Duc in Altum
Put out into the deep
...become a catechist and share our faith...

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who loves us.
We believe in one Redeemer, Jesus Christ, only Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who died and rose from the dead to save us.
We believe in the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, where we are led in service and worship by the Pope and Bishops.
We believe that Jesus, Our Lord, calls us to repent and believe; that is, to choose faith not doubt, love not hate, good not evil, and eternal life in heaven not hell.
This is our faith. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

Catechist Newsletter, Term One 2005
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back for the start of the new school year, hoping that you have been refreshed and reenergised by the school holidays. In welcoming everyone back for the start of 2005 I pray that we may be united as a community of living faith: a community that reflects and espouses Gospel values; a community that is proud of, and preserves its heritage and traditions; a community that seeks renewal to meet the challenges of contemporary Australian society.

The beginning of this new year provides us with an opportunity for reflection, for remembering our traditions and achievements, and at the same time, for lifting our sights and moving onto the next stage of our journey with prophecy and vision. We must always “read the signs of the times, look beyond present boundaries and realities, challenge existing mindsets and explore new ways of thinking and learning about Catholic leadership” (Duignan & d’Arbon, 1998, p.108). We are each charged with the responsibility of Catholic leadership and we must strive to ensure that our work is animated by the values of faith, service, courage, justice, love, reconciliation and hope. For this to become a reality all facets of our work must be “centered on Jesus Christ and all relationships viewed through the lens of his gospel” (Trafford, 1993, p.37).

It was with great joy that we were able to celebrate the Life Members Mass and Luncheon last November. This occasion was a fitting tribute to the men and women who have helped steer and sustain the course of CCD during the last five decades, men and women who have cherished and espoused gospel values. Throughout the last thirty years, these new Life Members have delivered a holistic and integrated education, one underpinned by Kingdom values, and they have come to the realisation that they “must teach as Jesus taught—with the proper blending of love, mercy, compassion, understanding, self-awareness, discipline and flexibility” (Huber, 2003, p.48).

The Life Members Mass and Luncheon, which celebrated our pilgrimage as a Catholic community, served to remind us that we must always see our work and our lives in the perspective of that of the Pilgrim Church. Although we live in exciting but yet challenging times, still in the early years of the Third Millennium, we must always remember that we are a part of a universal mission and a living tradition that is 2,000 years old. Our work as catechists, as evangelisers must be always be seen in light of a beautiful reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’ Matthew 28: 16-20.
Catechist Newsletter, Term One 2005

The first disciples never made it to the Great South Land we call Australia, and in fact their understanding of Christ’s command to ‘make disciples of all nations’ would never have envisaged such a distant missionary work. Notwithstanding this over the centuries the Catholic Church has brought the Good News of Jesus Christ to Australian society. The task of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to Catholic children in government schools is the noble and primary responsibility of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. This mission of evangelisation is especially significant and “all the more pertinent in a contemporary Australian society where the Catholic message is seen by many as irrelevant” (West, 1994, p.16). Over the centuries the Church has developed as generations of the faithful have strived to live the Gospel in the context of their own particular historical, social and cultural realities. The circumstances of our contemporary society pose a unique challenge to our mission and as educational leaders we must acknowledge the inter-relationship between faith and culture so that our organisation can bear authentic witness to the gospels, and can maximise the effectiveness of our evangelisation. Our greatest task is to evangelise and “relocate our religious explanations in a culture which is no longer confessionally Christian, or even religious, but rather secular and diverse” (Coulson, 1981, p.39).

Our contemporary society is one in which we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We have more degrees, but less common sense. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We have higher incomes, but lower morals. We drink too much, but laugh too little and smoke too much but pray too little. We have cleaned the air, but polluted the soul. “We have added years to life, but not life to years.” We owe it to the young children we teach to employ the benefit of our experience and our collective wisdom in developing a vision for their adult lives in Australian society. Our role as educators is to inspire these students to make that future by firing their imaginations, and by teaching them how to contribute to the creation of a more just, equitable, tolerant, compassionate and spiritual society. Critical to this is the fostering of values, for “values are central to one’s own life and to every life, and they define the quality of that life by marking its breadth and depth” (Duminuco, 1999, p.149). We want the contribution of our students to their nation and their world to be a force for good and for the building up of the Kingdom based upon gospel values.

As we begin this New Year we do so mindful of our recruitment motto Duc in Altum. In his Apostolic letter Novo Millennio Inuente Pope John Paul II comments “Duc in Altum! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence” (John Paul II, 1999, par 1). I do look forward to the future with confidence and I feel privileged to work with all of you in the coming years. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members of staff Mr Robert Milan (FE0: Concord) and Miss Sonia Baldwin (FE0: City) and I know that they will receive the enthusiastic support of catechists, coordinators, Parish Priests and the staff of the CCD.

At this time of new beginnings I would like to formally announce that the Archdiocesan Catechist Council has been restructured and the following members have been appointed for the period January 1 2005 to December 31 2006. May this Council work with your support and with God’s blessing.

Ex Officio

Director: Mr Anthony Cleary
Director’s Assistant: Mrs Carmel Duffy
Business Manager: Mr Eddie Kropkowski
CAEC: Fr John Flader
Catechumenate Coordinator: Ms Joanna Zwaans
CCER Team leader: Ms Nevine Piperides
Catholic Communications: Ms Marita Franklin
Sydney Uni Catholic Chaplaincy: Mr Stephen Lawrence

Representative: 2 year period only.

Priest’s representative: Fr Colin Mason
Parent Representative: Mrs Marie Cassaniti
Faith Education Officer: Mrs Denise Humphreys
Miss Lydia Siutz

One catechist from each of the five areas of the Archdiocese:

Bankstown: Mr John Briggs (Beverly Hills)
City: Mrs Kaaren O’Sullivan (Watson’s Bay)
Concord: Mr Michael Paxton (North Sydney)
Sutherland/St George: Mrs Bernadette Steele (Menai)
Western: Mrs Maureen Wright (Lurnea)

Co-opted

Mr Robert Haddad

Anthony Cleary
Director
City Area

Warm greetings to all for this wonderful new year! Let me introduce myself as your new Faith Education Officer. I'm very excited to be starting this role and hope that this year will be filled with great enthusiasm and joy as we continue God's work in the education of our young. I've been involved with various forms of Church ministry for many years, especially with youth, and it is the one thing that I love to do. I'm so happy that in this role I can devote more time to giving of myself to help the mission of the Church spread in Sydney. I'm keen to jump right in to things and would love to get to know you all as soon as I can so as to help you in whatever ways you may need.

Already I have many hopes and aspirations this year for the city area as we build upon the foundations laid by our present catechists and those who have gone before us. I especially hope that we are able to increase the number of catechists in the area as there are many children who are still not hearing the message of Christ's love that we have to give. With your help we can continue to grow and uplift the Church in the area of catechesis. I want to be able to reach the greatest number of children we can and for this, we need to help each other.

"Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by the love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world" (CCC 3). Your role in Catechesis is to be models of God's love to others and to teach as Jesus did. We do this through proclaiming our faith in the classroom so that the children may come to a fuller understanding of what Jesus imparted to us through His Church. I encourage you all to be a part of what we have to offer this year and hope that you can in turn encourage each other and your friends and fellow parishioners to join us in this most important ministry. It is one of great joy and love, to be able to share Christ with the children who need to hear it most.

We will be having an Orientation meeting which I hope you can all attend because it is most important for me to be able to meet you and vice versa. There will also be a Basic Course running in the first term which I encourage you to come to as the course will give you a broader knowledge of Catechesis and what it entails along with useful skills for teaching and managing students in the classroom. These two events will give us the opportunity to discuss any difficulties, problems or opportunities you see that I can help you with this year.

May the Lord pour His blessings upon you to be able to combat the difficulties and challenges which await and may he grant many more people the generosity of heart to join us in Catechesis.

Sonia Baldwin  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel: 9390 5122  Fax 9283 5146  
Email: sonia@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

It is with great sadness that CCD announces the recent deaths of Sr Marie McColl and Sr Julian Sharah OLSH. A combined funeral service was held for both Sr Marie and Sr Julian, congregational members of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, on Friday 7th January. Both Sr Marie and Sr Julian worked extensively within the public schools associated with St Michael's Daceyville. Further to this Sr Marie was actively involved in the parish of St Therese's Mascot and Sr Julian in the parish of St Agnes Matraville contributing to the teaching of SRE to Catholic children within the local government schools. Sadly, the Church has lost two wonderful ambassadors, not just to catechesis, but to a diversity of apostolates. Our thoughts and prayers are with the surviving members of both families and with the sisters of their congregation.

Area Masses 2004

Concord Area

City Area
Concord Area

As in the words of St. John Chrysostom: “What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young”. Forming, shaping and instructing the young is the duty of all Catholics, for the young are the future of our faith. It has been a great honour and privilege for me to accept the position of Faith Education Officer with CCD and continue the excellent work that has been achieved over the years. I am largely motivated by CCD’s mission statement, which talks of “contributing to the formation of the whole person, ... serving Catholic families who have chosen public schooling... consistent with the Catholic Church”. I feel that I can help achieve this as I bring a diversity of personal and professional experiences including, the teaching of Religious Education, psychology, counselling and more recently retail management. I am keen to work with the staff of CCD, and its Director Mr Anthony Cleary in helping to bring to fruition the long term goals of His Eminence George Cardinal Pell.

Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to “Love one another” and it is through this charity that we seek our duty to partake in the Christian faith and continue to deliver this message to all Catholics and non-Catholics. It is this “duty of care” that we speak of in the field of employment that needs to be expressed in our mission of evangelisation. We all hold a sense of responsibility that Catholics have access to a comprehensive knowledge of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. To know your faith is a personal discovery and a discovery of the world. Children of all ages have a need and desire of knowing and by fulfilling this desire. We have accomplished this basic charity of delivering the Christian message. It is my objective and goal to identify the needs the Concord Area, develop and strengthen their works by offering support and guidance, establish a close rapport with Catechists and all the clergy. I will work towards a mission statement and clear guidelines that are consistent with the CCD. I will encourage the acronym TEAM stating that “Together Everyone Achieves More”. It is by this statement that I wish to work and build my support network. Furthermore, I will respect and acknowledge the opinions of all with whom I work but at the same time remain steadfastly committed to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church. Each of us must work to ensure that ethos and values of the Church are in all that we say and do.

Finally, I thank my predecessor Ms Therese Newell for all the excellent work that she has achieved and wish her the best of success in her new role in 2005.

May God Bless all of you and all your wonderful work.

Robert Milan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: robert@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Alive in Christ

In 2005 CCD is releasing a Student Prayer Card entitled Alive in Christ, to be distributed to all Catholic children attending government schools. The release of this prayer card is in keeping with our mission and pastoral goals as we are committed to the production of resources that promote the development of an understanding of God’s presence in our lives. This theology is expressed succinctly in four fundamental truths of our faith which are highlighted within the new prayer card.

The Alive in Christ prayer card has been distributed to all parishes through the Catechist Coordinator, but CCD has a significant number of cards at its offices in the Polding Centre, Miranda and Hoxton Park. Please feel free to ask for more cards. Most importantly, please encourage the use of this card which is a wonderful teaching resource and a source of reflection.

Alive in Christ Student Prayer Card

We thank you Heavenly Father for the people who are channels of your love in our lives, especially our parents.

We thank you Heavenly Father for the people of strong faith, our catechists, who stretch our minds and help us to explore and understand your ways.

We thank you Heavenly Father for all the people who have shown us the joys of your Kingdom, who have deepened our love of you, and who have strengthened our faith.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who loves us.

We believe in one Redeemer, Jesus Christ, only Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who died and rose from the dead to save us.

We believe in the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, where we are led in service and worship by the Pope and Bishops.

We believe that Jesus, Our Lord, calls us to repent and believe: that is, to choose faith, not doubt, love not hate, good not evil, and eternal life in heaven not hell.

This is our faith. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus; Our Lord.
Bankstown Area

It is 2005, the beginning of a new year, and as I mentioned at our Area Mass last year, we are still here to fight the good fight in Christ’s Universal Church as our predecessors, the first Apostles did and as our pioneer for Catholic education Blessed Mary MacKillop did. “Our work was instituted by God to destroy the secular spirit of education amongst our schools; that everything in its teaching was opposed to the worldly way…” Inspiring words Blessed Mary MacKillop wrote to Father Woods 135 years ago! (March 28, 1870). In this fight may we always call upon our Saint to intercede for our work. Always remember that we are never alone as her prayers and the prayers of many holy men and women are bringing abundant graces upon us and our work.

My continued work as your Faith Education Officer brings me great pleasure and I pray that God is able to use me this year to help guide you.

Once again a Basic Accreditation Course will be running at St Mel’s Parish Campsie, and there is more than one incentive to involve yourself with this course. Firstly, if you have not given it a go previously, it is an opportunity to immerse yourself in new information which will assist you with classroom management and the development of effective lessons. The course also touches on and explores aspects of our faith which are beneficial and meritorious for our journey in coming to know, worship and love God more effectively through the teaching ministry. To impart this knowledge to the students we teach we must be constantly living and developing in our own faith and love of God. Secondly, if you have tried the course previously, we are always faced with different challenges and new experiences; a refresher will be immeasurably valuable and your contribution to the workshops, as well as other Catechists who might attend, will assist to create new insights for everyone attending. If you cannot attend the course on offer please contact me and I will be happy to arrange a course on another date if possible.

Two Orientation Meetings will be held on Monday 31st January at St Christopher’s Parish Panania and Tuesday 8th February at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Sefton. New Catechists are especially encouraged to attend as the new SRE program, classroom management and other relevant information will be covered. All Catechists are welcome to the meetings as the information to be presented will acquaint you with updated issues.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings and/or the course. If you require anything, please don’t hesitate to contact me. May God Bless you and give you strength in this New Year, and may your angels keep special charge of you at every moment.

Josephine Nassif
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax: 9283 5146
Email: josephine@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Area Masses 2004

Sutherland
St George Area

Bankstown Area

Western Area
Catechist Newsletter, Term One 2005

Sutherland-St George Area
Welcome to all catechists who are taking Special Religious Education classes in the Sutherland – St George Area in 2005. I hope to meet many of you during this year as I visit each parish. I also hope to see many of you at our area orientation days, reflection day, area mass and accreditation workshops. All of these activities will be advertised in the catechist newsletter – the newsletter comes out at the beginning of each term.

If you are a new catechist and feel the need for some survival skills please phone me or contact your coordinator for help. The times and places for some basic accreditation workshops are listed in this newsletter. Please remember you can come to any of these workshops at any of the venues.

This year SRE classes will start just as Lent begins and we start our journey to Easter. The following article comes from The Religious Teacher’s Journal – I feel it can also apply to SRE lesson preparations. Those of you who have seen our new SRE curriculum materials may remember that the Term 1 lessons come under the heading ‘Turning to God’.

Our Lenten journey towards God is like all our journeys. We move over the same ground. We build on the familiar and reach into the ‘yet to be discovered’. So as you approach Lent this year do not fall into the trap of thinking, ‘I remember this set of reading or these prayers (or this SRE lesson) – I’ve heard (taught) it all before!’ Who you are now is not the ‘you’ of past years (and your students are not the ‘they’ of past years). This Lent try to listen with new ears and see with new eyes our God of surprises.

By now most parishes should have received a draft copy of some lessons from the new SRE curriculum. Selections of these lessons are being trialed in parishes throughout the State. In 2005 we should be able to trial the first draft of lessons for Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 4 and Yr 6. The lessons trialed last year for Kindergarten and Yr 3 and Yr 5 are being edited into their final format in the light of comments received and will also be trialed this year.

Once again thank you to those of you who taught the lessons, filled in the evaluation sheets and those who proof read and offered constructive criticism and appreciation of the underlining theology and ideology of the curriculum in 2004. I hope we have as many enthusiastic volunteers in 2005.

The number below is a phone/ fax/ answering machine. Please ring if you need help and I will get back to you.  

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

Western Area
Welcome to a new year! As most of you know, Judy has retired, and we wish her all the best as she looks forward to spending more time with her family! I am looking forward to working with you all in the Western area and I hope to meet many of you personally throughout the year. Fortunately I am not a stranger to you, having been in charge of the Western region for some ten weeks during last year.

I invite all new catechists, and those who would like to know more about CCD and what’s happening this year, to come to the Orientation Meeting on Thursday, 10th February at Liverpool Catholic Club from 10am. This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the new SRE program which is on trial this year, to discuss some classroom management strategies and lesson planning techniques. It will also be an opportunity to catch up with other catechists and share valuable ideas! Also being held at Liverpool Catholic Club will be the Catechist Coordinators Meeting. This will be held on Monday 14th February from 10am, and it essential that all parishes are represented.

A Basic Accreditation Course will be held on Wednesdays from 16th February until 6th April at the CCD Office in Hoxton Park. This year we are offering a more comprehensive Basic Course that will enable you to gain a deeper insight into your mission as a catechist as well as useful skills on how to successfully teach and manage your class. I invite all new catechists, and anyone else who is interested, particularly those wanting to revitalize their approach, to attend this course. If you would like to attend the Basic Course but the time and place do not suit you, I may be able to arrange to run another course in your parish if there are enough people interested.

Some of you, no doubt, will come across many challenges in your classes this year. Remember, you are not alone! As well as having my support and the support of CCD, you will always have Jesus Christ by your side. Christ needs you to bring his message of hope and love to these children who may only come to know about God through you! Christ promised his disciples: “know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” (Mt 28:20).

I wish you all a very joyful and rewarding year! Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information regarding Courses and for any other enquiries you may have. God Bless you all!

Lydia Stutz  
Faith Education Officer  
Tel/Fax: 9816 2978  
Email: lydia@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Content: * Is the lesson content well-prepared, interesting, relevant, too easy, too hard?

Presentation: * Does your presentation encourage pupils’ attention? Provide for pupils response, provide pupils with variety of learning activities? Involve a variety of teaching aids (eg, overheads, discussion, research, role plays, posters, filmstrips)?

Room Organisation:

* Does the management of desks promote effective learning?
* Is the room made attractive? Eg, poster, student work displayed.
* Is the room light enough, cool enough, warm enough?
* Are necessary teaching aids ready before hand? Eg, chalk, duster, projector, screen etc…

MINIMISING DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS IN THE CLASSROOM…

Avoid Boredom

Plan lessons and motivation.
Use a variety of approaches and high interest material
Let students feel they are learning
Pitch work to ability and interest level
Give students a purpose and provide encouragement
Have enough work and material to go on with when necessary
Use student involvement and participation
Make the classroom cheerful and attractive

Care for Kids and Show them that you Care

Give them the time of day
Discover their world
Show courtesy and respect
Avoid sarcasm, belittling
Be fair and understanding
Share a joke
Talk to students outside of classroom

Anticipate Problems

Identify the problems that are likely to occur
Identify problem types and defuse EARLY (eg, clown, talker)
“Friends” talker
Spot “key” kids
Make contingency plans – know what you can do
Recognise early warning signs
Have Known Rules and follow them consistently and fairly

Have clear, positive, known class rules
Know how you will enforce these rules and what you will do
Know how far you will go
Be consistent from child to child and from day to day
Reward rule-following (act when rules are followed as well as when they are broken)
Have known sanctions (don’t just make them up or use arbitrary sanctions)

Be a presence in your classroom

Be a leader (let the students know you are there)
Use your voice, eye contact, personality, sense of humour, and maturity to take charge
Be human (admit to being wrong or angry or pleased or tired or fed-up)

CONFRONTATIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

The pupil who sets up confrontations is often an expert with years of practice behind him. Therefore, if at all possible, it is better to avoid the confrontations, which can usually be felt as tension before they occur. Avoidance involves:

Breaking the tension

The Teacher can help get rid of the tension by:

being relaxed;
giving short crisp instructions, avoiding being verbose;
giving the pupil an opportunity to do something positive in class, eg, answer a question he knows;
using humour if inappropriate answer given;
ignoring small attention-seeking acts;
if impossible, saying “Quietly” to pupil;
keeping situation in low key, eg, taking pupil aside quietly
giving pupil an opportunity to ventilate his feelings, eg “You seem puzzled, (upset), (worried), (annoyed). What’s the problem?”

Coping with negative behaviour

The emphasis here is on avoiding reactions which tend to contribute towards confrontation. Avoid:

threats, sarcasm, criticism, statements designed to outlaw the pupil;
over-reacting to small irritating acts, eg, tapping on desk;
showing anger, resentment, fear;
raising voice;
traditional disciplinary methods, especially where these have been ineffective;
labelling the pupil; making him a butt for the peer group;
making demands which the pupil cannot or will not fulfil.
Breaking a pattern of negative reinforcement

Behaviour modification may be formal or informal. Informal techniques are less time-consuming and do not involve singling the pupil out from the others eg:;

- Find a small task that he can do regularly, e.g. checking equipment. The task should not be too menial, preferably with hardware, and the pupil should be aware that you feel he can do this reliably and well.

  Keep them Busy!

- Provide opportunities for success by setting work within his competence that he can be praised for. This should take in awareness of his skills, and interests and tasks should be realistic re: standard expected, worthwhileness or effort.

  Realistic achievements.

- Use eye contact to encourage (nodding) good behaviour or discourage undesirable behaviour. This provides a contact for the pupil without distracting the class.

  Eye contact.

- Give frequent recognition of his presence, eg, by saying “good work” softly as you pass; by using eye contact to cue him into work; by letting him answer a question, etc.

  Gentle praise.

"Every child is precious,
Every child is a gift from God."
QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Integrity
A genuine like for children and young people
Strength of character together with compassion and a generous heart
Self-knowledge and awareness of own strengths and weaknesses
Cheerfulness and good humour
An awareness of the rights of parents in regard to the education of their children
Personal wisdom and love of learning
A sense of justice and fairness
An ability to listen
Joy of heart

RELIGIOUS QUALITIES

Continual and renewed conviction, commitment and passion for Christ and the faith
The ability to pray and to help children pray
An awareness of one’s position as a role model for children
An appreciation of teaching as a vocation, a ministry, a service
An understanding of the culture of public schools and the realisation and readiness of the mission of
evangelisation and catechesis
A willingness and ability to forgive and forget

PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES

A love for learning and teaching
A life long interest in one’s own learning
An ability to cope with change
An awareness of and commitment to the pastoral care of students
An ability to reflect and also reflect critically upon one’s own performance as a teacher
An awareness that children grow in all manner of ways, and learn through their mistakes
An ability to challenge without provoking
An ability to reward and encourage
Knowledge of one’s limits
An ability to plan well and carry out one’s plan
## Orientation Meetings

### Bankstown Area
- **St Christopher’s Parish, 233 Tower Street, Panania**
  - Monday 31 January
  - 10am - 12pm
- **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 6 Kerrinea Rd, Sefton**
  - Tuesday 8 February
  - 10am - 12pm

### City Area
- **Holy Family Parish, 214 Maroubra Road, Maroubra**
  - Thursday 3 February
  - 10am - 12pm
- **Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney**
  - Monday 7 February
  - 10am - 12pm

### Concord Area
- **St Ambrose’s School Hall, Stuart Street, Concord West**
  - Thursday 3 February
  - 10am - 12pm
- **St Michael’s Parish Hall, Dorritt Street, Lane Cove**
  - Friday 4 February
  - 10am - 12pm
- **Holy Innocents Parish House, 36 Cheltenham Road, Croydon**
  - Saturday 5 February
  - 10am - 12pm

### Sutherland/St George Area
- **CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda**
  - Thursday 3 February
  - 10am - 12pm
- **St Thomas Moore Parish, 298 Bay St, Brighton-Le-Sands**
  - Friday 11 February
  - 10am-12pm

### Western Area
- **Liverpool Catholic Club, cnr Hoxton Park & Joadja Roads, Liverpool West**
  - Thursday 10 February
  - 10am - 12pm

## Coordinators Meetings

### Sutherland / St George Area
- **CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda**
  - Monday 7 February
  - 10am - 1pm

### City Area
- **Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney**
  - Friday 11 February
  - 10am - 1pm

### Western Area
- **Liverpool Catholic Club, cnr Hoxton Park & Joadja Roads, Liverpool West**
  - Monday 14 February
  - 10am - 1pm

### Bankstown Area
- **Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney**
  - Friday 18 February
  - 10am - 1pm

### Concord Area
- **Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney**
  - Monday 21 February
  - 10am - 1pm
Catechist Ministry Certificate

**Prerequisite:** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation Program

*Please contact Mrs Carmel Duffy Tel. 9390 5122 for a copy of the Ministry Certificate Handbook or to enrol for any of the units listed below.*

### Term One

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual and Educational Development of the Child (MI17)</th>
<th>Ministry (MC05)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Cleary</td>
<td>Dr Charles Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, 24 John Street, Lidcombe</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays, 10am - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>Church History (MI12)</th>
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<td>April: Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20</td>
<td>February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Term Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundations of Religious Education (MC02)</th>
<th>Catholics in History (MI13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Cleary</td>
<td>Lucy O'Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays, 10am -1pm</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6</td>
<td>July: Monday 11, Tuesday 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Year of the Eucharist (MI19)</th>
<th>Theology of the Body (MI15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maree Nelson</td>
<td>Lydia Siutz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool Catholic Club, cnr Hoxton Park &amp; Joadja Rds, Liverpool West</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays, 10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Thursdays, 10am - 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9</td>
<td>August 4, 11, 18, 25, September 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Sacraments of Initiation (MI07)</th>
<th>Christology (MI11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Zwaans</td>
<td>Robert Haddad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, 24 John Street, Lidcombe</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays, 10am - 1pm</td>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4, 11, 18, 25, September 1</td>
<td>October: Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5, Thursday 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Term Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Call to Holiness (MC04)</th>
<th>The Mission of the Catechist (MI16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Mondays, 10am -1pm</td>
<td>Thursdays, 10am - 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Year of Christ (MC08)</th>
<th>The Sacraments of Initiation (MI07)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>10am - 2pm</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December: Thursday 15, Friday 16</td>
<td>August 4, 11, 18, 25, September 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Term Four

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<th>Theology of the Body (MI15)</th>
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<th>The Year of the Eucharist (MI19)</th>
<th>Theology 1 (MC03)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9</td>
<td>October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Family Tradition

Recently, CCD became aware of a fascinating story of one family's involvement in catechesis. This wonderful story was about the Young family, from Our Lady of Mt Carmel at Mt Pritchard. Unfortunately, when it appeared in the Catholic Weekly on January 9 2005, there were a number of errors, which were embarrassing to CCD, and perhaps more embarrassing to the family. We now want to set the record straight, and give credit to this family who have given a wonderful contribution to the children of the Western region. Catechist Coordinator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Sharon Young has been teaching SRE for twenty years, but perhaps her greatest joy stems from the fact that her son – Matthew and daughter in law Diana, are also catechists. Matthew and Diana, both of whom are in their 20’s, have been involved in this rewarding ministry for many years already. Diana has been involved in the teaching of SRE for eight years, the last two of which she has coordinated the Confirmation program at a parish level. Although only in his 20’s Matthew has amazingly taught SRE for 11 years and coordinates the work of CCD at two schools. In addition to this Matthew coordinates both the First Communion and Reconciliation programs at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Some people in CCD may still remember Matthew, from when he was the face of one of our recruiting campaigns, entitled “Australia’s Most Wanted”. At the time Matthew was sitting for his Higher School Certificate.

This couple who married on 2 October last year, met when teaching sacramental preparation programs to state school children. What is incredible is that at the time, they were both still at school. Matthew and Diana are wonderful examples of the growing number of young people involved in the teaching of SRE. SRE was seen as particularly significant by Diana because she herself attended state schools for her entire education and wanted to really give something back, something that she felt had already shaped her life immeasurably. Furthermore, perhaps it was their experiences as catechists that drew both Matthew and Diana to the teaching profession as their career choice. Diana now works as a primary school teacher whilst Matthew is involved in the teaching of Religion and Information Technology. What is particularly pleasing is that despite the demands of fulltime work, and despite the demands of married life, both Matthew and Diana still find the time to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Catholic children in government schools. We hope that they continue to bless us with their talents for many years to come and we wish them a long and happy marriage.
Set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing Australian society, Fr John McSweeney has crafted a biographical masterpiece worthy of Irish folklore. *A Welcome on the Mat* is the enchanting memoir of Fr Tom Dunlea—entrepreneur, philanthropist, priest. McSweeney vividly depicts the charismatic Dunlea, who despite his eccentricities and his own at times turbulent battles with inner demons, was able to charm almost all who made his acquaintance irrespective of class, culture or creed. Blessed with a wonderful sense of idealism and heroism Dunlea’s memoir evokes memories of *Going My Way*, *Angels with Dirty Faces* and of course most fittingly *Boystown*. Perhaps Bing Crosby and Spencer Tracey were using our very own Fr Tom as the archetype for their own priestly performances.

Perhaps it was on account of my own Irish ancestry that I was drawn to *A Welcome on the Mat*, an interest fuelled by the fact that my paternal grandmother was herself a Dunlea, and once opened, this memoir was difficult to put down. What quickly emerges is that Fr Tom Dunlea was a forward thinking man, well ahead of his time, who blended compassion with pragmatism and who found a source of inspiration in the motto “I sought my God, my God eluded me; I sought my soul, my soul I could not see; I sought my brother and I found all three.” It appears that Fr Tom was always in search of his brother, or they of him. Dunlea’s love of animals and of people, particularly the abandoned, conjures images of a modern day St Francis or Don Bosco. Dunlea was a pioneer, whose vision, optimism and zealous drive remained undeterred by the skepticism of others, which in fact often fuelled his ambitious dreams. By no means was he a doubting Thomas, but rather a vivacious and charismatic showman who could play a crowd. Paradoxically however, this external exuberance and confidence often belied inner fears and torments.

McSweeney’s biographical title *A Welcome on the Mat* captures the essence of Fr Tom Dunlea, who was blessed with a spirit of generosity and hospitality, virtues most probably inherited from his celtic forebears. Dunlea’s selflessness came from his capacity to let go. “This capacity to let go, to give away possessions to those in need, remained with him to his death.” Dunlea found that true joy comes from letting God love us the divine way, whether through illness or health, failure or success, poverty or wealth, rejection or praise, i.e. by letting go and trusting God fully. Dunlea’s example presents us with a great challenge, one that is revealed in the Gospels, that is to give from our want, rather than from our wealth. The point is not so much to choose poverty, but to trust God fully. Dunlea found in his contemporaries something which is still true today, that generosity often occurred only in the context of wealth. Although we sometimes give money, possessions, time, energy and thoughts to others and God, we always keep a great deal in reserve, maintaining our personal wealth and security. We never fully let go. We never fully trust in God. Dunlea broke the mould, and challenged others to do so and be a people who have generous hearts, thoughtful minds, attentive ears and gentle hands.

*A Welcome on the Mat* is a compelling journey through Australia’s social history. McSweeney confronting us with stark and bleak images from the Great Depression, a time of unparalleled poverty and homelessness, and at the same time comforting us with humorous anecdotes surrounding Dunlea’s life, particularly his idiosyncrasies. With forewords by Sir William Deane and Fr Chris Riley one is made aware of the longstanding contribution of Dunlea to social welfare within the Australian context, the result of which has been a formidable legacy. As the founder of Boys Town, and helping to establish Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia, the achievements of this champion of the poor, custodian of the homeless and spokesman for the downtrodden and dispossessed are laudable, so much so that the name Dunlea has become synonymous with the marginalised and destitute. Dunlea’s solidarity with the needy and poor, both physical and spiritual, gives testimony to the view that “faith without good works is dead.” A fitting epitaph for Fr Tom Dunlea is found in the final lines of *A Welcome on the Mat* when McSweeney quotes the late Cardinal Gilroy who remarked at the time of Dunlea’s death “we need priests with Christmas hearts, who, like Dunlea, have the gift of making the Church loved.”

Easy to read, *A Welcome on the Mat* is both entertaining and thought provoking and is a beautiful work of reminiscence, particularly for those from the Emerald Isle. For $19.95 you can not just own a biographical masterpiece but also a brilliant history of the contribution of the Catholic Church to Australia’s social welfare, and at the same time live out the Dunlea spirit, as proceeds will benefit Fr Chris Riley’s *Youth off the Street*, Boys Town Engadine and Matt Talbot Hostel, Sydney.

Anthony Cleary

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Opening Hours 10:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday
Our Lenten Journey

Lent is a traditional time to reflect on our life journey, to ask ourselves once again ‘Where am I going?’ and “How will I get there?’

Leader: This Lenten season we are called to journey towards God. Let us reflect on how to travel wisely and well, confident of God’s companionship along the way.

Opening song: ‘Companions on the Journey’ by Carey Landry. (You could use other reflective music)

Scripture Reading: Mark 6: 7 -13
Then he (Jesus) made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, ‘Do not take a spare tunic’. And he said to them, ‘If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and the people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.’ So they set off to preach repentance, and they cast out many evil spirits, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

Leader: Take a moment now to reflect in silence on the Word you have just heard.

• If you can’t take a walking stick or beggar’s bag for your journey, what will you take and why?.... pause
• Which of these road signs best describe your current ‘mode of operation’ on your journey: Yield, Detour, Stop, Railroad Crossing, Curve Ahead? Why is this so? …pause
• How will you use your traveling time with your class this Lent? … pause

(Invite spontaneous responses to these reflections from participants or you may like to use the following. Participant could make the response Lord hear our prayer after each.)

• That each of us will use our gifts and talents to help one another on our journey
Let us pray to the Lord.
• That we will remember to talk to God about the joys and sorrows of our journey
Let us pray to the Lord.
• That we will always ask God to guide us when faced with difficult choices
Let us pray to the Lord.
• For all the people in our world who are forgotten along the way
Let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray together, the prayer that Jesus taught us

All: Our Father …….