To a catechist, the promotional campaign for 2004 states what is both obvious and self-evident. The "Important? Sure Is!" poster (which hopefully adorns the entrance of your Church) highlights the role that catechists play in the life of the parish. The statistics speak for themselves. Across the Archdiocese, 1700 catechists teach 26000 students on a weekly basis. These catechists proclaim one message, the message of the gospel as understood in the Roman Catholic tradition. Without their efforts, 26000 young persons may not hear this message. This represents more than 45 per cent of all young Catholics in the Archdiocese.

Yet, for other parishioners, I suspect that the significance of the apostolic work of catechists is neither obvious nor self-evident. In reality, our apostolic work needs to continually justify its reason for existence. In economic terms, funding is shrinking and demand on the pastoral work of the Church is increasing. This means that we can never assume that our work is either obvious or self-evident to others. This is not to deny the importance of other forms of apostolic work. Clearly, these are also important. If others in the Catholic community, though, do not have a perception of the worth of our work, questions will be asked about its existence in the future. In other words, there will be pressure to divert catechist money elsewhere.

In some ways, it is easy to understand the confusion of other parishioners about the work of catechists. To these people, our work seems to be a wasted, misguided effort. If, the argument goes, parents want a Catholic education for their children, then they should choose the local Catholic school. In reality, though, it is a case of "not enough room at the inn." In rough terms, there would be a need for another thirty-two schools (each with 800 students!) if every student currently involved in Catholic SRE presented for enrolment at the local Catholic school. In fact, competition for places in the local Catholic school can sometimes create an unfortunate "us" and "them" situation. Views such as those described above, while unfortunate and misinformed, undoubtedly exist within the Catholic community.

Another problem that adds to the perceptions of the wider parish community is that catechists are invisible, silent witnesses who go about their work with a minimum of fuss. Apart from Catechist Sunday, there are few opportunities throughout the year to celebrate their work (at least at the parish level). This is unfortunate because catechists represent one of the largest volunteer workforces in the country.

Catechist Sunday, therefore, is a wonderful opportunity to gently remind the Catholic community of the contribution that we make in the name of the Church. In doing so, we should not be defensive about our work. We should use the day to do two things. First of all, we should use it to build bridges with the state schools in which we work (maybe even invite members of the state school community and SRE teachers from other Christian denominations with whom we teach to join in our celebration). Secondly, we must stress the partnership that exists with the local Catholic school (where one exists). Our work complements that of the teachers who work there. In most parishes, this is best demonstrated when students from both systems come together in parish-based sacramental programs. The vision that the Confraternity is seeking to build during 2004 with regard to a new religion curriculum for state schools is testament to our commitment to work in partnership with the local Catholic school. When completed, this curriculum will allow for real collaborative possibilities between the two systems at the parish level.

We will have made a good start to 2004 if parishioners can look at the poster as they leave Mass on Catechist Sunday and nod their heads in agreement (or, better still, volunteer their services!)

Peter J Ivers
FOLLOW ME

Over the years, Lent has meant many things to people. For some people (and, perhaps historically), it has been associated with a time of going without something. In more recent times, the emphasis changed to doing something that a person may not otherwise do. The problem with both of these positions lies in the motivation for doing what we do. Put bluntly, why give something up? Why take on something extra? The answer to these questions encourages us to look at our motivation for doing what we do. At the heart of our Lenten practice (whatever it may be) is the call to live as a disciple within the community of the Church. Discipleship motivates us to lead the Christian life in a particular kind of way. Discipleship calls us to both give up and take up. We are to give up that which damages our relationship with Christ and, equally, we are to take up that which moves us closer to our God.

Blessed Mother Teresa once commented that she never worried much about the big picture. Instead, she preferred to concentrate on the person before her. In this way, a big picture slowly but surely emerged for her. We can learn from her example. As we begin Lent, therefore, it is useful for us to reflect on just one thing that damages our relationship with Christ and try to give it up. Equally, if we can concentrate on taking up just one thing we have a much better chance of sticking with it than if we try to take on too much.

Finally, Jesus’ call to discipleship reminds us that our faith is relational. In other words, we are called to follow another (Jesus Christ). In doing so, we are brought into a special relationship with Christ that then provides a reason for all we do in life. Hopefully, then, Lent is a significant opportunity to reflect on how we follow Jesus and live as a disciple in our everyday lives and how this call is lived out within the Catholic Christian community.

If we use the time of Lent wisely, we will be much better prepared for the celebration of Easter which follows.

Farewell, Peter Ivers

On Thursday 6 November 2003, His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell hosted a dinner at St Mary’s Cathedral to thank Peter for this service as Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine - Sydney for the past 7 years.

Peter and his family returned to their home town of Brisbane where Peter has been appointed to a similar position in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Many of you may not be aware that Peter Ivers was the first lay Director to be appointed to the Confraternity. As a result of his previous extensive teaching experience in Queensland, Peter brought a wealth of educational and procedural concepts to the organisation which is reflected in the quality of the current curriculum material available. He was also responsible for the introduction of essential new technological changes. The Confraternity is well placed to meet the challenges of the future due to Peter’s stewardship.

Due to Peter’s earlier efforts the JFL revision is now well and truly underway. The Kindergarten series is almost complete and will be available for trialing by early next year. The JFL revision is a mammoth task. Peter expressed his disappointment at being unable to oversee or assist with its eventual completion.

The Confraternity would like to thank Peter for his leadership and personal dedication to the Catechists of the Archdiocese.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Peter and his family best wishes for the future.

Eddie Kropkowski
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF SRE TEACHERS

Here we are at the beginning of the 2004 school year. Classes start soon and everything is organised. With fingers crossed and a little help from prayer, the parish will get through this year with all SRE teachers in tact. Even though there are enough teachers now, prior experience has taught that this may change at any time. People can be left feeling stressed – taking extra classes again, feeling guilty because it is such important work that they shouldn't be feeling drained by this – somehow it should be a positive experience. After all, the topic is “God” and nothing is more important than that!!! If this story is familiar, then this article is for you.

Last year thirty former catechists from the Sydney diocese took part in an in-depth study with the CCD to help understand why SRE teachers may stop teaching, and to help us understand how we may assist teachers to stay. The study showed that for some people the reality of taking a class of children each week was very different from what they had imagined. Managing a class, using a curriculum or working in the CCD system is different from their expectations and so they decide to find a different way of reaching out to others. For others, the needs of their own family take priority. The opportunity to take scripture is put to the back for a while, to return at another time.

What did the study tell us about how to retain the many teachers who do stay to take on the challenges of managing a class? For people involved in the study, “recognition” and “support” were two areas that were important to them. The catechists were not looking for a superficial pat on the back or big accolades, but acknowledgement by significant people of their role. Luckily, the solution is not a difficult one because the groundwork is already in place. Catechist groups, coordinators and parish priests already provide lots of support for each other. Coordinators and priests have busy roles but are very aware of how hard catechists work to provide lessons each week. Catechists are very good to each other and many friendships are formed out of the common love of their work.

What else can be done to provide support and recognition? Everyone has a part to play in supporting each other in the parish group. Which of the following suggestions are already in place in your parish? Is there anything else you can do to support and acknowledge SRE in your parish?

Catechists:
- Say hello to each other before and after class – call each other by name.
- Share your own thoughts and feelings about your class with other SRE teachers.
- Listen to others talk about the successes and difficulties in their class.
- Offer assistance to the coordinator. Find out about their role.

Coordinator:
- Have a meeting each term when the maximum people can be present.
- Allow time during the meeting for people to tell stories about their successes and difficulties.
- Celebrate successes. Look for solutions to difficulties. Call your FEO for assistance.
- Arrange a meeting with the parish priest to inform him how things are going.
- Delegate aspects of the role to others where possible.

Parish Priest:
- Know the catechists and ask them how they are going.
- Listen to catechists’ stories.
- Offer to provide resources.
- Attend the catechists’ meeting each term.
- Meet each term with the catechist coordinator.

CCD:
- FEO’s keep in contact with parish groups.
- Provide on going support and training for catechists in parishes and schools.
- Provide training for coordinators in leadership.
- Celebrate successes with parishes.
- Provide quality resources for use by parishes.

Isla Cameron
Faith Education Officer
City Area
PRACTICAL IDEAS TO BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome to another school year! The following are just a few hints to help you to get started. Remember your friendly Faith Education Officer is just a phone call away!

New Catechists:
- Plan your lessons early and if possible “talk through” the first few lessons with a more experienced catechist e.g. a catechist friend or coordinator.
- Prior to commencing check with your catechist coordinator the day and time of the lesson. Ask him/her any questions you might have.
- After each lesson take the time to reflect how you went. If possible discuss the lesson with someone else. The Basic Accreditation Workshops are ideal for this type of reflection and discussion.
- Come along to a Survival Skills Workshop. The dates for these are advertised in this newsletter.

All Catechists:
- Be extra early for the first several lessons (in case there are changes of rooms) and continue to arrive early enough to get yourself organised in the classroom.
- Take time to plan your lessons. A well-planned lesson usually means fewer discipline problems. Use other resources other than your voice.
- Set two or three class rules at the first lesson and establish class routines in the first few weeks. Be consistent with rules and routines.
- Get to know the names of the children as soon as possible. Use nametags.
- Want a candle? Why not buy battery ones? These cost $2 for two at Reject Shops.
- If you have a prayer partner inform him or her about your class and ask for prayers for a good start to 2004.

Coordinators:
- Check if the catechists who retired last year have returned their green card. Remember if there is a new parish priest, all catechists must receive a new green card signed by him.
- Contact the school/s when school commences to enquire when SRE will begin. Enquire if the SRE coordinator at the school has changed.
- Contact new catechists prior to their first lesson and offer any assistance they may need. Contact them again after their first lesson to hear how they went. Encourage them to attend a Survival Skills workshop. Organise with your FEO to present a Survival Skills workshop in your parish.
- Contact all catechists to welcome them to another year and to ensure that they know when SRE commences at their school. Encourage them to attend an Orientation Meeting.
- Organise a Catechist Meeting early in the term. At this meeting allow time for catechists to talk about how they are going in class, set dates for other meetings (one a term) and encourage them to attend the appropriate workshops and Reflection Day.
- Come along to the Coordinators Meeting for your Area. If you are unable to come ask someone to represent you.

Therese Newell
Faith Education Officer
Concord Area

NEW COORDINATORS MEETING

Day / Date: Tuesday, 23 March 2004
Time: 10am - 1pm
Venue: Polding Centre, Level 6
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

All new coordinators are asked to contact Carmel Duffy
Tel: 9390 5122 by Friday 19 March to advise of their attendance.

Lunch will be provided.
2004 ICCOREIS CONFERENCE
Classroom Management Workshop

Want to learn some simple, effective skills to help with discipline in your classroom this year? Bill Rogers will be the presenter for this one-day workshop. He is an Australian education consultant specialising in classroom discipline and management. His work is well known and respected both here in Australia and overseas. A teacher by profession, he has taught both primary and secondary students and now lectures on discipline and classroom management at Colleges of Education and Universities, conducts seminars for teachers and parent groups and is the author of many journal articles and contributions to magazines (in Australia and the U.K.) and has published a number of books. He has also produced a series of videos Managing Behaviour that deals with skills one can learn to enhance a discipline style based on respect and dignity. Catechists who have completed the Intermediate Accreditation Course would be familiar with the one of the videos; positive correction, as it is used in the Managing the Classroom workshop.

Prior to teaching, Bill was a parish minister for seven years in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne; a role including chaplaincy in hospitals and schools. His academic qualifications include a Diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Bachelor in Theology; Diploma of Education; Bachelor of Education; Master of Education and a Doctorate of Philosophy.

This one-day Conference is opened to SRE teachers from all over New South Wales and numbers will be limited to about 700 participants. The application forms will be available at the Coordinators Meetings and it is suggested that if you wish to attend that you return the enrolment form promptly. As there is a cost ($35) parishes may decide to fund one catechist on the proviso that he/she reports back to the catechist group.

More information will be given at the Orientation and Coordinators Meetings or you can contact your Faith Education Officer.

Therese Newell  
Faith Education Officer  
Concord Area
Reflection
Important? Sure Is!

You will need:
- cloth, candle and Bible for the sacred space
- cards with the name of a parish catechist on each card
- reflective music

Arrange name cards around the sacred space and invite catechists to take their own card.

Leader’s Prayer: We come together today, to reflect on what is important in our ministry: Catechists, Students, and the Message


Deep in Christ I pray you know the power he can give!
May your hidden self grow strong and may you live
Strong in faith and built on love until you know
How high and long, how wide and deep the fullness of God!

May the God of Jesus Christ, the Father we serve
Fill your mind that you may see, deep in your heart
What hope His call now holds for you: His promise true:
To fill your heart with power to live the fullness of God!

Know the way you learnt from Christ: to live life anew!
Let your heart be drawn to Him; let Christ renew
The hope in you to grow into Goodness and Truth!
And living so you’ll come to know the fullness of God  

Frank Andersen

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-8

The Lord said to me, “I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.”  I answered, “Sovereign Lord, I don’t know how to speak; I am too young.”  But the Lord said to me, “Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say.  Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you to protect you.  I, the Lord, have spoken!”

Quiet Reflection: (Play some quiet music as each catechist replaces his/her name card around the sacred space and reflects upon the following thoughts)
- Lord God, you knew me, even before my parents were aware of my existence
- ‘I have called you by your name, you are mine.’ Psalm 27
- The Spirit of God sustains me in His love

Allow time for spontaneous prayer after some reflection

Leader: Let us pray

All: Loving God, be with us as we reflect on the importance of our catechist ministry.  Be with us as we prepare to pass on faithfully the message of the Gospel.  Sustain us with the strength of your Spirit.  Enlighten our minds with wisdom and love.  Open the minds and hearts of the students so that they may hear and heed your Word.  We ask this in Jesus’ name.  Amen

Judy Day
Faith Education Officer
Western Area
ORIENTATION MEETINGS 2004

Who are Orientation Meetings for?

YOU

If you are new, understand the CCD network you have joined

If you are experienced, re-energise, catch up with friends

EVERYONE

find out what is happening this year

Look for the Orientation Meetings in your area.
(See Page 13)

ARE YOU A NEW CATECHIST?

Do you want to know everything about being a catechist NOW!!

Are there new catechists in your parish?

A Survival Skills Workshop will help with:

• Discipline
• Knowing what to teach
• Understanding the school
• Managing a class.

Speak with your Parish Catechist Coordinator about inviting your Faith Education Officer to help you survive the first weeks

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<th>Denise Humphreys</th>
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Life Members

"Today is an occasion both of sorrow and of joy. Sorrow, because Peter is not with us, having returned to Brisbane with his family. Peter spent seven years with us, seven years of plenty for the Sydney CCD and he spent that time encouraging and developing the catechists, as a good leader should. He left a high state of morale among catechists at his departure, having definitely made a difference. We thank him, and wish him well in Brisbane.

But today is also an occasion of joy, because we are celebrating admission to life-membership of the CCD by seven ladies who have spent thirty years "shining on the world like bright stars, offering it the word of life," as Paul says in his letter to the Philippians. Philippi, named after the father of Alexander the Great, was also famous as the site of the battle where Antony defeated Brutus and Cassius, the assassins of Julius Caesar, in 31 BC. Paul had visited the Christian community there, and while in prison wrote back to them a letter of joy; Paul was often in prison, and used the time well. Joy was not the note sounded in all his letters: "You foolish Galatians," he says to that community who had needlessly taken on Jewish obligations. But to the Philippians he begins his letter, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." They had responded so well to the Christian message he had preached, and had passed it on to others, that he can only..."
be joyful in thinking of them as we are joyful today in congratulating Margaret, Betty, Pamela, Gloria, Mary, Jane and Connie. They have spent thirty years and more “shining on the world like bright stars, offering it the word of life.” What a wonderful vocation!

Paul thought of the stars of heaven in speaking of the Philippians evangelising their fellow citizens. And yet he could only look up into the sky and see the bright stars, unaided by telescopes that we can use. We know there are hundreds of millions of stars in our galaxy alone, and there are millions of other galaxies further out beyond. Not only that, but astronomers tell us that what we see is only 10% or even 1% of what is out there: the rest of the universe is dark matter, not visible to us. And that’s like the world around us: many people are only dark matter, not bright stars shining on the world. What about you? Are you a bright star shining on the world, offering it the word of life? Or are you only dark matter? These seven catechists as bright stars have spent thirty years bringing the word of life to the children, as all catechists do. And so we congratulate them.

But there’s a way to go yet. Paul asks the Philippians, “Make my joy complete. This is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more.” So while congratulating these catechists today, we make that our prayer for them, too.”

**Dr Charles Hill**

Friday 21 November 2003
Lidcombe Catholic Workmen’s Club
Greetings, and a warm welcome to this very special ministry in 2004. Recently I heard someone say, catechists are like bright stars shining in the sky for all eternity because they bring the Word of Life to others. This ministry exists because there is a need out there among the younger generation of Catholics to know about Jesus and his teachings. So, is this ministry important? It sure is!

This year begins with an Orientation Meeting on the 9 February at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Peakhurst at 10am. This will be a great opportunity for catechists to meet the new Faith Education Officer for the Bankstown Area, and possibly meet the new director. It is also an important opportunity to find out what is install for this year!

Attention needs to be drawn to a few issues as we begin this year:

- The number of catechists has dropped significantly during the past year in the Bankstown area. Unfortunately, numbers recruited were not enough to replace those that have stepped down. Therefore, coordinated recruitment campaigns need to be undertaken in every parish in the Bankstown area this year. Please seek the advice and assistance of the replacement Faith Education Officer and refer to the Recruitment package for ideas.
- The second issue follows on from the first. New catechists must engage in the basic training. The accreditation courses are a source of ongoing support for catechists. Therefore, those who have completed the basic training should also seek to go further and complete the Intermediate and Advanced training.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your kind thoughts and warm wishes. It won’t be long now! I hope you all have a fantastic year and I’ll see you soon.

Anita Sicari
Catechist Newsletter, Term One 2004

CITY AREA

Hello everyone and welcome to 2004. As always welcome back to those who are returning to the ministry of Special Religious Education this year, and welcome to those who are taking on this ministry for the first time. I hope the year is full of rewards for you, for your students and the parishes you represent. The theme for Catechist Sunday this year “Important? Sure is!” will also be a recurring theme in the way I highlight the work of catechists this year. The work of SRE is important for the students we teach, for without hearing about God their choices in responding to life situations are more limited. SRE helps students understand about peaceful, loving ways in reflection of Jesus’ way. Our work is important to parents who rely on their children hearing this important message to support their family wishes. SRE is also important for the whole church, the people of God, to enable God’s story to be told to the next generation. This keeps the Catholic Christian story alive in our minds and hearts.

Throughout the year I hope to be able to reassure you continually of the importance of this precious ministry. I expect to advocate for the work of SRE to people in parishes and schools and to promote the significance of this work as important. By the end of the year more and more people will be able to say of SRE “Important? Sure is!”.

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

CONCORD AREA

Welcome to the 2004 school year! Are you all rested and refreshed, ready to be like prophets taking the Good News to Catholic students in state schools?

Do you realise that as a catechist you belong to the largest ministry within the Australian Church? Do you know that over half (55%) of all catholic students attend state schools? Therefore our CCD theme for 2004; Important? Sure is! is most apt. What a challenge but also a privilege to assist the students in our care to know that they are forever in the presence of God.

Elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 13) there are the dates and venues for the Concord Area Catechist Coordinators Meeting, the Orientation Meetings (to meet and/or hear about the new CCD Director and other relevant information), the Survival Skills Workshop (especially for beginning catechists) and the Concord Area Reflection Day. As you will see there is something for everyone! I can also come to you, offering practical assistance at schools, attending catechist meetings, presenting workshops and advice with lessons, discipline and recruitment, and supporting parish-based initiatives such as parents evenings, Liturgy of the Word with Children and Sacramental Programs.

I look forward to supporting you all in this most important ministry this year.

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

SUTHERLAND/ST GEORGE AREA

Welcome to all catechists who are taking classes in 2004, especially those of you who are taking high school classes for the first time. I hope to meet many of you during this year at our area Orientation Day, Reflection Day, Area Mass, Annual Mass and Accreditation Workshops. All of these activities are advertised in the catechist newsletter – the newsletter comes out at the beginning of each term. The times and places for basic accreditation workshops are listed on page 12 in this newsletter. Please remember you can come to any of these workshops at any of the venues however you need to complete the eight to attain basic accreditation.

In Term 2 there will be an Intermediate Accreditation Course on Mondays at Miranda and in Term 3 an Advanced Accreditation Course at Penshurst also on Mondays. More details will be available later. Please ring if you need help and I will get back to you. The number below is a phone/ fax/ answering machine.

Denise Humphreys
Faith Education Officer
Tel / Fax 9548 2639
Email: denise@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
As I write this article I am having trouble realising that we are entering the fifth year of the third millennium, and also of my time as Faith Education Officer of the Western Area of the CCD. During this time I have been heartened and encouraged by the wonderfully dedicated and committed people with whom I have met and worked. The quiet ministers in our Church who consistently take the message of the Gospel to our children in the state schools. ‘Important? Sure is!’ the focus of the CCD poster this year, draws attention to this apostolate and encourages people to give it some thought.

Life is full of changes and our area has a few to acknowledge as we begin a new year. I want to welcome those priests who are new to the area in the last few months: Father Jason Camilleri, Administrator of Fairfield; Father Robert Fuller, Parish Priest of Liverpool, and Fr Albert OSPPE Parish Priest of Smithfield. Personally I want to thank those Parish Priests who have moved on to other parishes or apostolates, Father Bernard McGrath, Father Joseph Than, Father Phil Linder and Fr Michael De Stoop. Each of these priests was immensely supportive of both the catechists and CCD and must be assured of our prayers.

Last but not least, welcome everybody to the new school year, and I hope to see many faces at the various workshops and functions CCD is providing for you during the year.

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

WESTERN AREA

As I write this article I am having trouble realising that we are entering the fifth year of the third millennium, and also of my time as Faith Education Officer of the Western Area of the CCD. During this time I have been heartened and encouraged by the wonderfully dedicated and committed people with whom I have met and worked. The quiet ministers in our Church who consistently take the message of the Gospel to our children in the state schools. ’Important? Sure is!’ the focus of the CCD poster this year, draws attention to this apostolate and encourages people to give it some thought.

BEGINNING DATES FOR BASIC ACCREDITATION WILL BE ARRANGED AT TERM ONE ORIENTATION MEETINGS

DATES FOR WORKSHOPS CAN BE ORGANISED WITH INDIVIDUAL PARISHES UPON REQUEST

BASIC ACCREDITATION WORKSHOPS

Concord Area - Contact: Therese Newell Tel: 9579 5917
Venue: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 191 Cox's Road, North Ryde
Day/Dates: (Wednesdays) March 3, 17, 31, April 7, 28 May 12, 26, June 9
Time: 11am - 2pm (Please bring lunch and Teacher’s Manual)

Sutherland/St George Area - Contact: Denise Humphreys Tel: 9548 2639
Venue: CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda
Day/Dates: (Mondays) February 9, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5
Time: 10am - 1pm

Western Area - Contact: Judy Day Tel: 9816 2978
Venue: CCD Office, Good Shepherd Parish, 21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park
Day/Dates: (Wednesdays) February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7
Time: 10am - 1pm

Bankstown / City Areas

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR AREA FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER. DATES FOR BASIC ACCREDITATION WILL BE ARRANGED AT TERM ONE ORIENTATION MEETINGS

DATES FOR WORKSHOPS CAN BE ORGANISED WITH INDIVIDUAL PARISHES UPON REQUEST

CONCORD AREA

SURVIVAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Day / Date: Monday, 16 February 2004
Time: 10am - 1pm
Venue: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 191 Cox’s Road, North Ryde

All new catechists invited to attend this workshop.

Contact: Therese Newell Tel: 9579 5917
### PARISH CATECHIST COORDINATOR MEETINGS

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<tr>
<td><strong>Bankstown Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 2/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 6/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Liverpool Catholic Club, Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park</td>
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<td><strong>City Area</strong></td>
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<td>10am - 1pm</td>
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<td><strong>Sutherland/St George Area</strong></td>
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<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
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<td><strong>Concord Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 20/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
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### ORIENTATION MEETINGS

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<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sutherland/St George Area</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 4/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>St Thomas More, 298 Bay Street, Brighton-le-Sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Area</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 5/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 6/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Catholic Education Office, 33 Banks Ave, Daceyville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bankstown Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 9/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Our Lady of Fatima, 825 Forest Road, Peakhurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concord Area</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 10/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>St Michael’s Parish Hall, 45 Maxim St, West Ryde (Meadowbank Parish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 13/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>St Ambrose’s School Hall, Stuart St, Concord West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 14/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Holy Innocents Parish House, 36 Cheltenham Rd, Croydon Catechists from all Areas Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Area</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 11/2/04</td>
<td>10am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Liverpool Catholic Club, Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REFLECTION DAYS - THEME: IMPORTANT? SURE IS!

**Please bring a plate to share.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bankstown Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 5/3/04</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
<td>St John of God Parish Hall, 2 Alice Street, Auburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12/3/04</td>
<td>10am -2pm</td>
<td>“Loreto Place”, All Saints Parish, 48 George Street, Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concord Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 19/3/04</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
<td>Marist Centre, 1 Mary Street, Hunters Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sutherland/St George Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 26/3/04</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of Fatima Parish Centre, Port Hacking Rd, Caringbah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 2/4/04</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
<td>Chevalier Resource Centre, 1 Roma Avenue, Kensington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Revised and expanded by Bruce Prewer, *Australian Psalms* is an Australian devotional classic. With a distinctly Australian flavour this book is ideal for private reflection, meditation and prayer, and also for group devotions and public worship; a great gift to give friends and visitors from overseas. Eleven new psalms have been added to this edition. **RRP $13.95**  
Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources

*Australian Meditations: Devotional Thoughts for Women* and *Australian Meditations: More Devotional Thoughts for Women*: Written by Grace Simpson in a simple lively style, these books are a collection of fresh, direct, devotional thoughts for Australians, particularly women. Everyday and personal experiences help present the message of God’s love for us. A message from the Bible and a reference to a longer passage complete each meditation.  
**RRP $9.95 each**  
Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources

*Ways of Belonging* written by Naomi Turner is a unique book about how Catholics of all ages view their world. This book offers a rare insight into what it means to be a Catholic. It reveals the different emphases and concerns that people of different ages bring to religion and most of all, it reinforces the uniqueness of each person’s life story.  
**RRP $27.45**  
Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources

*Life in the Fish Bowl: Building Up Church Workers*: Author Tom Rogers draws from his personal pastoral experience to provide inspirational messages that address topics such as Self-Esteem, Time Management, Spiritual Growth and Prayer. Each of these readings helps professional church workers deal with the special issues they face daily, and provide encouragement to remain positive in their ministry.  
**RRP $30.75 Special Price $22.95**  
Available from Sydney Catholic Books & Resources
### Date Claimers for 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Fri 28/5</td>
<td>Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Sun 6/6</td>
<td>Annual Catechist Mass – St Mary’s Cathedral - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Mon 19/7</td>
<td>Bankstown Area Coordinators Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 23/7</td>
<td>Concord Area Coordinators Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon 26/7</td>
<td>City Area Coordinators Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 30/7</td>
<td>Sutherland/St George Area Coordinators Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Mon 2/8</td>
<td>Western Area Coordinators Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Mon 18/10</td>
<td>Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 22/10</td>
<td>Sutherland Area Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 29/10</td>
<td>City Area Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Fri 5/11</td>
<td>Western Area Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 12/11</td>
<td>Bankstown Area Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 19/11</td>
<td>Concord Area Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 26/11</td>
<td>Life Members Luncheon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SYDNEY CATHOLIC BOOKS & RESOURCES

Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
PO Box A286, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235  
www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au  
Email: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au  
Tel: (02) 9390 5130  Fax: (02) 9283 5146  
Opening Hours 10:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday

- Resources for Primary Schools
- Resources for Secondary Schools
- Resources for your Parish
- Scripture
- Spirituality
- Liturgy
- Gifts for Baptism, Communion, Confirmation
- And much more!!!
May 2003
Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering
“Let the Children Come to Me”
Presenter: Mr Peter Ivers

April 2003
Move to New Location
Polding Centre, Lvl 6,
133 Liverpool St, Sydney

May 2003
Secondary Workshop
Presenter: Mr John Finneran

June 2003
St Mary’s Cathedral
Annual Catechist Mass

September 2003
Dr Charles Hill
Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

October 2003
Concord Area Mass

October 2003
Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering
Mary Part II
Presenter: Dr Sandra Carroll

November 2003
Life Members Luncheon
Lidcombe Catholic Workmen’s Club