the SALT Approach.

The SALT (Scripture and Liturgy Teaching) is an approach to teaching religious education in Catholic Primary Schools built on the work of Maria Montessori and Sophia Cavalletti.



Coordinators & Catechists Gathering 2023

Date: Friday 27 January 2023
Time: 9:45am – 2:00pm
Location: St. Joachim's Parish Hall
2 Mills St, Lidcombe NSW

Schedule:

- 9.45am: Coordinators meeting
- 10.30am: Morning tea*
- 11.00am: Bishop's welcoming and blessing
- 11.15am: Workshop with Anne-Marie
- 12.00pm: Lunch*
- 12.30pm: Director's message
- 12.45pm: Workshop with Anne-Marie
- 1.30pm: Q & A

*Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

**RSVP is essential
by Friday 20th January 2023**



Please scan the QR code above
to register your attendance

or [click here to register](#)

or visit: forms.office.com/r/Pn82DahWSD

For any enquiries please contact us:

Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Phone: (02) 9307 8330



Supporting
Parish Catechists



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
AND THE
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY INSTITUTE
PROUDLY PRESENTS



MADE FOR MORE

VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

with

CHRISTOPHER WEST

MUSIC
BY

MIKE MANGIONE

Made for More creatively weaves together dynamic presentations with live music, media and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. Join Christopher West and team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

2023
JANUARY

TICKETS: \$25 GENERAL
\$10 CONCESSION/ STUDENT
(FREE: CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER)

REGISTRATION:

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CDSBW

20
FRIDAY

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL
ST MARY'S ROAD, SYDNEY.

TIME: 5:00PM DOORS OPEN
5:30PM LIVE ENTERTAINMENT/ FOOD TRUCKS

7:00PM EVENT START | 9:30PM EVENT CLOSE

2023
JANUARY

TICKETS: \$25 GENERAL
\$10 CONCESSION/ STUDENT
(FREE: CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER)

REGISTRATION:

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CDSBW

21
SATURDAY

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH HALL
48 GEORGE STREET, LIVERPOOL.

TIME: 5:00PM DOORS OPEN
5:30PM LIVE ENTERTAINMENT/ FOOD TRUCKS

7:00PM EVENT START | 9:30PM EVENT CLOSE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/TOB
or email lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.



REGISTRATION:
TRYBOOKING LINK



2022 Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition

By Josie D'acchio

A highlight of this year was the return of the Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition for Year 5 and 6 Catholic students in public schools. A sincere thank you to all the Catechists who encouraged and assisted students in submitting artwork for the 2022 Christmas Art Exhibition and Competition. Fifteen schools responded to this invitation, and CCD received over 80 entries.

Congratulations to the ten successful students who had their artwork displayed in St Benedict Hall at the University of Notre Dame. The entries were judged on both artistic merit and the student's written reflection.

School Club Australia, an Australian-owned business, admires the dedication of catechists that give their time and talents to guide students in the faith. This year, the 'School Club Art and Craft Prize' was awarded to Olive Chan, Year 5, at Bald Face Public School, Blakehurst. The School Club Managing Director said, "The artwork is atmospheric with a flood of light shining on the shepherds, and the candle light leading our eyes to the stable."

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Catechists are encouraged to involve their students in the Archdiocesan Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition during Term 3, well away from the commercial hype of Christmas. To help facilitate the Christmas Story Art Exhibition and Competition in 2023, CCD staff are planning a one-day workshop for Year 5 and 6 Catechists for inspiration, and to help guide them through the Christmas Story Art process with their students. Further details to be provided in 2023.



The Herald of Majestic News by Olive Chan



The Amazing Star by Abigail Costa



Evelyn Renju, a Year 5 student and her family pictured with catechists from Carlingford Public School, Rosemary Elliott (right) and Michela Augimeri (left). (Photos used with parental permission)



End of Year Highlights





Contact us

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For all general enquiries, please contact the CCD office:

Phone: 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.

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For more information visit our website:
ccd.sydneycatholic.org

or follow us on social media:



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