Advent:
Come Lord Jesus

Catechist Newsletter
Term 4, 2003
ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

As I write this, my final Director’s message, I am preparing to return to Brisbane. The “for sale” sign stands mournfully in the front yard of our home announcing the changes that are about to happen. As I looked at it tonight, I thought about the significance of endings and beginnings in my life. To tell the truth, I’m not very good at endings. I well remember the dreadful feeling as I placed the padlock on our first home in Rockhampton some seven years ago. Perhaps the worst (or best) thing about endings is that we never know what the future holds. Neither Bernice nor I could have had any idea about the incredibly rich years that we have enjoyed in Sydney. The birth of our children (one of whom would certainly not have survived if we had stayed in Rockhampton) were key events that have marked these times. We have been lucky enough to experience God’s activity in very special ways during our time in Sydney.

Appreciating the significance of endings and beginnings is key to understanding the significance of Advent. Each year, Advent reminds us of the need to be “born anew” in the life of Christ (CCC #524). Every year presents as the “year of the Lord’s favour” if we are attentive to God’s presence in our lives. So, once again, we are called to come to a deeper appreciation of God’s grace active in our lives. For this reason, the liturgies of the Advent season provide an opportunity for Christians to re-read and re-live the great events of salvation history (CCC #1095). In doing so, we are reminded that these stories are not just about events that occurred long ago. Rather, these stories are reminders that our salvation is being accomplished and renewed each day of our lives. For this to occur, Christians must welcome Jesus into their lives and into their hearts. One way in which we do this is by coming to a greater appreciation of the ways God’s grace operates in our lives.

Advent, though, is not just about personal renewal. It is a reminder that the Church community is also being renewed and revitalized through God’s grace. In a special and symbolic way, the diocese of Parramatta will be able to reflect on God’s grace this Advent. The new St Patrick’s Cathedral will rise from the ashes of the old to usher in a new era for the people of western Sydney.

Sometimes in Term Four it is easy for catechists to want to move straight to the Christmas story with the students. I suggest, though, that the understanding of the Christmas story will be greatly enhanced if we take the time to explore the significance of the Advent season. The Joy for Living series presents numerous opportunities for doing this.

On behalf of the Confraternity, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the contribution you have made to the provision of SRE for Catholic students in government schools. For those who are retiring or moving on to other ventures, we wish you well for the future. For those continuing in 2004, the Confraternity looks forward to working with you in the New Year.

Have a happy and a holy Christmas.

Appreciation

It is always dangerous to “name names” in expressing appreciation to those with whom I have been fortunate to work. As a result, I would like to thank all the many people I have had the opportunity of working with during my time as Director.

Peter J Ivers
Director

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CONGRATULATIONS

By now, catechists will be aware that Pope John Paul has appointed two new auxiliary bishops to Sydney. Bishop Julian Porteous (left) and Bishop Anthony Fisher (right) were ordained on Wednesday 3 September in St Mary’s Cathedral. Before taking up his position as Rector at Good Shepherd Seminary, Bishop Porteous was Parish Priest at Dulwich Hill and is well-known to many catechists. Bishop Fisher is a Dominican who, while originally from Sydney, has been based in Melbourne in more recent times. I am sure that the catechists of the Archdiocese join with me in welcoming our new bishops. Please keep them in your prayers as they settle into their new duties.

We also congratulate our Archbishop, George Pell. Recently, Archbishop Pell was appointed to the Sacred College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II. As the Archbishop commented in a press release, “my appointment also recognises the contribution of the Catholic community to Australian life. I will continue working to maintain and deepen this tradition of service.” His Grace will travel to Rome for a special liturgy that will be held on 21 October. During this liturgy, he will be elevated to the College of Cardinals. Please keep him in your prayers.


Peter J Ivers
Director

ADVENT: A TIME FOR FAITH AND IMAGINATION

In the film, Hook, a character comments that Peter Pan has “forgotten how to fly.” A policeman sardonically replies that “this happens when you grow old.” We can sometimes “grow old” in our faith as Christians without realizing it. Yet, Advent is a time when we are encouraged to reinvigorate our faith and make it new again. In other words, we are called to rediscover what it really means to be children of God. To do this, we need both faith and imagination. Unfortunately, though, we live in a society that places a low priority on imagination. Perhaps this is why our news bulletins are dominated by so many stories of “gloom and doom.” In turn, these stories heighten our anxieties and fears. As Christians, though, Advent reminds us that we are to be filled with joys and hopes (GS #1). In doing so, we are confident that these will always overcome our fears and anxieties. In short, we are called to be real lights to the world who are able to both imagine a better world and take the steps necessary to bring it about.

Advent also reminds us of how incredible our faith really is. In fact, it is worth reflecting for a moment on the extraordinary nature of the Christian story. If we take our faith seriously, we believe that God, the life-giving force of the cosmos, actually became human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This is known as the mystery of the Incarnation. Catholics often speak of “mysteries.” By this term, they try to describe a reality that is totally unexpected and incalculable to human understanding. The Incarnation speaks of the love that God has for each of us (and the universe in which we live). I suggest that we need imagination if we are ever to come to a deeper understanding of this central mystery of Christian faith. Like Peter Pan, each of us needs to rediscover the ability to imagine. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to begin this task.

As we move through life, though, there is a tendency to find it increasingly difficult to appreciate the simplicity and beauty of the essential message of the Gospel. At its heart, the Gospel is “good news” that should inspire us. For this reason, Jesus comments more than once that the Kingdom of Heaven is entrusted to children (see, for example, Mt 11: 26 and Mt 19: 14). Children are able to imagine a better world and do not get bogged down in the details of how it might be achieved. Adults, too, are reminded that they must become childlike if they are to enter the Kingdom. To paraphrase the great theologian, Karl Rahner, there is nothing to suggest that an old, grumpy person is any closer to God than a young, happy one. Through imagination, therefore, we are called to rediscover ourselves as God’s children (whatever our age). We will need both faith and imagination if we are to rediscover and reclaim our spiritual childhood.

This Advent, therefore, try to imagine (and remember) the first moment that you realized that you really were a child of God. Then, hold on to that moment as you travel through the new “year of the Lord’s favour (Lk 4: 19). Happy New Year!

Peter J Ivers
Director
Reflection on Advent
An Awaiting People

Since the coming of Christ goes on forever –
It is always he who is to come in the world and in the church –
there is always an Advent going on. (Jean Danielou)

PRAYER SPACE: A white cloth, an Advent Wreath, and the Bible opened at James 5:7-8

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

ALL: Almighty God, we prepare for this Advent season as an Advent people – ready to do your will. Let your blessing come upon us as we light this wreath. May it turn our hearts to you in the days ahead. Grant us the peace and joy we long for, as we await the coming of your Son with patient hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SCRIPTURE  James 5:7-8
Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,
being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
You must also be patient. Strengthen your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

REFLECTION

Advent is a waiting time,
- we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus
- we await Christ’s second coming
- but God waits for us too.

God lives today, and so our first challenge is to bring Jesus to life in our own living, to become aware of the Spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us.

QUIET PRAYER

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: We await your coming and with joyful hearts we pray:
ALL: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader: You come to bring us hope and courage:
ALL: May we be people of hope and courage in our world today.

Reader: You come as a reflection of God’s love:
ALL: May our actions of justice and care reflect this same love.

Reader: You come to show us ways of compassion and mercy:
ALL: May we reach out to all people in our society with that same spirit of compassion and mercy.

Reader: We await your coming and with joyful hearts we pray:
ALL: Come, Lord Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER

ALL: O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word, who live with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

(Prayer for Parish Groups – Donal Harrington & Julie Kavanagh)

Therese Newell
Faith Education Officer
Concord Area
Advent is a period of four weeks when Christians prepare for the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. Advent is a time of anticipation and reflection, a time of preparation and promise.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept this popular tradition alive, and by the 1600s Catholics and Protestants used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting light.

SYMBOLS OF THE WREATH

- Traditionally the candles are purple because in ancient times purple dye was very expensive and it was the colour of royalty. We use purple for Advent because it is the season of the coming of the King.
- The third of the four candles is rose coloured – a sign of joy that Christmas is coming closer.
- The greenery suggests life, hope and growth.
- The circle reminds us of the continuity of life and that God’s love goes on forever.

FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

The Advent wreath can be used as part of your sacred space in the classroom during this period leading up to Christmas. Place four candles in some florist foam and decorate the base with greenery.  *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The first week</th>
<th>The Prophet’s candle</th>
<th>John the Baptist teaches; get ready Jesus is coming</th>
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<tr>
<td>A time of Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The second week</td>
<td>The Angels’ candle</td>
<td>The birth of Jesus is announced to Mary by the Angel Gabriel</td>
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<tr>
<td>A time of Anticipation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The third week</td>
<td>The Bethlehem candle</td>
<td>Jesus in born in a stable in Bethlehem</td>
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<tr>
<td>A time of Promise</td>
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<tr>
<td>The fourth week</td>
<td>The Shepherds’ candle</td>
<td>The shepherds receive the message from the angels that a saviour has been born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A time of Reflection</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the four weeks the students will have a sound understanding of the Advent / Christmas journey and will be prepared for the final celebration. According to local traditions, this may sometimes be presented as an ecumenical celebration.

Anita Sicari  
Faith Education Officer  
Bankstown Area

* For health and safety reasons, you should not light the candles.
ADVENT FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Throughout primary school, students prepared for Christmas during Advent with joyful hope. Each year the Joy for Living program develops the themes of preparation, waiting, hoping, joy, and peace. The Advent calendar, Advent wreath, and Advent candles are all used as ways of understanding these concepts. There is no denying the sense of anticipation that exists in waiting to remember the birth of Jesus. It is a very positive time of the year. In Australia, it is also associated with the end of the working and school year. We are preparing not only to commemorate the birth of Jesus, but also for the relaxation of the summer holidays that so many people have. The Australian climate plays an important part in our feeling of wellbeing at this time. It is easy to identify with the joyful anticipation of celebrating Christ’s birth. This is the reality for Australians. It is the atmosphere in which we are preparing for Christmas. This presents an opportune environment in which to consider the preparation for Christmas in a positive spirit for secondary students.

It is part of adolescent development to identify both a clearer image of their own uniqueness and ways of finding opportunities to live a Christian life of love for neighbour. The idealism of the teenage years provides opportunities to consider ways of seeing Christ in all people. In this way, we are able to highlight signs of hope in the world, our community, and in our own lives. An important implication of this is Christ’s continued presence to us now. The themes of Advent are examples of the unfolding of the mystery of Christ throughout the liturgical year. The positive anticipation of Christ’s presence is part of the development of that mystery.

How, then, can these themes be combined with an understanding of adolescent behaviour to highlight the Advent message with high school students? One way is to utilize the developing maturity of adolescents to continue to challenge students with the need to reach out to all people. They also need to be encouraged to reach inwards. In other words, they should be encouraged to reflect on their lives in peace. By doing so, the joyful hope of Christmas can be experienced in connection to others and thereby provide a sense of inner joy. We also need to consider how we can provide opportunities for students to reach outside their comfort zone and affirm the ideal view of the world that many adolescents have.

The Advent calendar, which has been introduced to students in the primary years, is no less valid at this time in students’ lives. By students naming their own suggestions for reaching out to the community as Christ did they are making this theme realistic. At the same time, though, it is also important to reach inside themselves to find signs of hope within themselves. Students may also identify groups in the school, parish, or local community where people experience disadvantage. By doing so, they are able to become Christ’s presence to these people. In some cases, this may mean organising visits to these groups and listening to their stories to understand their lives (keeping in mind legal requirements such as parental permission, insurance, etc). Such visits will undoubtedly result in the students discovering ways to realistically reach out to these groups. Another way of encouraging inner reflection is to encourage students to keep a journal. This is a good way of organising thoughts and feelings. The theme of “joyful hope in our own lives” is appropriate to encourage the development of this theme in students’ personal reflections, as the mystery of Christ unfolds, beginning with Christ’s birth. Students will identify examples of Christ’s presence in their own lives and continue to develop their own signs and sense of hope.

Isla Cameron
Faith Education Officer
City Area

JOY FOR LIVING
Bulk Order Mailout for 2004

The Bulk Order mailout will be distributed on Monday, 3 November 2003. If Parish Catechist Coordinators have not received their copy of the bulk order form by Wednesday, 12 November, please contact Mrs Eleanor Emmerson at Sydney Catholic Books & Resources (tel: 9390 5130).
Dr Charles Hill

_Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice_

On Friday, 19 September 2003, the Archbishop of Sydney Dr George Pell, conferred the Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Papal Cross) on Dr Charles Hill during a Mass held in the Chapel of Our Lady in the Polding Centre. This was in recognition of his service to CCD.

Dr Hill first worked as a motor missioner (catechist) in 1960. Since that time, he has had significant involvement with catechist education. He has also made an important contribution to the formation of catholic school teachers through his involvement at Australian Catholic University (St Mary’s Campus). Since 1993, Dr Hill has been involved in the presentation of the Catechist Ministry Certificate course to catechists in the Archdiocese who have previously completed studies leading to the award of the Catechist Accreditation Certificate.

As an author, Dr Hill has published extensively. His titles include: _Fundamental or Fanatical? Jesus and the Mystery of Christ_, _The Scriptures that Jesus Knew_, and _Making Sense of Faith_. Dr Hill has also been editor of _Word in Life_ (now known as the _Journal of Religious Education_). He has also had articles published in _Augustinianum_ and _Orientalia Christiana Periodica_. He also contributed to the _Emmaus_ document prepared by the National Catholic Education Commission (1992).

Pope John Paul II has deigned to recognise and bestow upon Charles Hill the award of a revered cross, established for those especially distinguished for outstanding work and dedication, and likewise grants him the right to wear this decoration.

From the Vatican, June 10, 2003
O VERVIEW
As Term Four arrives, another year begins to wind down. At the same, time, though, the term ahead is always busy with a variety of matters needing attention.

A key focus for the Term will be the Area masses. These will be held at various venues around the Archdiocese (see p. 9 for details). The Area masses have grown in popularity in recent years and provide an excellent opportunity for catechists to join with the priests of the area to celebrate our apostolic work. All catechists (past, present and possible recruits) are welcome to attend these masses.

I would like to bring two other matters to the attention of parish coordinators. First, bulk order forms for 2004 will be mailed out from Sydney Catholic Books and Resources on Monday 3 November. It would be appreciated if you could contact Mrs Eleanor Emmerson (tel.: (02) 9390 5130) if you do not receive your bulk order form by Wednesday 12 November. In this way, we will be able to ensure that you receive the form in time for the new school year. Second, if not already underway, I encourage coordinators (in consultation with their parish priest) to begin the recruitment process for 2004. Ideally, this should occur early in fourth term. The Parish Handbook 2003: Volume Three contains suggestions for conducting successful recruitment campaigns. Your Area Faith Education Officer can also be of assistance in planning these campaigns.

Finally, to mark the conclusion of the Year of the Rosary, the Confraternity is hosting a Catechist Gathering on the topic of Mary. This will be held on Monday 27 October at the Masonic Centre. Dr Sandra Carroll (Australian Catholic University) will again be the presenter. All catechists are welcome to attend this workshop.

Have a great term.
Peter J Ivers
Director

BANKSTOWN AREA
As the year quickly draws to an end I would like to congratulate all those who participated in the various levels of accreditation this year – the basic, intermediate and the advanced.

Before we know it Advent and Christmas will be upon us. At the moment the themes of Advent are very close to my heart. Advent, as we know is a time of waiting and reflection. It is the time that we eagerly await the coming of a special baby that will (or has) transformed our lives. My “advent” began in June this year when I discovered that I was expecting a child. The realisation of how a baby can literally transform (or change) your life gives me a deeper appreciation of the importance of Jesus in the Christmas story. Often in life we can put ourselves at the centre of everything, but through the miracle of a small baby that ALL changes. The Christmas story challenges us to keep Jesus at the centre of everything even if it means we will be required to change something in our lives to make that possible.

I wish you all the very best for the year ahead and will see you all soon. Have a happy and holy Christmas.
Anita Sicari
Faith Education Officer
Tel/Fax: 9554 5569
Email: anita@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Editor’s Note:
We wish Anita all the best for 2004 and look forward to her return in 2005.

CITY AREA
As spring comes to remind us of the freshness of life continually beginning, the fourth term brings the freshness of the approaching new liturgical year. Prior to that we will celebrate our Annual Area Mass. This year, it will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish on Friday 17 October. By now you will all have your invitations and I look forward to sharing this special occasion with you. The lunch we will share following Mass will be our annual social get together, taking the place of the
Christmas Party. The outlook of the church at Waterloo is a perfect place for our gathering. I am looking forward to catching up with lots of people there. The Catechist Gathering, being held on Monday 27 October, is sure to bring many City Area catechists to listen to Dr Sandy Carroll continue her reflections on Mary. Her reflections last year were well received last year by catechists. Something will be different this year for us though. Sr Gwen Norton, a loved catechist from Maroubra Bay will not be at these functions, since she died at the end of August. Her students, her friends at Maroubra Bay, her fellow Brigidine sisters, and all City Area catechists who knew her will miss her enthusiastic presence at functions. We give thanks for the time Sr Gwen was able to spend in this ministry.

Congratulations to all catechists who have completed accreditation courses this year. It is a fulfilling part of my role assisting in the preparation of catechists as they develop their skills and understanding as catechists. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of my colleagues at courses throughout the year. They have enjoyed working with City Area catechists as much as you appreciated the knowledge they brought to the courses.

I look forward to seeing as many people as possible during this term and continuing to hear about the good work that is happening in SRE classes.

Isla Cameron  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel/Fax: 9580 4263  
Email: isla@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CONCORD AREA
I hope that over the holidays you had time to ‘stop and rest awhile’ and are now ready for this last busy term of 2003. Before you know it, you will be teaching your last lesson for the year!

Our Area Mass this year will be held at Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde. I hope you have all received your invitations. As this is our Area Celebration for 2003 it will be wonderful to see many catechists, along with Parish Priests, Prayer Partners and family members, coming together to celebrate the Eucharist and afterwards enjoying a shared lunch. At this Mass we will pray for the repose of the soul of Sr Teresa Lake-Smith dc, the Coordinator from St Vincent’s Ashfield (venue for the 2002 Area Mass) who died on Wednesday 10 September.

The other important occasion this term for both primary and secondary catechists is the Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering. The topic will be Mary.

Workshops are just about completed for the year. Elsewhere you will see the dates and topics for the Friday evening workshops (3) at Meadowbank and a Saturday workshop: (Preparing for Advent and Christmas). This will be open to catechists from all Areas. (see page 12 for details.)

It is time to start planning for 2004. Please let me know of new catechists who may want to do the Basic Accreditation Workshops in Term 1 or if you would like to host any of the Accreditation programs – Basic, Intermediate or Advanced - the Reflection Day or the Concord Area Mass in 2004. I am here to assist you with workshops or input at Catechist’s Meetings, school visits, advice with lessons and class management, recruitment, parish-based sacramental programs and Liturgy of the Word with Children.

My thanks for your continued commitment and enthusiasm throughout this year. May Christmas be for all of you, a time of peace and joy. God’s Blessings.

Therese Newell  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel/Fax: 9579 5917  
Email: therese@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

SUTHERLAND/ST GEORGE AREA
Once again we are up to the last term in the year and it only seems such a short time ago the year started. This year there have been a number of catechists completing both the basic and the intermediate courses. I was pleased to see some of our area catechists attending courses in other areas. Next year I will run a number of courses at the CCD Centre at Miranda. Look for more details in the Term 1 newsletter.
This year parishes have managed to find catechists for an increasingly large number of high school classes. I am grateful to all the people who volunteer to do this work – but we always need more. Como – Oyster Bay parish has just held a small function to thank Sr Genevieve who is retiring after teaching SRE classes at Jannali High School for seventeen and a half years. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

I would encourage you to attend the Catechist Gathering on Monday 27 October and/or our Area Mass on Friday 31 October. Thank you again for all you do.

Denise Humphreys  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel/Fax: 9548 2639  
Email: denise@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

WESTERN AREA  
During Term Three several catechists have been busy completing accreditation courses. Well done! I encourage you all to keep a lookout for workshop dates for all levels of accreditation and Catechist Ministry Certificate next year as I am sure you would find the experience beneficial to yourself and your students.

Our Western Area Mass will be celebrated at the Good Shepherd Parish, Hoxton Park on Friday 7 November at midday. The priests of the area are invited to concelebrate with Fr Peter Fitzgerald, and every catechist is invited to come along to give thanks for the year and join in a shared lunch as our end of year festivity.

Several catechists who have completed their full accreditation have been enjoying the benefit of the Catechist Ministry Course which has been running during the last two terms. The topic ‘The Place of Sacred Scripture in the Roman Catholic Tradition’ will begin in Term Four at Liverpool Catholic Club.

On behalf of the Confraternity I would like to thank all the catechists of the area for your commitment to Special Religious Education during this year, 2003.

Judy Day  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel/Fax: 9816 2978  
Email: judy@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

| City Area         | Friday, 17 Oct | 12 noon | Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
|                  |                |         | 2 Kellick Street, Waterloo |
| Concord Area      | Friday, 24 Oct | 12 noon | Holy Spirit Church  
|                  |                |         | 191 Cox’s Road, North Ryde |
| Sutherland/St George | Friday, 31 Oct | 11.30am | Mater Dai Church  
|                  |                |         | 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst |
| Western Area      | Friday, 7 Nov  | 12 noon | Good Shepherd Church  
|                  |                |         | 21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park |
| Bankstown Area    | Friday, 14 Nov | 12 noon | Our Lady of Fatima Church  
|                  |                |         | 89 Shaw Street, Kingsgrove |

Please bring a plate for a shared lunch

Parish Catechist Coordinators are asked to bring their CCD Parish Candle to the Area Masses.
ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHIST GATHERING

Topic: Mary (Part II)
Presenter: Dr Sandra Carroll
Day/ Date: Monday, 27 October 2003
Time: 10am – 1pm
Venue: Masonic Centre (in the Ionic Room)
279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

PARISH CATECHIST COORDINATORS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT
MRS CARMEL DUFFY ON 9390 5122 BY THURSDAY,
23 OCTOBER 2003 WITH THE NUMBER OF CATECHISTS ATTENDING
FROM THEIR PARISHES.

*****************************************************************************

SYDNEY CATHOLIC BOOKS & RESOURCES
will be offering a 10% discount voucher to participants at the
Gathering. The discount voucher will be available on the day and
will be valid for 27 October only.
10% discount does not apply to already reduced stock, Joy for Living or Sacramental Programs.

LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Date/Date: Friday, 21 November 2003
Time: 12 noon
Venue: Lidcombe Catholic Workmen’s Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe
Guest Speaker: Dr Charles Hill
Cost: $30 per person

Should any catechists wish to attend
please contact Mrs Carmel Duffy 9390 5122.
Further details will be sent to
Parish Catechist Coordinators early Term 4.
CITY AREA
Contact: Isla Cameron – Tel: 9580 4263
BASIC ACCREDITATION WORKSHOPS
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<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Wed) 15/10</td>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>9.30am -12.30pm</td>
<td>Rose Bay Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Ian Street, Rose Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Thurs) 16/10</td>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>1.30pm - 4.30pm</td>
<td>Maroubra Parish Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>214 Maroubra Rd, Maroubra</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Wed) 22/10</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Enmore Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Wed) 5/11</td>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>256 Edgeware Rd, Enmore</td>
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<td>(Wed) 19/11</td>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>(In the Presbytery)</td>
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CONCORD AREA
Contact: Therese Newell – Tel: 9579 5917
BASIC ACCREDITATION WORKSHOPS
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<tr>
<td>(Fri) 17/10</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
<td>7.30pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Meadowbank Parish</td>
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<td>In private home</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Fri) 24/10</td>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>7.30pm - 9.30pm</td>
<td>Phone 9579 5917 for address</td>
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<td>(Fri) 31/10</td>
<td>Resources</td>
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Contact: Denise Humphreys – Tel 9548 2639
BASIC ACCREDITATION WORKSHOPS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Mon) 17/11</td>
<td>The New Testament</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>CCD Centre,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Mon) 24/11</td>
<td>The Old Testament</td>
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Preparing for Advent & Christmas
All catechists are invited to attend a workshop on Friday, 17 October

Time
10am -1pm

Venue
St Luke’s
Beaconsfield Street, Revesby

For further details contact:
Anita Sicari
Tel: 9554 5569
SATURDAY WORKSHOP
FOR CATECHISTS FROM ALL AREAS

This will be an informative, hands-on and fun workshop. You will go home with lessons and ideas to use in the classroom.

WHEN: SATURDAY, 1 NOVEMBER
WHERE: HOLY INNOCENTS PARISH HOUSE
CROYDON. (Within school grounds, entry from Cheltenham Rd)
TOPIC: PREPARING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
FACILITATORS: ISLA CAMERON & THERESE NEWELL
TIME: 10.00AM – 12.30PM
RSVP: Thursday, 30 October 2003
(Isla Cameron – Tel: 9580 4263 or Therese Newell Tel: 9579 5917)

Date Claimers - Term 1, 2004
Area Parish Coordinators Meetings 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Monday, 2 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Friday, 6 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Liverpool Catholic Club, Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Friday, 13 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland / St George</td>
<td>Monday, 16 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Friday, 20 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
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Orientation Meetings 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland / St George</td>
<td>Wednesday, 4 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>VENUE - TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Thursday, 5 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>Monday, 9 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Our Lady of Fatima, 825 Forest Rd, Peakhurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Meadowbank Parish Hall, 45 Maxim Street, West Ryde</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday, 13 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>St Ambrose Hall, Concord West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Wednesday, 11 Feb</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Liverpool Catholic Club, Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park</td>
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A Way to the Heart of Christmas
(Editor: Brian Linard)

This American offering certainly provides variety! It brings together the thoughts of writers as diverse as the evangelists, Pope John Paul II, John of the Cross and many others. According to the editor, an attempt has been made to provide readers with a glimpse of the “symphony” of praise that Christian writers over the centuries have given in their discussion of the mystery of the Incarnation. I found the book very useful. It is easy to read (and not meant to be read from cover to cover). It is particularly useful for anyone who might be looking for reflections for parish meetings over Christmas time.

Reviewer: Mr Peter Ivers
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

RRP $19.75

The Symbols and Traditions of Advent
(Timothy McCanna)

This simple book provides explanations of many of the symbols and traditions of Advent. It is a useful quick reference to questions that sometimes arise in the religion classroom. For example, McCanna explains the origins of the season of Advent, the O Antiphons, the liturgical readings, the Jesse tree, and the Christmas crib. It is a helpful supplement to the information provided in the Joy for Living Teachers’ Manuals.

Reviewer: Mr Peter Ivers
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

RRP $2.50

Daily Wisdom for the Workplace
(Pamela McQuade)

As the end of one year approaches, another lurks just beyond the horizon! This book provides a useful resource for those who are employed. It provides 365 meditations based on scriptural passages (which means that you get a break for February 29!). Issues dealt with include: time management, relationships, burnout, and career change. It encourages the reader to consider the giftedness that God has given each of us and whether we are using it to our full potential. The meditations invite the reader to reflect on their work and to consider its meaning within the overall context of their life. I found it an interesting read.

Reviewer: Mr Peter Ivers
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

RRP $9.95
Mass Then And Now
(Esther Gordon)

Esther Gordon, a member of the Grail community, provides an interesting account of her own liturgical experience from pre-Vatican II childhood through to life in the Grail today, as a means of reflecting on the meaning of the Eucharistic celebration. The book encourages the reader to reflect on the experience of integrating liturgy and life.

Reviewer: Mrs Judy Day
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

St Paul Sunday Missal 2004
(Edited by Michael Byrnes)

This paperback edition of the Sunday Missal covers the year beginning January 1, 2004, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, through to December 26, 2004, feast of the Holy Family. The four basic Eucharistic Prayers plus Eucharistic prayers for Masses of Reconciliation and Masses With Children are included. All the Scripture readings and prayers for each Sunday of 2004 are presented in chronological order, plus the complete Easter liturgies. Lightweight and easy to carry it is a handy and simple edition to follow.

Reviewer: Mrs Judy Day
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

Life’s Little Books
(Produced by Christian Art Gifts).

A wonderful collection of miniature books with various titles such as Jesus, God’s Love, Friendship, Courage, Gratitude and several others. Each book contains a collection of verses from scripture and other significant writers.

From Life’s Little Book of Friendship: ‘Never hesitate to hold out your hand; never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.’ Pope John XXIII

Reviewer: Mrs Judy Day
(Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources)

Sydney Catholic Books & Resources

Shop Hours:
10am – 3pm
Monday – Friday
Tel: (02) 9390 5130  Fax: (02) 9283 5146
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
### Congratulations to our Life Members 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bankstown</th>
<th>Sefton</th>
<th>Margaret Sacqualini</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sutherland/St George</td>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>Betty Sullivan</td>
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<td>Sutherland/St George</td>
<td>Como-Oyster Bay</td>
<td>Pamela Andreallo</td>
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<td>Western</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>Gloria Nelson</td>
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<td>Western</td>
<td>Smithfield</td>
<td>Mary Dicconson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Smithfield</td>
<td>Jane Mackenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Smithfield</td>
<td>Connie Ruggier</td>
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