Christ
Our Light and Life

Catechist Newsletter, Term One 2006
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 re-energised by the school holidays. In welcoming everyone back for the start of 2006 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.

In seeking renewal, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has set about the ambitious but necessary task of reviewing the curriculum that is made available to students enrolled in Catholic SRE in public schools. This revision has largely been modeled upon the textbook series TO KNOW WORSHIP AND LOVE. Great efforts have been made to ensure that the new curriculum “maintains fidelity to the Good News as proclaimed in the Gospels … for it will only be Catholic education to the extent that it is faithful to the Gospel of Christ” (Laghi, 1996, p.66).

The curriculum series CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE is designed for use as the main resource of Special Religious Education (SRE) for Catholic children attending public schools. The series is for parents, priests, catechists and others involved in the ministry of special religious education. This series will be most effective in teaching contexts committed to the Gospel of Christ, to Sacred Tradition, and to the magisterium of Christ’s Church.

The CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE series aims to provide an environment in which young children may fall ‘in love’ with Jesus the Good Shepherd and develop a real relationship with him. They will discover both personal union with God, and their membership of a Church established by God. They will learn how to become like their Saviour – in the home, in school, in the parish and in the world. Christian virtue and Christian truth become the foundation for the whole of life.

The CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE is informed by the following practical principles:

- Formation in faith is a life-long journey. Life itself is the context of any religious education program;
- The needs of students change over time. Therefore, a variety of teaching methods are required over time;
- The students’ lives influence their expressions of faith. Thus catechists’ teaching strategies will respond to and respect the cultural diversity of students and their families;
- The family is the basic community of the Church. Links between the home, parish and school are discovered and encouraged.

A key aim of the new curriculum series CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE is to “promote the central place of parents and to support them in fulfilling their responsibilities for the faith formation and education of their children.” (cf CCC, 2225-2226)

Families are the basic community of the Church. The parents of students in our schools and parishes are part of the whole Catholic community that has as an essential element of its mission the education in faith of its children. While it is not always possible for parents alone to educate their children in faith, they can, and should be an important part of the community that educates them.
The Christ Our Light and Life series has included in each lesson a section entitled ‘Home Activity’ which offers activities with which families might supplement and continue the lessons learned at school. It is an acknowledgement of the role of parents as first educators of their children and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine encourages and supports them in this role.

The family is the foundational unit of the Church, an integral part of the whole Catholic community.

Each family is called:
- to accept and live the Catholic Faith;
- to mature in faith and become an evangelising community;
- to love, nurture and serve each other;
- to participate in the development of society;
- to share in the life and mission of the Church.

As part of the whole Church, families are to be supported by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the education in faith of their members.

The Christ Our Light and Life series:
- strives to affirm and strengthen family life;
- acknowledges the many different situations of families today;
- encourages and models a commitment to faith.

The process of renewing Catholic SRE is far from complete. The Christ Our Light and Life series will continue to be refined and developed, always mindful of Trafford’s assertion that “the salient features of what makes education Catholic are expressed in the effort to permeate education’s purpose and practice with the core Gospel of Christ” (1999, p.49). Whilst the CCD is very pleased to release Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5 this year we are also conscious that many challenges are still to be met before the eventual completion of the K-12 curriculum project in 2007.

As we begin this new school year I am very pleased to welcome two new members of staff, Mr John Mannah (City) and Mr Lucas Hurley (West). Both John and Lucas bring a diversity of experiences in teaching, pastoral ministry, youth ministry and a number of parish apostolates. Both John and Lucas have tertiary qualifications in Theology and in Education. Importantly, both have had the opportunity for the practical implementation of their studies. I am confident that both of our new Faith Education Officers will receive the enthusiastic support of catechists, coordinators and parish priests.

As we begin this new school year I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the significance of Lent, the liturgical season which dominates Term 1. Included within this newsletter are suggested teaching and learning activities from the Christ Our Light and Life program. In addition to this I have included an overview of the Lenten Penance which is released each year by His Eminence Cardinal Pell. I feel that it is essential that catechists are fully cognisant with the Church’s teachings on the Lenten season. Essentially Lent is a time of penance, prayer and sacrifice, a time when we are able to reflect upon our “personal journey in faith.” During this journey of reconciliation and forgiveness we can experience great renewal as we are drawn from the darkness of our sin towards the light of the resurrection.

Lent, of course, is a time when we commemorate the example of Jesus going into the desert alone, with nothing except for a loving trust in his father, a trust that enabled him to resist temptation. It is clear that Christ followed the virtue of “Let not my will, but yours be done” at this time. It is this example that should be our motivation at this time, as learning to “let go” is an ultimate goal of our Lenten devotions.

We cannot “let go” by ourselves, but the Spirit of Jesus may help us pray for it, and grow into this change of lifestyle. Lent provides us with a great challenge, which is revealed in the Gospels, and that is to give from our want rather than from our wealth. The point of this is not so much as we choose poverty, but to trust God fully. If we look at our own lives we often find that generosity only occurs in the context of wealth. We give money, time and thought to others, and God, but we always keep a great deal in reserve, maintaining our personal security. We never fully “let go,” we never fully trust in God. May Lent be a time in which each of us has a greater dependence on, and faith in, God’s love.

As we journey through Lent, from darkness into the light of Easter we should pray

Lord, I am poor in nothing but holiness. I offer you my spiritual poverty, and I pray to each and every day that I may love you and others more, so that my own desires lose hold on me, and instead my life may proclaim ‘Thy will be done’.

Yours In Christ,

Anthony Cleary
DIRECTOR
Warm greetings for this 2006 year! It is a new year to conquer, a new beginning, and although the world around us may be moving too quickly, we still invest our time and efforts in the most important and meaningful work. As Jesus said to His disciples after they rebuked the children from approaching Him ... “Let the little children be, and do not hinder them from coming to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (St Mat 19:14) So let us be enthusiastic and go out to such children with the light of Christ in our hearts and His message on our tongues. This year is especially exciting for catechists who will venture to take on the new curriculum; Christ Our Light and Life. I dare and confidently say this program gives us the opportunity to evangelise not only the children but their families as well. And as you are well aware, that if faced with opposition in our work, there is no period throughout all of our Christian history, beginning with the life of Christ, where there did not exist opposition to the truth. Our goal is to be able to say what St Paul did in his letter to Timothy (4:7), “I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith …!”

This term there will be a number of inservices and courses on offer. I will be running a Basic Accreditation Course at St Peter Chanel Parish, Berala commencing on Friday 17 February from 11:30am. Another Basic Accreditation Course will also be running at the Korean Martyrs & St Stanislaus Church, North Auburn, commencing on Saturday February 4 at 10am. An Intermediate Accreditation Course will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Earlwood from Wednesday 15 February at 10:30am; and the Advanced Accreditation Course will be on offer at St Joseph’s Parish, Belmore on Monday 20 February at 10am. These courses equip catechists with the knowledge and confidence they need in the undertaking of their ministry.

I encourage new and all catechists to attend an Orientation Meeting. It will be beneficial for all catechists as you will be able to gain an insight on the new Christ Our Light and Life program and the latest child protection information. There will be two orientation meetings, one at St Joseph’s Parish, Oatley on Monday 6 February at 10–12pm and another at St Felix’s Parish Bankstown on Friday 10 February from 10–12pm.

A reminder to coordinators that our Coordinators Meeting will be held on Friday 3 February from 10am–1pm at the Polding Centre, where many important issues relevant to the New Year will be discussed.

This is a year of many changes, and it is a relief to know that our God is steady, all-powerful, merciful, patient, compassionate, the “Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end) … who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:8) Fortunately (for us) our loving Father does not change His mind! But with the new curriculum and New Year, there may be different and reoccurring challenges, and I am pleased to offer my services to any parish who would like the new curriculum explained and if possible look forward to seeing you at your meetings this term and throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact me when you desire.

May our patron, Mary help of Christians, who continues to love us, lead us to our desired destiny – where we are able to experience the eternal vision and joy of her Son with our Father and His living Holy Spirit.

Sonia Baldwin, former City Faith Education Officer, at the wedding of George and Josephine before her departure to America.
I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with the catechists and with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Although I have spent the last seven years teaching in Catholic schools I have long marvelled at the wonderful work which is done by catechists. The quality of this work became obvious to me when I attended the Catechist Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral last year. As an observer I was really struck by the enormity of the work that is coordinated by the CCD in the Archdiocese of Sydney. I sat, with my family, watching as dozens of catechists were recognised for various achievements. The catechists came from all walks of life, from all ethnic groups and from all age groups. The truly inspiring group were the recipients of the Cardinal Freeman Medal (25 years) and Apostolic Blessing (20 years). It was at this point in time that I realised the true value of the work that is done in public schools.

Sitting in the cathedral that Sunday, only a few months ago, I was also struck by the sense of respect and gratitude that was conveyed by Cardinal Pell to the catechists. The Cardinal spoke of the “tireless dedication” of the catechists and referred to them as “unsung heroes.”

Having been a teacher of Religious Education for a number of years, I realise how true these words are, especially as we attempt to provide religious guidance and direction within a culture which is no longer confessionally Christian or even religious, but is secular and diverse. And that is why I respect you as catechists for the work that you do. You give a wonderful example, an example which all teachers could be proud, for you show that “we must teach as Jesus taught—with the proper blending of love, mercy, compassion, understanding, discipline and flexibility” (Huber, 2003, p.48).

This year we will be implementing the new curriculum, Christ Our Life and Light. I know that you will all enjoy using this new program and will find it to be an excellent teaching and learning resource. If you need any help with the materials or you have any questions to ask please contact me and I will be more than happy to assist. I hope that during the year I will be able to visit many schools and assist with the implementation of the new curriculum.

This term I am hoping to make available a number of Accreditation Courses. The Basic Accreditation Course is an eight week course which covers the essentials of the Christian Faith, classroom management and lesson planning with the new curriculum. It will be conducted on Mondays from 10am–1pm commencing on 20 February at the Polding Centre. Further to this I am investigating the feasibility of running an Advanced Accreditation Course. I will discuss this with the City Coordinators at our meeting on February 17. The Advanced Accreditation Course, which is also eight weeks, covers topics such as Church History, Ethics, Liturgy, and Christian Education. If you would like to make enquiries about any of these courses then please contact me on telephone 9390 5122 or email john@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au. I cannot recommend these courses enough as they will give you added confidence in the classroom and also enhance your knowledge of the Catholic Faith. Many catechists have commented that the accreditation programs make them “feel confident about going into class” and that they “feel confident preparing class lessons”.

I wish each of you every success this term and I look forward to meeting with you as the year progresses.

Finally, I would like to leave you with a thought from the Cardinal’s book BE NOT AFRAID.

“Our task, as teachers is to help our pupils use their individual talents for good. Our task is difficult … it requires competence, hard work, loyalty, hope and above all—love.”

John Mannah
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: john@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
A very warm welcome to our dedicated and committed parish priests, coordinators, catechists and assistant catechists from the Concord Area. I sincerely hope you all are refreshed and raring to go. Certainly 2006 holds many promising and exciting moments including our first year with the new curriculum *Christ Our Light and Life*. All of you I am sure would have had your orders in by now, for those who have not your speedy response is required. This year we face the final writing of Years 1, 2, 4 and Year 6 and it is expected that by the commencement of 2007 the whole program will be fully operational.

**Catechist Sunday is on 5 February 2006** and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to promote our ministry and encourage fellow members of our parish communities to partake and support our cause. If you would like me to attend any of your Catechist Sunday Mass programs please feel free to email or contact me by phone. I would be more than happy to assist you in any way that you require.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to new catechists and new coordinators especially Ms Maria Owens of Holy Innocents Parish, Croydon who replaces Mr Kevin Smith. Kevin has been an inspiration in the role, many thanks Kevin. Ms Geraldine Rastall takes over from Mrs Elizabeth Peoples of the Gladesville Parish and Mrs Maria Donohue replaces Sr Christina O'Connor of the Leichhardt Parish. A special thank you to the outgoing coordinators for their hard work and efforts and a warm welcome to the new coordinators. I wish them all the very best in this challenging role. Please know that I am here for any support needed.

I hope to see all my coordinators at the coordinators meeting to be held on **13 February** at the Polding Centre, 10am-1pm. This event occurs twice a year and it is important that we all familiarise ourselves with each other, expectations for the coming year and discuss general business.

An encouraging word and extended invitation to all new and current catechists to attend the orientation meetings to be held across two locations. The first is on **Wednesday 15 February** at Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde from 10am-1pm and the second on **Thursday, 16 February** at Holy Innocents Parish, Croydon from 10am-1pm.

One of our finest achievements in 2005 was the re-writing and re-structuring of the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation programs. All those who attended in 2005 and completed the course(s) found them very refreshing, challenging and very beneficial in two aspects, that is faith formation and teaching strategies. I would encourage all new and current catechists to enroll in these courses as they are very helpful towards their ministry. The Concord area has approximately 15 graduates who have completed the entire Accreditation course, that is Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation programs and will be presented with the Accreditation Certificate at the Annual Mass at St Mary's Cathedral later this year.

**The Basic Accreditation Courses** for the Concord area will commence on **Monday 20 February** at Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde from 10am–1pm and continue for a total of eight weeks running (see dates in this issue). I am also holding another **Basic Accreditation Course** at St Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church, Croydon. This course will commence on **Saturday 25 February** from 10am–1pm and continue on subsequent **Wednesdays and Saturdays**. The course will complete at a shorter space of time, yet meet the 24 hours required (see current issue for further dates and times).

The **Mass** for the Concord Area will be varied this year and will occur on **Thursday 8 June**, with the host parish being St Mark's Drummoyn. The Mass will be followed by a lunch at 12pm. I hope you all are able to attend!

Finally, I am always here for your assistance so if you are in need of anything ranging from teaching a class in your absence or a fellow catechist, to recruitment, to any advice and de-briefing. Have a wonderful year and may God's peace remain in you always.

Yours in partnership with Christ!

Robert Milan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: robert@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Welcome to all catechists who are taking classes in 2006, especially those of you who are new to this ministry. I hope to meet many of you during the year at our area orientation days, reflection day, area mass, annual mass and accreditation workshops. All of these activities will be advertised in the catechist newsletter – this newsletter comes out at the beginning of each term. A reminder that the term one coordinators meeting will be held at Brighton-Le-Sands Parish on Friday 10 February.

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 courses are listed in this newsletter. Please remember you can come to any of these courses at any of the venues.

How do the accreditation courses address the following common worries that are sometimes expressed by new (and not so new) catechists?

**How will I manage the class?**
Sections of the accreditation courses explore the meaning of discipline and allow participants to identify specific concerns relating to classroom management. There is also opportunities to observe and discuss teaching strategies that are really creative ways of avoiding discipline problems.

**What if I do not know enough about my faith?**
In reality none of us ever know enough about our faith – it is a life long learning process. These accreditation courses provide an opportunity for you to learn more about our Catholic faith and how to present it to students at an age appropriate level.

Our faith is based on both scripture and tradition. The basic accreditation course covers the basic skills in using both a Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is ideal for those who feel a little intimidated when asked to find something in either book.

What will I teach?
Catechists must be accredited and authorised and use an approved curriculum. The accreditation courses help you gain basic skills in preparation and planning your lessons using the new curriculum. They help you gain an understanding of the necessity of teaching from an authorised curriculum. Each of the accreditation courses during 2006 will have ample opportunity to explore the new curriculum and the resources available to enhance it.

These accreditation courses give the participants an opportunity to explore many different ways of telling a biblical story. It will equip you with many practical ways of improving the way you present a biblical story to your class.

Remember:
Prior Preparation Prevents Pandemonium.

During Term 1 there will be two accreditation courses held at the Miranda CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road Miranda: the Basic Accreditation Course (BAC) commences on Monday 12 February, and the Intermediate Accreditation Course (IAC), commences on Friday 17 February. Both of these courses will run from 10am to 1pm.

In Term 2 there will be Advanced Accreditation Course at Miranda CCD Centre 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
I am very happy to be involved in the work of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine as I see that there are many challenges associated with the teaching of Religious Education. I assume that this is particularly true for the teaching of Special Religious Education in public schools.

Over the past two years, I have been the Coordinator of Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) for the Archdiocese of Perth, and I have accepted the position for 2006 working as a Faith Education Officer for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. One aspect of my role as coordinator of CYM Perth, was to provide catechetical and faith formation programs to youth and young adults. In my experience as a qualified secondary school teacher and youth minister, I have found that the majority of young people in today’s world have a great thirst for the truth. However, as our Holy Father Benedict XVI said in his opening address at World Youth Day, we live in an age of what he called the “Dictatorship of Relativism,” which restricts the truth from being heard. In other words, young people are faced with a plethora of philosophies, which seek to drown out the voice of Christ, who is ‘Truth’ itself. We Must work together then to make sure that the voice of Christ can be heard by one and all.

Consequently, I am extremely excited about the move to Sydney working for the CCD. I see this position as a great challenge, providing catecheses to Catholic public school students, who are the ones most exposed to this relativism. I hope that I can use what I have learnt in my time teaching and in youth ministry, to effectively convey the Church’s teachings, whilst giving witness to my own faith and the way Christ’s love has touched my life. Having been on the national World Youth Day Committee, which has been run out of the Polding Centre in the build up to Cologne, I have been extremely impressed with the professional nature of the employees of the Archdiocese. I eagerly look forward to beginning my job in January, and to finding my way around the inner suburbs of Sydney.

Farewell from Lydia

May God Bless you all in your catechist ministry with a prosperous and rewarding New Year in 2006!

Term 4, 2005, was a very busy term. We held an in-service for the new curriculum: Christ Our Light and Life at Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield. Everyone who attended gained an insight into the new curriculum which most of you will be teaching for the first time this year. We held a Reflection day at All Saints, Liverpool, where all those who attended learned how we ‘sow the seeds of faith’ to the children we teach. Many thanks for the inspiring reflections that were given by Sr Mary Louise from the Schoenstatt Movement. We also ran the first part of the Basic Course for new catechists at Good Shepherd Parish, Hoxton Park, to give catechists a head start for their new year of teaching.

I would like to thank all the priests, coordinators and catechists of the western area for all their dedicated work in 2005. It has been inspiring to see so many faith filled people in the catechist ministry who generously and enthusiastically give of their time and effort to teach the Catholic faith to so many children in public schools. I take this opportunity to let you know that I won’t be working with you this year since I am moving to live in Tasmania. Again, I thank you all for your dedicated work in the catechist ministry and encourage you to keep up the good work!

Lydia Siutz
Dear Catechists,

What I am going to tell you will come as a surprise to many. I do not know how to explain it, but I will try my best. You have all been constantly in my prayers especially during this Christmas break. Over this past year I have been quietly discerning my vocation, asking God, ‘What do you want of me Lord?’ I’m sure that almost everyone goes through this uncertainty in their life, trying to find where they are meant to be and what they are meant to be doing. I have spent this Christmas, as some of you would know, in America. The main purpose for my visit here was to discern my vocation, to see if Christ was calling me to consecrate my life to Him.

It was a very difficult decision that I had to make because I am very far from home and from all the things I know. Some of you are probably wondering why I had to come to the other side of the world to discern my vocation, to see if Christ was calling me to consecrate my life to Him. For me this is where I had to come.

I have had a truly amazing time over here, very much filled with God’s love and grace. It has been such a blessing for me to be able to spend so much time exclusively with Him, getting to know and love Him more. It has been during this time of prayer and reflection that I have been able to see more clearly what Christ was asking of me. And he has asked me for my life. Inspired by confidence from Mary our blessed Mother, my answer was ‘yes’. My only desire in life is to do God’s will, whatever the call and whatever the cost. He has filled me with such blessings I can only say that I am truly joyful and at peace. So what does this mean? Like in the Gospels, Christ said to His disciples “Follow me.” And leaving all things, he arose and followed him. (Luke 5:28-29) So in answer to Christ’s call I have to leave everything to follow His will for my life. I am sad that I cannot see you all again and to say a final farewell, but know that I will be praying for all of you. If you would like to write to me then I would be more than happy to read and respond to your letters. Please pray for me, pray that I will be faithful to what God is calling me to and that I will have the strength I need for the mission He is entrusting me with.

I might just explain to you a little about the consecrated life within Regnum Christi to help you understand my vocation. To consecrate is to set apart for God, to devote to purpose, to sanctify. “A consecrated person is a man or woman who, obedient to God the Father’s call and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, has chosen to profess the evangelical counsels (chastity, obedience and poverty) as a special way of following Christ, in order to devote themselves to him with an undivided heart.” (Cf. John Paul II, Vita Consecrata) The consecrated within Regnum Christi are dedicated to love, with a spirituality founded on the Gospel. If any of you are curious to read a little bit more about our spirituality then you can have a look at our website: http://www.regnumchristi.org/english/index.phtml

As our Lord said to Jeremiah “for to all to whom I send you you shall go” so I have no idea where this vocation will take me and if I will ever return to Australia, but God willing, I will come back from time to time.

Thank you all for the support and encouragement that you have shown me in the last year. It truly has been one of the greatest blessings of my life to have had the opportunity to work with you and share your joys and your hardships. May the Lord keep boosting you with His love and His strength. We are all working for the same goal, to strive to build Christ’s Kingdom here on earth, to feed the souls who are starving for Christ.

I will leave you with these words from our founder, they express very much the feelings of my heart. “I only want you to pray very much for me to be holy, so that once I am, I can save many souls. Pray that I will love God so much that, forgetting myself, I will look only for sacrifice and mortification to show him my love, to transform myself into him, and to disappear before men so he will appear.” (Fr Marcial Maciel - 8th November 1937)

Yours in Christ,
Sonia Baldwin
60 Austin Avenue
Greenville, RI 02828 USA

Page 9
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As part of this Code it is expected that SRE Teachers/Assistants

WILL

• Be caring, compassionate adults who take an interest in their students.
• Always treat students with respect.
• Set appropriate boundaries for teacher student relationships.
• Treat all students in a consistent manner.
• Congratulate students in a way consistent with school practice and be aware that physical gestures may be open to scrutiny by others.
• Follow policy and procedure with regard to social interactions with students outside of school.
• Seek consent of a Parent or Guardian before:
  ★ visiting students at their home;
  ★ inviting students to visit their home;
  ★ making personal telephone calls or sending personal email or sms (text) messages to students.
• Develop and exercise prudent judgement and sensitivity regarding appropriate physical interactions with students.
• Avoid as far as possible being alone with a student. If required to work with a student in a one to one situation they should:
  ★ have discussed the arrangement with the School authorities previously;
  ★ where possible interact with the student in an area open to observation -and ensure that teacher and student are visible to others.
• Do everything within reason to ensure that alcohol, tobacco or prohibited substances are not consumed by students on school premises, at school functions, camps or excursions.
• Act in accordance with school policy with regard to the consumption of alcohol at school, or while at school functions.
• Act in accordance with school policy with regard to the administration of prescribed medications to students.
• Be prudent with regard to the content and context of their discussions with students.

• Develop effective, consistent and appropriate student behaviour management strategies in line with the school’s Student Management and Discipline policies.
• Exercise caution when physical contact is a necessary part of the teaching / learning experience.
• Ensure that any physical contact is reasonable for the purpose of discipline, management or care of the students. The contact must be appropriate given the age, maturity, health or other characteristics of the child, and should be consistent with any specific behavioural management plan for specific children.
• Ensure that any physical contact is appropriate and acceptable for the duty performed. Appropriate and acceptable physical contact include:
  ★ assessing a student who is injured or ill;
  ★ giving appropriate first aid treatment;
  ★ comforting an upset child;
  ★ guiding a student in a non-threatening manner;
  ★ tapping a student on the shoulder to gain attention after verbal requests were unsuccessful;
  ★ protecting a student from imminent danger to himself/herself or to others;
  ★ demonstrating or guiding a particular action or skill as part of drama or other activities within the lesson.
• Use physical interventions (including physical restraint, removals or escorts) only as a last resort to ensure safety and protection of students and employees. Physical interventions would be appropriate when:
  ★ a student is attacking an employee;
  ★ a student is attacking another student;
  ★ students are physically fighting;
  ★ a student is causing, or at risk of causing, injury to self or others;
  ★ a student is misusing dangerous materials, substances or objects and they or others are in danger of imminent harm.
FOR CATHOLIC CATECHISTS

As part of this Code it is expected that SRE Teachers/Assistants

WILL NOT

• Use sarcastic, derogatory remarks, offensive comments or other inappropriate behaviours which may cause emotional distress to a child.
• Use inappropriate locations or social isolation, outside the school’s discipline policy, as punishment.
• Verbally abuse children and use strategies of targeted and sustained criticism, belittling or teasing.
• Share special secrets with individual children.
• Show favours or give gifts to individual children when this is not the practice with other students.
• Be inconsistent in applying consequences to or making allowances for a child’s behaviour.
• Drive students in their cars unless they have specific permission, and do so in accordance with school policy.
• Give students or encourage or condone the consumption of alcohol, tobacco or prohibited substances.
• Under any circumstances engage in improper conduct of a sexual nature with a student including sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual misconduct including:
  ★ obscene language or gestures of a sexual nature;
  ★ suggestive remarks, actions or jokes of a sexual nature;
  ★ unwarranted and inappropriate touching;
  ★ sexual exhibitionism or undressing in front of students, possession, distribution or display of pornography;
  ★ personal correspondence, emails or sms (text) messages containing sexually explicit, offensive, inappropriate jokes or messages in respect of the employee’s sexual feelings for the student.

• Apply corporal punishment or physical force to punish or correct a student.
• Use prohibited behaviour management practices which include:
  ★ using an object, such as a ruler, book, duster, chalk or whiteboard marker to gain a child’s attention in a hostile or inappropriate physical manner;
  ★ hitting or kicking a student;
  ★ holding or restraining a student other than to prevent injury or harm to the student or other students;
  ★ shaking or throwing a student;
  ★ pushing, pulling, shoving, grabbing, pinching or poking a student;
  ★ intimidating or swearing at a student;
  ★ humiliating a student;
  ★ criticising a student rather than a student’s actions;
  ★ locking a student in a confined space;
  ★ refusing biological needs as a means of punishment;
  ★ applying painful or noxious conditions;
  ★ using practices which instill fear, or using fear as a means to control a student;
  ★ using practices which cause a student to feel alienated;
  ★ using psychotropic medication to manage a student’s behaviour as opposed to treatment for a diagnosed condition;
  ★ exposing a student to material that contain violent, inappropriate sexual messages or adult concepts and themes that are inappropriate given the student’s age and curriculum expectations.

• All students should be treated equally with no particular student singled out for particular attention.
• Words and behaviours must be acceptable under any circumstances.
• Standards of dress must be professional when on school property.
• Use of language must be appropriate and non-threatening.
• SRE teachers/assistants must be equally available to all students.
• Personal feelings must not be allowed to effect my interactions with students.
• Interactions with a student which may be seen as demeaning or belittling are not acceptable.
LENTEN PENANCE

The Church’s Canon Law reaffirms our obligation to do penance. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent. We recall that St. John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by “preaching a baptism of repentance”. Christ began his ministry on earth with the exhortation to repent: “Repent and believe the Gospel” Mk 1:15.

Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with God. Penance is the concrete expression of repentance. It takes the forms of prayer, self-denial, and works of charity. Each of these identifies us more closely with our Saviour. By penance we make satisfaction for our sins, and take real steps in the renewal of our lives. Penance is the proof of our repentance. Repentance and conversion are central, on-going features of Christian living. Penance has to be a constant, even daily, practice in our lives. In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance.

Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call “the social dimension of sin”. The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. Where we make the choice, we should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Rules for Lent follow in (a), (b), and (c).

2. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

3. On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer — for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial — for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one’s own country.

(c) helping others — for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY TO THE MASS OF THE LORD’S Supper exclusive. ON GOOD FRIDAY AND, IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL, THE EASTER FAST IS OBSERVED.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.
Student Activities

Lent is a time to:

Give
Care
Share
Pray
Fast
Help
Love
Sacrifice
Forgive
Respect

Match these words to the definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ash Wednesday</th>
<th>The liturgical colour of Lent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple/violet</td>
<td>Talking to God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 days</td>
<td>Eating less food or giving up other things we like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Giving money, food, clothing etc to the poor or helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasting</td>
<td>Putting the needs of others ahead of our own needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almsgiving</td>
<td>The first day of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconcile</td>
<td>The number of days in Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self denial</td>
<td>Make things right again</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 5 Lesson 6

Once you have found the words, you can solve the mystery message.

To solve the mystery message write down each unused letter. Make sure you go row by row from top to bottom. We have started the message for you.

_ _ V _ _ _ D AND _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ S.

Year 3 Lesson 7
# Catechist Ministry Certificate

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

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

## Term One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Place of Sacred Scripture in the Roman Catholic Tradition (MC01)</td>
<td>Dr Charles Hill</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sacraments of Initiation (MI07)</td>
<td>Maree Nelson</td>
<td>CCD Office Hoxton Park</td>
<td>March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sacraments of Initiation (MI07)</td>
<td>Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday April 18-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Term Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Religious Education (MC02)</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology 1: Making Sense of Faith (MC03)</td>
<td>John Mannah</td>
<td>CCD Office Hoxton Park</td>
<td>May 4, 11, 18, 25 June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Teachings on Mary (MI21)</td>
<td>Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday July 4-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Term Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church: Universal and Local (MC06)</td>
<td>Dr Charles Hill</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>August 21, 28 September 4, 11, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legacy of Pope John II (MI23)</td>
<td>Maree Nelson</td>
<td>CCD Office Hoxton Park</td>
<td>August 17, 24, 31 September 7, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholics and the Church in Film, Art and Literature (MI24)</td>
<td>Lucy O'Connell</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday October 3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Term Four

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentalism (MI06)</td>
<td>Dr Charles Hill</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology 2: Current Issues(MI04)</td>
<td>John Mannah</td>
<td>CCD Office Hoxton Park</td>
<td>October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controversies in Church History (MI22)</td>
<td>Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday December 12-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Workshops**

**Basic Accreditation Program**

**Bankstown Area**
St Peter Chanel Parish, 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala  
**Fridays** 11:30am-2:30pm  
February, 17, 24  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
April 7

Korean Martyrs & St Stanislaus Church  
26 Carnarvon St, Silverwater  
**Saturdays** 10:am-12noon  
February, 4, 11, 18, 25  
March 4, 11, 18, 25

**City Area**
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney  
**Monday** 10am-1pm  
Feb 20, 27,  
March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
April 3, 10

**Concord Area**
Holy Spirit Parish, Cox’s Road, North Ryde  
**Mondays** 10am-1pm  
February 20, 27,  
March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
April 3, 10

**Concord Area**
St Joseph’s Maronite Catholic Church  
Acton Street, Croydon  
**Saturday** 10am-1pm  
February 25  
March 4, 11, 18  
**Wednesdays** 10am-1pm  
March 1, 8, 15, 22

**Sutherland / St George Area**
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda  
**Fridays** 10am-1pm  
February 17, 24  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
April 7

**Western Area**
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish  
230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard  
**Mondays** 11am-2pm  
( bring your own lunch)  
February 13, 20, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27  
April 3

**Intermediate Accreditation Program**

**Bankstown Area**
Our Lady of Fatima, 280 Homer St, Earlwood  
**Wednesdays** 10:30am-1:30pm  
February 15, 22  
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
April 5

**Sutherland / St George Area**
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda  
**Fridays** 10am-1pm  
February 17, 24  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
April 7

**Advanced Accreditation Program**

**Bankstown Area**
St Joseph’s Parish  
763 Canterbury Rd, Belmore  
**Mondays** 9:45am-12:45pm  
February 20, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
April 3, 10

**Sutherland / St George Area**
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda  
**Mondays** 10am-1pm  
February 13, 20, 27,  
March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
April 3

**Western Area**
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish  
230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard  
**Mondays** 11am-2pm  
( bring your own lunch)  
February 13, 20, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27  
April 3

& Meetings
**ORIENTATION MEETINGS**

**City Area**
- **Monday 6 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
- **Friday 10 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  St Joseph's Parish, Kimberly Grove Rosebery

**Bankstown Area**
- **Monday 6 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  St Joseph's Parish Hall, 21B Frederick Street, Oatley
- **Friday 10 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  St Felix de Valois' Parish Centre, 550 Chapel Road, Bankstown

**Concord Area**
- **Wednesday 15 February**
  10am - 1 pm
  Holy Spirit Parish, Cox’s Road, North Ryde
- **Thursday 16 February**
  10am - 1 pm
  Holy Innocents Parish, 36 Cheltenham Road, Croydon

**Sutherland/St George Area**
- **Friday 3 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  St Gabriel's Parish, 18 Salisbury Avenue, Bexley
- **Monday 6 February**
  10am - 12 noon
  CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

**Western Area**
- **Friday 10 February**
  10am - 12:30pm
  Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, 230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard

**PARISH CATECHIST COORDINATORS MEETINGS**

**Bankstown Area**
- **Friday 3 February**
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street
  Sydney
  10am - 1pm

**City Area**
- **Friday 17 February**
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street
  Sydney
  10am—1pm

**Concord Area**
- **Monday 13 February**
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street
  Sydney
  10am - 1pm

**Sutherland/St George Area**
- **Friday 10 February**
  St Thomas More Parish, 298 Bay Street
  Brighton-Le-Sands
  10am - 12 noon

**Western Area**
- **Monday 6 February**
  Liverpool Catholic Club, Cnr Hoxton Park & Joadja Rds
  Liverpool West
  10am - 1pm
One in God’s Family is the Lenten Program produced by the Catholic Adult Education Centre for use throughout the Archdiocese of Sydney in 2006. It consists of a booklet and a CD, for use in small groups, for five sessions spread over five consecutive weeks.

Practical considerations first: the booklet is very appealing; each of the five sessions is well set-out and easy to follow. The selections of beautiful artworks which accompany the text make the booklet both visually and textually conducive to meditation.

This program is well-balanced. It is not so solidly reading—or listening—based that it will repel those trained to prefer discussion to instruction. However, it also avoids the shallowness inherent in those programs designed specifically to cater for this weakness, programs which seem reticent to impart in-depth material. The balance achieved between prayer, reading, listening, meditation, discussion, and song should hold the attention of the less experienced or less committed participant, while the serious seeker will certainly still be enriched after a one-hour session.

Praying the Psalm each session in the customary manner of the Divine Office enables participants to tap into the very prayer of the Church, second only in importance to the Mass. The option of practising Lectio Divina gives participants the opportunity to experience one the Church’s most ancient and venerable methods of spiritual reading, which has nourished the lives of great saints from the Church’s earliest days.

The inclusion of testimonies from converts and ‘reverts’ is an excellent idea. These glimpses into lives so profoundly changed by God leave a deep impression of the universality of His call, of the privilege of faith, and of the relevance of the Gospel.

Catechists undertaking the One in God’s Family Lenten program will certainly benefit both spiritually and intellectually. We recommend that our catechists not only undertake the program but take the opportunity to promote it to families through the students involved in special religious education. Finally, congratulations should be given to all those in the Catholic Adult Education Centre involved in this wonderful initiative.

Available from The Catholic Adult Education Centre
Phone: (02) 9643 3660 Fax (02) 9643 3669
Email: info@caec.com.au
Postage & Handling Australiawide
10 or fewer booklets: $6.50
11—30 booklets: $9.50
31+ booklets: $15.00

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
Four Catholic Foundations

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

2. 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.

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

4. 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.