

PROMOTING THE MISSION OF CATECHISTS

**RECRUITING CATECHISTS AND HELPERS
FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

JAN 2022



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY



Supporting
Parish Catechists
in Public Schools

A photograph of a person reading a Bible to a group of children in a church setting. The Bible is open to a page with a colorful illustration of three people. The word "CONTENT" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters with a blue shadow effect.

CONTENT

	Page Number
Ideas for Promoting the Mission of Catechists	3
Responsibility	3
Visual Appeal	3
Written Appeal	4
Verbal Appeal	5
Personal Approach	6
Appeal Suggestions for Recruitment Sunday	7
Parish Summary	8
CCD Support	9
Appeal	10
Sample - Parish Bulletin Notice	11
Curriculum Resources	12
Recommendations	13
To order SRE and Sacramental Books	14
To order other items from Mustard Seed	15

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING THE MISSION OF CATECHISTS

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for providing Special Religious Education (Catechism) classes in Public Schools sits with the whole Parish community, not just the Parish Priest. Those who are called to serve as a Catechist or Catechist Helper in Public Schools, on behalf of the Parish community, need to be upheld and sustained by the whole community.



VISUAL APPEAL



- Cardboard candle with each student's first name (not surname) – one for each student – to be hung / displayed in the foyer of the church.
 - Keep a Catechist poster on display in the church. Contact CCD for a copy of posters or down load the poster the [CCD Website](#).
 - A display of the Christ our Light and Life curriculum showing the step-by-step lessons may also invite interest.
 - Banner with handprints for each student and their first names.
 - Display students' work.
 - Place a position vacant advertisement indicating schools, days, classes and times in a prominent place in the church.
 - Arrange for Catechists to attend the Masses and actively recruit parishioners.
 - Contact parents to invite their public school students to assist at Mass (readings, procession of gifts, handing out notices).
 - Parish Catechists to wear a ribbon, badge and distinctive colour.
 - Play the Catechist recruitment video during an agreed time at Mass.
- Contact CCD for a copy of three Recruitment videos or get them [here](#).

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING THE MISSION OF CATECHISTS



WRITTEN APPEAL



- Place a recruitment notice in the parish bulletin indicating schools, days, classes and times. Include a contact person and telephone number.
- Place in the parish bulletin a short story or catechist reflection on the mission and its value or a reason to become a catechist.
- Advertise CCD Training Courses and In-Service Days in the Parish bulletin and / or the Parish notice-board and also invite parents via public school newsletters.
- Mention the number of Catechists you will need to recruit during this year and report on success / setbacks in subsequent bulletins to show how our parish children are being helped to know and love Jesus.
- Write to any likely candidates who have expressed interest during the year.

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING THE MISSION OF CATECHISTS



VERBAL APPEAL



- Speak with enthusiasm on the role of the Catechist as a missionary activity proclaiming the Good News. Reinforce information about schools, classes, days and times, as well as contact persons.
- Speak about specific practical support provided by prayer partners, community prayer and community discussion of Catechists' needs and wants for the sake of the children.
- Arrange for a contact person to be available after each Mass to discuss the work of the Catechists and the invaluable, practical training they receive to help faith grow in others.
- Announce the nearest Catechist training course and any orientation days provided by the CCD – mention the flexible approach we offer for training that may also benefit the faith of your own family.
- Invite the Faith Education Officer of your area or CCD Director to speak at your Parish.

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING THE MISSION OF CATECHISTS



PERSONAL APPROACH



- In partnership with the Parish Priest, personally approach parishioners to be part of the mission.
- Speak to Parish groups, e.g. Catholic Primary P&F Committees, playgroup parents, Sacramental Prep parents to discuss ways of providing support. They may be able to become Catechists and/or gather resources for use in the classroom, baby-sit or provide transport for Catechists who need help.



A photograph of four people (three women and one man) sitting on a dark wooden bench outdoors. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a brick building, a tree, and a playground area with colorful equipment.

APPEAL SUGGESTIONS FOR RECRUITMENT

Introduction:

Today we celebrate our Catechists. This is the Sunday we acknowledge over 1600 Catechists who generously give their time to share the hope and joy of Jesus to over 27,000 primary and high school students in the 320 public schools situated in our Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. We recognize their response to their baptismal call to evangelize, their generosity in volunteering, and their love for the children in a mission that is often unseen and unrecognized by many yet crucial and rewarding – as one Catechist has said, “Being a Catechist is one of the most spiritually fulfilling things I have ever done”. Do something of eternal significance – be a Catechist or helper! We invite you to join this rewarding mission – Catechists say that they truly receive so much more than they give.

IN MAKING AN APPEAL, YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE AS A CATECHIST IS INVALUABLE. HOWEVER, YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE SOME OF THESE IDEAS TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR OWN OR TO GIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.



CONTINUED...

PARISH SUMMARY

Be sure to include the following main points about the Parish in your appeal:

- the number of Primary Catechists needed;
- the number of Secondary Catechists needed;
- the number of children to be taught;
- the number of schools for which the Parish is responsible;
- our Catechists are among 1600 adult Catechists teaching and praying with over 27,000 children in the public schools in our Archdiocese and also 500 Student Catechists who simply need an adult catechist to go with them.
- as new recruits, they will be part an inspiring Catechist community
- they will be supported by the Parish Priest and the Parish Catechist Coordinator

CCD SYDNEY SUPPORT

LEARNING AND PRAYING WITH CHILDREN IS REWARDING - IT KEEPS YOU YOUNG! AND THEY ARE TRIED AND TESTED TECHNIQUES TO HELP YOU. FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AS CATECHISTS OR HELPERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CCD HAS A VARIETY OF SUPPORT TO HELP MAKE THIS MINISTRY MORE EFFECTIVE.

TRAINING COURSES:

Compulsory Training Courses on Safeguarding, Classroom Management and Using the Approved Curriculum are provided for Catechists. These are part of the Level 1 Training Course and must be completed before you start to teach. Level 2 and Level 3 training courses are also available.

RESOURCES:

There are a variety of resources available to Catechists from The Mustard Seed Bookshop. Your Faith Education Officer (FEO) will direct you to approved resources.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE:

Contact your FEOs who are available to come to your class and assist with any matters that you may be encountering and require help with.

RETREATS AND REFLECTION DAYS:

As part of the spiritual development of the Catechist, CCD provides opportunities for “time out” with God. Such retreat days aim to offer Catechists times to reflect and be especially present to God’s continual presence to us.

RECOGNITION:

There are certificates for training and for the years of service that the Catechists have given.

Those who have been a Catechist for five, ten or fifteen years are awarded certificates in Parish ceremonies.

-Others receive recognition at the Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Mass:

- Accreditation Awards and Commissioning following completion of training.
- **Apostolic Blessing** for twenty years,
- **Cardinal Freeman Medal** for twenty-five years,
- **Life Membership Plaque** for thirty years,
- **Cardinal Gilroy Award** for forty-years,
- **Saint John Paul II Award** for fifty years of service.



Supporting
**Parish Catechists
in Public Schools**

APPEAL

Our responsibility to proclaim the Good News can be exercised by being a prayer partner, by providing transport, baby-sitting, clerical assistance or by being a catechist or helper in the classroom. Perhaps some people here present may be interested in taking part in the mission to be a public school catechist or to help a catechist. If so, please contact your parish priest, parish catechist coordinator or the CCD Parish Catechist Support Office on 9307 8330.

New catechists are always needed to continue our parish outreach to support our families with children in public schools. Across the Archdiocese, parishes usually recruit up to 300 new Catechists to support those who retire from being a Catechist each year.

For those who choose to be a catechist, a training program is provided to understand what we teach and how to teach age-appropriately. This training will also help you to support your own children or grandchildren – to ‘build upon rock’ – to know and love God, help them make good choices, and benefit from the resilience and deep peace that God wants to give.

Why not just observe first with one of our experienced Catechists and see what it's like in the classroom?



ITS AN INVITATION



EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE PARISH BULLETIN NOTICES:

SAMPLE 1:

A message from our Year 2 Catholic children from our local Public School.

" Dear God, please send us a scripture teacher. We will work hard, pay attention and do really good drawings. We miss hearing stories about Jesus."

These lovely children have no Scripture teacher for Wednesdays 10:25am to 11:05am.

Will you answer their prayer?

Training and resources provided, contact [name and contact details] ...

SAMPLE 2:

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.

Talk with Fr (INSERT NAME) as Parish Priest or Catechist Coordinator (INSERT NAME/CONTACT DETAILS)



CURRICULUM RESOURCES

CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE CURRICULUM

The Student Activity Book contains:

- 32 sequenced lesson worksheets;
- 8 Extension Activities (Suggested Home Activities). These pages are perforated, enabling them to be taken home at the end of each lesson. These pages contain information for the parents as well as activities for the students to complete;
- Treasury of Prayers;
- Values for Australian Schools: "Our School Values".

The Teacher's Manual contains:

- Scope and Sequence document;
- Easy to follow 32 sequenced lesson plans;
- Lesson Activity Sheets;
- Student Activity Solutions;
- Glossary.

THE TEACHER'S MANUAL IS USED BY CATECHISTS IN THEIR PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF SRE LESSONS. IT CONTAINS THE APPROVED AGE APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM THAT IS TO BE USED WHEN TEACHING SRE 'SCRIPTURE' IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

RECOMMENDATIONS



VISIT THE CCD WEBSITE

The CCD website offers assistance to Catechists by way of supplementary curriculum resources, relevant web-site links and recruitment resources, see: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org>

LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NEWS AND UPDATES



@CCD SYDNEY



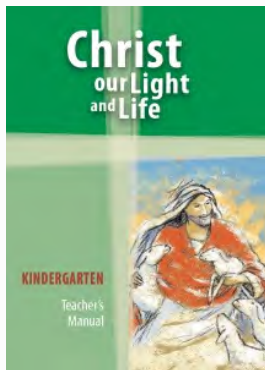
@CCD_SYDNEY



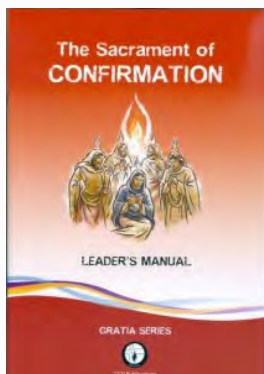
CCD SYDNEY

CLICK ON THE ICONS FOR A DIRECT LINK

SRE AND SACRAMENTAL BOOK ORDERS



Christ our Light and Life Teacher's Manual is available for Kindy to Year 12
Activity Books are available for Kindy to Year 6 only.



The Gratia Series is the Archdiocesan Sacramental Program with CovidSafe Online Resources for:

- Reconciliation
- Holy Communion
- Confirmation

Children's Activity Book online/at-home support PowerPoints are available to guide families.

[Click HERE.](#)

[DOWNLOAD YOUR ORDER FORM HERE](#)

OR CONTACT THE CCD PARISH CATECHIST SUPPORT CENTRE:
CCD SUPPORT STAFF: (02) 9307 8340
E: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



THE MUSTARD SEED BOOKSHOP

To order other religious items including approved resources as listed in the *Christ our Light and Life* SRE Teacher's Manuals for Catechists to use in public school Scripture classes and other religious items:

Please contact The Mustard Seed Bookshop

Mustard Seed website: www.mustardseed.org.au

Mustard Seed staff: (02) 9307 8350

**THE CCD PARISH CATECHIST SUPPORT AND
MUSTARD SEED BOOKSHOP TEAMS LOOK
FORWARD TO OFFERING YOU FRIENDLY ADVICE
AND SERVICE. GOD BLESS YOU.**
