FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the time of writing I have commenced duties as the Director of Religious Education and Evangelisation for the Catholic Education Office. Although I am now based at Leichhardt and have many important responsibilities to fulfill with the Catholic schools I will maintain a close working relationship with the CCD. In particular I will work to ensure that there is a successful transition with the new General Manager. I will also commit personal time and energy to bring a number of projects to fruition and completion. The most important of these projects is of course the Christ Our Light and Life curriculum series. Given the national significance of this work I will remain as its General Editor for the foreseeable future.

Currently we of course celebrate the great joy of the resurrection, a time to focus on the victory of Christ over death and sin. During Holy Week we experience a myriad of emotions as we connect with the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Easter Season is a time of great joy for every person. We have a chance not only to celebrate Christ’s victory, but also to share in it and enjoy the rewards of this victory. As Christians we must also share the joy of the Risen Christ, proudly proclaiming ALLELUIA!

In this regard, the catechists of the Archdiocese are true evangelisers of the Good News. Connecting young people with the risen Jesus Christ, and the mission of the Church, is a great challenge for all those who have the privilege to work with them. As Duminuco (1999) remarks “students want their teachers to be a living example which will lead them beyond reflection to aspire to live what the words mean” (p.142). I can confidently remark that we are very fortunate in the Archdiocese of Sydney to have 2,000 catechists who create a classroom environment in which a genuine and living Christian faith is nurtured, strengthened and modelled.

In Term 2 our catechist ranks will be bolstered by eight seminarians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd. This year I have been both pleased and privileged to teach the third year seminarians in preparation for their pastoral placement as catechists in state schools. This was an incredibly rewarding experience and is an important affiliation that the CCD must continue in the future. The seminarians were given a comprehensive overview of and preparation in Child Protection, Classroom Management, Communications Skills, Public Speaking and Lesson Preparation. I was very pleased with how quickly these young men grasped the complexity of our work and their eagerness to become involved.

I would like to thank Fr Graham Kings (Parish Priest of St Peter Chanel’s parish Berala) and Mrs Romiane Cheema for their coordination of the seminarians during Term 2. We welcome David Cox, Lan Duong, Long Nguyen, Peter Wood, Andrew Curtin, Joseph Gedeon, Peter Tran and Tomasz Pierzchala to our ranks.

During Term 2 catechists will become more aware of World Youth Day (WYD) and the various preparations that will take place that will involve the Catholic children in the public schools.

In March I was appointed as the chair of the Schools’ Working Committee for WYD 2008. Lucas Hurley, Faith Education Officer for the Western region is also a member of this committee. The Schools’ Working Committee will commission Writing Teams and Associate Members from throughout Australia to prepare senior primary (Years 5-6) and secondary classroom RE materials to complement the general WYD promotion. The material will be packaged as Resource Kits and it is envisaged that they will be made available for use in Catholic and Public schools throughout Australia. The Resource Kits will be available nationally from 2nd semester 2006 until the end of 2nd semester 2008. The character of the materials will be biblically, theologically and spiritually rich, and in keeping with the spirit and content of the World Youth Days, and the themes for the WYD 2006, 2007 and especially 2008: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). I can assure you that the quality of the materials produced by this group will be first class and I look forward to your feedback on them.

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Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Catechist Newsletter Term Two 2006
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As was previously advertised in the Catholic Weekly there will be a colouring in competition for younger children in the lead up to World Youth Day. It has been decided that this competition will not be run separately by CCD but will be incorporated into the first Resource Kit released in early Semester Two. This is another example of CCD leading the way with initiatives for young children.

Although I am very excited about my work with WYD 2008, and of course my new position with the Catholic Education Office I still remain so enthused and motivated by what is happening at the CCD, it is work which is credible, dynamic and visionary. Above all, the work of the CCD has remained at the service of the Church, and in particular at the service of those most in need. This commitment to those in need is illustrated through our current task of translating the Christ Our Light and Life program into a number of languages including Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic and Samoan so as to better serve ethnic communities. Further to this we are currently investigating and pursuing the development of resources with the Royal Blind and Deaf Society. Our commitment to those in need is further typified through our recent involvement with the Carinya School at Mortdale for students with special needs.

Although a great many things have been achieved there still are “great unchartered territories ... many rivers to cross and many mountains to climb” (Duignan & d’Arbon, 1998, p.112). As I look to the months ahead I see a time of great promise and of great challenge, a time when CCD will again seek innovative ways of meeting the needs of the catechists and the children they teach and the families that they come from. As many of you will be aware the CCD is launching a double CD during Term 2. This CD, which has brought together the combined efforts and talents of catechists, faith education officers, parents, children and ethnic choirs will showcase traditional and contemporary Church and children’s music. Almost single handedly, Natalie Konakov has written and directed the production of this double CD. The feature track, and theme for the new curriculum The Light and the Life can be heard by logging onto our website at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

The CCD website is the other developing and ever expanding initiative of the organisation. Currently, the site enables visitors to access information on

Faith Education Services
Catechist Education
Calendar and Events
Strategic Management Plan
Parish Resources
Newsletter
Message Board

Further to this is upgrading the Curriculum Resources section so that it is interactive. This is being developed to support the new program. Catechists will be able to access teaching and learning resources including graphics, puzzles, quizzes and other materials ideal for the classroom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Catholic Communications for much of the work that has been done in developing this website. From the beginning of Term 2 feedback regarding the website should be directed to Mr David Mayor, who was recently appointed as the Executive Assistant.

David has a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Information Technology and Management as well as Diplomas in Computer Applications and Photography. David has significant professional experience in website development, office administration and management. David is actively involved in St Patrick’s parish Mortlake. We wish David every success in his time with CCD.

On this occasion I would like to extend my gratitude to the staff of the CCD and commend them on their sense of commitment and vision. Often their work goes unnoticed and unrecognised but it is vitally important to affirm each and every staff member for their support of the catechists, the parishes and the Church.

I have long been motivated by the quote

*I shall only pass through this world but once.
Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow being, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.*

By observation I feel that this quote is also a source of inspiration for many catechists and for the staff of the CCD.

I would like to thank the various people with whom I have worked in this challenging and exciting ministry, a ministry that has been a source of renewal both personally and professionally. The ministry in which we work is based upon evangelisation and evangelisation brings the power of transformation, transformation not only of our own individual lives, but of the lives of the people around us.

May our lives, and the lives of the children we teach, be transformed by the Good News, the message of the Risen Christ.

Yours In Christ,

Anthony Cleary
DIRECTOR
We were recently reminded of the mercy of our Lord this Easter; the faith and hope that the resurrection brings is tremendous. I know it is difficult to picture Jesus Christ in his glory, keeping his mother company together with the saints in heaven. To behold the sight of our resurrected Lord – that is something we can currently only hope – that is to walk beside him, to even dare imagine laying our head on his chest as the gospel writer and youngest Apostle, St John did on the evening of Holy Thursday (St John 13:23). But in reality we can and do dare to be in (Holy) Communion with him at least on a weekly basis. What a privilege, what a gift, what a God!

Term 2 is as busy a time as ever, especially this year given the partial introduction of the new curriculum, Christ Our Light and Life. It has been a challenging period for the CCD and parishes, but having overcome some practical difficulties which are only natural with such a major change, the feedback about the program has been overwhelmingly positive. Essentially we supply you with the best material we can hope to develop, and you, disciples and witnesses of Christ, are the bearers of the truth; “The duty of Christians to take part in the life of the Church impels them to act as witnesses of the Gospel and of the obligations that flow from it … Witness is an act of justice that establishes the truth or makes it known.” (CCC 2472)

We have much to look forward to this term. Our Area Mass is to be held at St Peter Chanel’s Parish Berala, on Friday 19 May at 11am. The Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering will be at Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club on Monday 1 May commencing at 10.30am. The focus of the Gathering will be the new curriculum Christ Our Light and Life. At the Gathering there will be an overview of the Year 1 material, Lesson Planning for Term 2 and getting the most out of resources. The presenters will be Mr Anthony Cleary, Mrs Denise Humphreys, Mr Robert Milan and Br Julian Quinlan.

Courses offered this term include the Basic Accreditation on Monday mornings at Panania and the Intermediate Accreditation at Silverwater on Saturdays. Dates for various Cluster Meetings for Catechist Coordinators are listed on p15.

It is important to consider how we impart the image of Jesus Christ to the children we teach every week because teaching about Christ is the central motivation of catechesis. It continues to amaze me (as I am sure it amazes you) the way that our relationship with Christ develops constantly, and the more we get to know about him the more we can’t help but love him. It impresses me to see that in accreditation courses, catechists are filled with so much zeal and renewed enthusiasm about their faith.

Maybe in time I will cease to be surprised at the response of us as individuals to the truths of our faith – but if catechists cannot help but love the faith to the point where it is obvious that their hearts are ablaze with the charity that God puts there, how can the children resist the desire to also find the source of their happiness! Therefore consider closely the best method to assist the children in their desire to want to approach Christ, turn to him, talk to him, be with him and love him. Help them to realise that God is the most tangible being and reality in the person of Jesus Christ.

As written in the prayer of Pope Benedict XVI; May our Holy Mother Mary “show us Jesus. Lead us to him. Teach us to know and love him, so we too can be capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.” (Deus Caritas Est, p. 69.)

Josephine Elias
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**City Area**

**In the risen Christ all creation rises to new life**

Happy Easter! Easter brings the good news that Christ is risen and comes alive in special people like our Catechists. The Resurrection of Christ is our most important gospel teaching. St. Paul reminds us “If Christ was not raised, our faith is worthless” (1 Cor 15:17). Every Easter, Christians around the world celebrate the return to life of him who suffered, died and was buried - and “on the third day rose again!”

The great truth of Easter is that we live new lives here and now by the power of the Resurrection. We need to trust in the power of the risen Saviour. We need also to be confident that we can effectively “sow the seeds” (Jn 4:37-38) of faith to the children entrusted to our care.

My first term at CCD has been very rewarding and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with many of the catechists, in their parishes and in their schools. This first-hand experience has provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation of the wonderful work that is being done. It has been great to share ideas and experiences, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of the opinions of others. In particular, it has been wonderful to teach in a number of schools and this has ensured an easy transition for me from my teaching career, dealing with the students has been a great joy and it is so good to see their enthusiastic and happy faces as they learn about the good news of Jesus Christ. I have received many reports commending the new curriculum project Christ Our Light and Life from priests, catechists and parents. Having taught this curriculum myself I can say such reports are very true. The students enjoy what they are learning and are keen to take the activity sheet home to show their parents. In this way we are not only evangelising the children but also their family. Having reviewed the curriculum last year I was confident that it would be successful. Now CCD is clearly able to reap the fruits and rewards of their work. I congratulate all who contributed to this process and can promise you that there is even better material to come.

Our Area Mass this year will be held at St Mary’s and St Joseph’s Parish Maroubra Bay/Beach, on Friday 5 May at 12 noon. My special thanks go to Fr John De Luca and Mrs Carmel Cessario for their organisation of this occasion. It will be wonderful to see as many catechists from the City Area as possible as it is an important opportunity for us to recognise and acknowledge the wonderful work that you do.

In recent weeks I have been very pleased to represent the CCD at a number of special functions, which have included:

- the opening of the University of Notre Dame (Broadway Campus);
- the opening of Campion College;
- the launch of The Church’s Story: A history of pastoral care and vision by Fr Peter Lynch;
- the Archdiocesan organising committee for the Eucharistic Procession.

Term 2 promises to be just as busy. Following the success of the Basic Accreditation Course, which was conducted at the Polding Centre, I will be offering a number of courses in the coming weeks. For those who have successfully completed the first level of accreditation I will be offering an Intermediate Course. This will be held at St Michael’s Parish Hall Daceyville on Mondays between 10am-1pm commencing from 8 May. Catechists are invited to bring a plate for a shared lunch.

Further to this I am very pleased to be involved in the teaching of the Catechist Ministry Certificate. Having studied a Bachelor of Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney and a Masters of Theology from the Broken Bay Institute I am very happy to offer Theology I. If you would like to enrol in either course please contact me on 9390 5122 or email john@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au.

I would like to wish all catechists every success in the coming term. The work that you do is very important, not just to the children that you teach, but to your parishes and to the Church as a whole. Your work provides us with a wonderful example of giving and reminds me of the words of the great philosopher Khalil Gibran, “you give but little when you give of your possessions. It’s when you give of yourself that you truly give.” Through our giving may we continue to be faithful to the Gospel in our work and in our lives.

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FAITH EDUCATION SERVICES

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Catechist Newsletter Term Two 2006
The Lord has risen from the dead! Truly he has risen! We begin the new term with the Resurrection of our Lord and I extend a warm, happy and holy Easter to our parish priests, coordinators, catechists, assistant catechists and families and friends from the Concord Area for the joy, light and life they bring to this important ministry.

The implementation of the new curriculum Christ Our Light and Life has been embraced with enthusiasm as this has been reflected through our sales and demand exceeding supply. I am sure we are all looking forward to the release of the program in its entirety in 2007.

The coordinators meeting held in February was extremely successful and I thank all who attended. It was pleasing to see new faces. Out of the 28 coordinators we had 19 attend with 2 apologies. I hope the Term 3 meeting will continue to build up a presence of coordinators. If coordinators have any suggestions about future meetings that is venues, times and dates, especially 2007 onwards, I would like to hear from you. All suggestions will be considered!

Coordinators please note that the Concord Program that I issued to those that attended the meeting that some dates and courses have changed. I will outline some of the changes below as well as in the current issue of this newsletter.

Term 2 sees a continuation of the Accreditation courses with two venues set down to run courses. The first will be an Intermediate Course commencing on Wednesday 3 May at St Joseph’s Maronite Catholic Church, Croydon and will run for six weeks. Start times will be 9.30am-1.30pm. The course will complete at a shorter space of time, yet meet the 24 hours required (see current issue of newsletter for further dates.) Another time slot and venue is Holy Spirit Parish, Cox’s Road, North Ryde, which will run on Friday’s from 10am-1pm, commencing on 5 May for a period of eight weeks (see current issue of newsletter for further dates.)

A reminder that the Concord Area Mass will be varied this year and will occur on Thursday 8 June with the host Parish being St Mark’s Drummoyne, at 12 noon and followed by lunch at 1pm. Please note that this time has been altered from 11am to the new time of 12 noon in order to cater for catechists who teach on Thursday and finish early enough to be able to attend. I look forward to seeing all coordinators and catechists at this event, it is a fantastic opportunity to mingle with fellow catechists, meet a new face and share ideas.

Finally, I look forward to visiting some of your parishes this term. Please feel free to call upon my assistance at any time and for any recruitment, advice, teaching or just a chat. Have a wonderful term and may God’s peace remain in you always.

Robert Milan
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The Easter season is here again. This is the time to teach your students that the Lord is risen and rejoice, Alleluia! Alleluia! You must have noticed those lessons in our curriculum that deal with the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Do not rush them – do not think it is too late to teach them – the Easter season continues until Pentecost Sunday (5 June this year). When it comes to teaching the joy of Easter to our students, our own example is paramount. If we come to class with a negative attitude or with lingering memories of a frustrating last lesson, how will the students see us as a model of God’s love? Children are keenly aware of body language.

A highlight of last term’s activities was the inservice given by Br Julian Quinlan on biblical storytelling. Br Julian demonstrated many ways to ‘impress’ our students by meeting them at their level with scripture stories. When Jesus talked to people he used parables – stories that met them where they were and helped them understand his teachings using real life examples. Thank you Br Julian, you showed us how to bring the scriptures ‘alive’ in the classroom.

Br Julian has developed A3 resource materials for the Kindergarten and Year 3 curriculum. Hopefully your coordinator has been able to distribute the Term 2 materials by the time you are reading this newsletter – and you have taken the time to colour and prepare them for your lessons. Please remember there is a selection of pictures at Miranda that you may like to borrow. I am at the Miranda office most Mondays and Fridays just come down and browse.

During this term we will again have some of the third year seminarians working in the state high schools of the Sutherland - St George area. Over the past three years we have been privileged to have seminarians teaching Year 10 Catholic students at Cronulla and Wooloware High schools during the second term. At a parish Mass at Cronulla recently I had the opportunity to speak with Veronica, one of the students from Wooloware high school. She reaffirmed the value of this venture and spoke of how impressed most of her class had been by the seminarians the previous year.

An enthusiastic group of catechists, including once again a significant number of gentlemen, participated in the Basic and Intermediate Accreditation Courses at Miranda last term. Mondays and Fridays at Miranda saw lots of discussion, plenty of questions and even a little experiment in drama, role-playing and a venture into making ‘3D’ biblical people. As an added service the mobile bookshop visited during the course – giving the new catechists some idea of what resources are available in Polding Centre. This term there will be two accreditation courses held at the Miranda CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road Miranda. I would encourage catechists to attend these courses. The Intermediate Accreditation Course (IAC) commences on Monday 8 May, and the Advanced Accreditation Course (AAC), commences on Friday 5 May. Both of these courses will run from 10am-1pm.

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
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Term 1 2006 has started very positively. With 25 new catechists attending the Basic Accreditation Course at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Pritchard. It has been inspiring for me to witness the commitment of those new catechists who are willing to put up their hand and be counted as missionaries of God's kingdom in spreading the Good News.

To catechise in the public school is crucial to the mission of the Church, especially in the times in which we are living. In the Western region approximately 425 catechists in 16 parishes preach the Gospel to over 7500 public school students. For this I would like to honour and thank everyone for the work they are doing, especially the coordinators of the parishes who are most definitely, “storing up treasure in heaven.” (Matt 6:20) In saying this however, we have the opportunity to do much more.

In the Western region, there are 20 public high schools, only three of which are attended by catechists. I am currently investigating this and seeking ways for improvement. This has involved meeting with coordinators of the parishes and some of the youth agencies within the Church to discuss strategies of creating a Catholic presence within more public high schools in the West. After meeting with the principal of Holsworthy High School, I am pleased to report that Catholic scripture will once again be taught in Term 2 after almost a decade of absence. I hope to report soon of more progress being made in this area.

The feedback I am receiving from the catechists in regards to teaching in the high schools is that some feel hesitant because of the difficulties they have in relating and conveying the faith to this generation of high school students. I would like to encourage those catechists, who experience this hesitation but feel they could be effective in the high school, that there is nothing to be afraid of. If you are open, Jesus will give you what you need, and will give you the words to speak. Remember his promise to be with you “always” (Matt 28:20). His message is for all generations.

Recently I was appointed to the World Youth Day (WYD) Schools Working Committee. This committee has been commissioned to develop the WYD curriculum for Catholic and public high schools on a national level. Currently we are in the process of developing this curriculum, which seeks to inform the youth of Australia about WYD and create a sense of belonging and ownership which invites a response of full participation. It is hoped that phase 1 of this curriculum will be released in Term 3 of this year.

Finally I would like to make mention of the importance of the continual spiritual formation of you, the catechist. Jesus always took time out to go and pray with his Father, and so in imitation of him, “imitate me, for I am meek and humble of heart,” (Matt 11:29) we too should take the regular opportunity to pray and reflect on our ministry. A few parishes have asked me to conduct half day spiritual reflection days. These reflection days would involve prayer, Holy Mass, and a few talks on different aspects of teaching methods and the spiritual life. I am holding a Day of Reflection at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mt Pritchard on Friday 19 May from 10am-2:30pm, please bring your lunch, tea and coffee is provided.

Dates to Remember:

Western Area Mass is on Friday 26 May at St John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg starting at 12 noon.

Western Area Coordinators Meeting on Monday 31 July at St Gertrude's Parish House, Smithfield from 10am-1pm.

Term 2, 2006 Accreditation Courses:

Basic Accreditation Course running on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-9pm starting on 2 May at St John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg (8 week duration).

Intermediate Accreditation Course running on Mondays from 11am-2pm starting on 8 May at The Good Shepherd, Hoxton Park (8 week duration).

Lucas Hurley
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Lucas Hurley is pictured with John and Karen Doyle, who run “Choicez Ministry” programs, directed to the youth on relationships and life issues.
Disc One
The Light And The Life
The Holy Rosary
Place Of Happiness
I Thank You Jesus
I Will Tell Of Your Wonders
Easter Time
Monica
Jesus My Friend
Lord Hear Us
New Life

Disc Two
Divine Praises
The Lord’s Prayer
Mary Be A Mother To Me
Kyrie
The Lord’s Prayer – Latin
Christus Factus
Prayer To St Brigid
The Lord’s Prayer – Korean
Away In A Manger
Gaudete
Twelve Days Of Christmas
The Holy Rosary

NEW MUSIC CD COMING SOON!
Until a year ago I never really understood the meaning of 1 Cor 12:3: "No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ unless the Spirit tells him."

In 100 years’ time, when you and I are both dead, and someone wants to know who we were, where will they go to find out? Will they do a TAFE course on Australian political thought over the past 50-60 years, study topography of the Sydney region, climate change affecting the Sydney Basin, popular music since the 60’s to today? If after all that study, that completes their investigation, they may come to believe that you and I thought the same things and were ‘typical Australians’! But, hang on, you protest, you are a completely different person to me! You’re right! If the foregoing is all anyone considered before deciding who you and I were, we could end up being carbon copies of one another! Perhaps a more accurate way to find out who you are and who I am is to read what we said and what we did. Therefore, you have to feel pretty sorry for people who have lost all faith in the Scriptures, particularly the New Testament. To find out who Jesus really was, it is pointless just studying the history of Jewish thought and cultural life around 2000 years ago, the effect of the presence of the Romans in Palestine, the topography of the region, etc etc. Why not read what Jesus said and what he did?

You can only find out what Jesus said and did by reading the Scriptures. But what happens if you doubt the authorship and reliability of the Scriptures and commence to accept that these were reminiscences 2nd or 3rd hand? You’ve heard some say that early Christians thought certain things about Jesus and recorded their own beliefs about Jesus … but it was only their opinion. Then, unfortunately, you have a serious decision to make: either you trust the Scriptures as the inspired word of God or you don’t. If you don’t, you have no way of finding out who Jesus was. What a tragedy!

In the New Testament, Jesus says who he is and why he came to the earth. He said he was God, and God’s only Son. They crucified him for it—“He said God was his Father, making himself equal to God,” (John 5:18; 10:33; 19:7). Isaiah had already prophesied that the Messiah would be God Himself, so when we hear Jesus asking his closest friends, “Who do you say I am?” we see that for Jesus, that is the most pressing question! Like Simon Peter (Matthew 16:17) we need to accept him personally as our Lord and Saviour to be a follower of his and one of his friends. But here’s the rub—St Paul and Jesus himself (1 Cor. 12:3; Matt. 16:17) remind us that only those whom the Spirit informs, can say, ‘Jesus is God.’ That poses no hurdle if you accept the reliability of the Scriptures—because Jesus says that His Words are Spirit and Life. So if we read Jesus’ words and meditate with them the Spirit will inform us. This discovery, this moment is known as “the kerygma” It means ‘proclamation.’ Let’s pursue that kerygma and beg the Holy Spirit to anoint us with it.

Louise Brady
I dreamed I had an interview with God.
“So you would like to interview me?” God asked.
“If you have the time” I said.
God smiled. “My time is eternity.”
“What questions do you have in mind for me?”
“What surprises you most about humankind?”
God answered...
“That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up, and then
long to be children again.”
“That they lose their health to make money... and then lose their money to restore their health.”
“That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.”

The Interview With God

“That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived.”
God’s hand took mine and we were silent for a while. And then I asked... “As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”
“To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved.”
“To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.”
“To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.”
“To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them.”

“To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.”
“To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply have not yet learned how to express or show their feelings.”
“To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.”
“To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves.”

“Thank you for your time,” I said humbly.
“Is there anything else you would like your children to know?”
God smiled and said, “Just know that I am here... always.”

Author Unknown

The Interview With God

An Eight Year Old’s Belief in God
A third-grade homework assignment
(Taken from the Parish Bulletin of St Peter Chanel, Deer Park Melb)

One of God’s main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn’t make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn’t have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God’s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn’t have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn’t go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad’s head asking for something they said you couldn’t have.

Atheists are people who don’t believe in God. I don’t think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren’t any who come to our church.

Jesus is God’s Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and people finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him.

But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn’t know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said “okay”. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn’t have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there’s anybody you want to make happy, it’s God. Don’t skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn’t come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don’t believe in God, besides being atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can’t go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He’s around you when you’re scared in the dark or when you can’t swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.
When Jesus went back to heaven, his disciples were very sad. What did Jesus say to them to make them feel better? To find out cross out each letter of the alphabet in order. Write the remaining letters on the lines provided.

This resource page can be used with lesson 12 Jesus returns to his Father from the kindergarten program, or any other lesson on the Ascension.
St Paul told the early Christians about the fruits of the Spirit. St Paul not only said what the fruits were but why we must make them a part of our lives and develop them as we grow. The names of the fruits are scrambled. Unscramble them and then work out where each fruit belongs in the picture below.

itFesolahfn: ____________  enyGesirot: ____________
caePe: ____________
netlGesens: ____________
oJy: ____________
leSf ooCtnl ____________
atnciPee: ____________
ednsKins: ____________
oGdesons: ____________

This resource page can be used with lesson 15 Fruits Of The Spirit from the year 5 program, or any lesson on the Fruits of the Spirit.
## Term Two

**Foundations of Religious Education (MC02)**  
Robert Milan  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
**Mondays:** 10am-1pm  
May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5  

**Church Teachings on Mary (MI21)**  
Robert Haddad  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
9am-2pm  
**Tuesday and Wednesday** July 4, 5

**Theology 1: Making Sense of Faith (MC03)**  
John Manah  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
**Dates to be advised.**

## Term Three

**Church: Universal and Local (MC06)**  
Dr Charles Hill  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
**Mondays:** 10am-1pm  
August 21, 28 September 4, 11, 18

**Catholics and the Church in Film, Art and Literature (MI24)**  
Lucy O’Connell  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
9am-2pm  
**Tuesday and Wednesday** October 3, 4

**The Legacy of Pope John II (MI23)**  
Maree Nelson  
CCD Office Hoxton Park  
21 Twentieth Ave, Hoxton Park  
**Thursdays:** 10am-1pm  
August 17, 24, 31 September 7, 14

## Term Four

**Fundamentalism (MI06)**  
Dr Charles Hill  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
**Mondays:** 10am-1pm  
October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27

**Controversies in Church History (MI22)**  
Robert Haddad  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
9am-2pm  
**Tuesday and Wednesday** December 12, 13

**Theology 2: Current Issues (MI04)**  
John Mannah  
CCD Office Hoxton Park  
21 Twentieth Ave, Hoxton Park  
**Thursdays:** 10am-1pm  
October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23

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**Catechist Ministry Certificate**

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

*Please telephone Carmel Duffy on 9390 5122 to enrol for any of the units listed below.*
Basic Accreditation Program  
Term Two

Catholic Chaplaincy, Macquarie University  
9am-5pm  
April 26, 27, 28

To enrol for the Basic Accreditation Program at Macquarie University contact Robert Milan ph 9390 5122

Bankstown Area  
St Christopher’s Parish  
233 Tower Street, Panania  
Mondays: 10am-1pm  
May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 19, 26

Western Area  
St John the Baptist  
Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights  
Tuesday Evenings: 7pm-9pm  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20

Intermediate Accreditation Program  
Term Two

Bankstown Area  
Korean Martyrs & St Stanislaus Church  
26 Carnarvon Street, Silverwater  
Saturdays: 10am-12noon  
May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24

City Area  
St Michael’s Parish  
29 Banks Avenue, Daceyville  
Mondays: 10am-1pm  
May 8, 15, 22, 29

Concord Area  
St Joseph’s Maronite Parish Hall  
Acton Street, Croydon  
Wednesdays: 9.30am-1.30pm  
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7

Sutherland-St George Area  
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiolar Road, Miranda  
Fridays: 10am-1pm  
May 5, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Basic Accreditation Program  
Term Two

Sutherland-St George Area  
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiolar Road, Miranda  
Fridays: 10am-1pm  
May 5, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Bankstown Area Cluster Meetings  
Term Two

Belmore, Beverly Hills, Campsie, Clemton Park,  
Earlwood, Kingsgrove, Peakhurst, Penrhurst  
Venue: Our Lady of Fatima, Kingsgrove  
Day/Date: Monday 8 May  
Time: 10am

Enfield, Greenacre, Lakemba, Punchbowl,  
Riverwood, Strathfield South  
Venue: Strathfield  
(Please contact Josephine Elias Ph 9390 5122 for  
 further venue details)  
Day/Date: Wednesday 24 May  
Time: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Georges Hall, Oatley, Padstow, Panania,  
Revesby and Revesby Heights  
Venue: St Patrick’s Church, Revesby Heights  
Day/Date: Monday 19 June  
Time: 1:30pm

Advanced Accreditation Program  
Term Two

Holy Spirit Parish  
191 Cox’s Road, North Ryde  
Fridays: 10am-1pm  
May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23

Western Area  
The Good Shepherd Parish  
21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park  
Mondays: 11am-2pm  
May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 19, 26

Bankstown Area  
St Christopher’s Parish  
233 Tower Street, Panania  
Mondays: 10am-1pm  
May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 19, 26

Western Area  
The Good Shepherd Parish  
21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park  
Mondays: 11am-2pm  
May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 19, 26
### Diary Dates

#### Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

**Monday 1 May 2006**
10.30am - 1.00pm
at
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street
Lidcombe

**TOPIC**
Christ Our Light and Life

- Year 1 Curriculum Overview
- Term 2 Lesson Planning
- Getting the most out of Resources

Parish catechist coordinators are asked to contact the CCD Office, telephone 9390 5122, by Monday 24 April to advise the number of catechists attending.

#### Area Masses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Area</td>
<td>Friday 19 May</td>
<td>St Peter Chanel Catholic Church, 60 Kingsland Road, Berala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Area</td>
<td>Friday 5 May</td>
<td>St Mary &amp; St Joseph’s Catholic Church, 246 Malabar Road, Maroubra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord Area</td>
<td>Thursday 8 June</td>
<td>St Mark’s Catholic Church, 33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland/St George Area</td>
<td>Friday 12 May</td>
<td>St Michael’s Catholic Church, 10 Croydon Road, Hurstville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Area</td>
<td>Friday 26 May</td>
<td>St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE BRING A PLATE FOR A SHARED LUNCH.**

#### Annual Catechist Mass

**Sunday 17 September**
St Mary’s Cathedral
2pm

#### Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

**Friday 13 October**
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe
10.30am - 1.00pm

#### Life Members Mass and Luncheon

**Friday 24 November**
10.30am - Mass at St Joachim’s
12 noon - Luncheon at Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club

**PRICE OF TICKETS WILL BE ADVISED CLOSER TO THE DATE.**

#### Parish Catechist Coordinators Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Area</td>
<td>Monday 24 July</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, 10am-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Area</td>
<td>Friday 21 July</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, 10am-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord Area</td>
<td>Monday 17 July</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, 10am-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland/St George Area</td>
<td>Friday 28 July</td>
<td>CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda, 10am-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Area</td>
<td>Monday 31 July</td>
<td>St Gertrude’s Parish House, 6 Justin Street, Smithfield, 10am-1pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The book cover says it all: direction in life is meaningless unless Christ is the point of reference. In an age of spiritual poverty, Fr de Stoop has provided a comprehensive, yet concise resource for the young person seeking spiritual direction. This refreshing overview gives us a keen insight into our Blessed Lord's desire to use others to guide us closer to him. In doing so it proposes a formidable means by which the universal call to holiness can be attained not only by today's youth but people of all ages.”

(Lucas Hurley, Faith Education Officer, CCD Sydney).

“We are in the midst of a spiritual reawakening. Youth in particular are hungry for the Truth. Through this easy-to-use guide to spiritual direction, Fr Michael proposes a means by which they can connect with God. It is packed with practical information as well as inspiring words from the saints – the perfect aid for any young person desiring to grow in holiness.”

(Lyndon Cox, Director of Catholic Youth Services, Archdiocese of Sydney)

The Australian Catholic Students Association (ACSA)

A national body embracing tertiary students, seminarians and graduates, this week confirmed that it has established a partnership with Sydney Catholic Books and Resources to ensure the affordability, accessibility and availability of quality Catholic resources.

Bookshops across the country were contacted, with three outlets committed to the 20% discount and the Servants of Mary Help of Christians Marian Centre continuing to supply devotionals and books at low cost, often by donation. Sydney Catholic Books and Resources, Ignatius House and Connorcourt Publishing have all committed themselves to a 20% discount.

The John Paul the Great Australian Catholic Resource Card, named after the Pope who gave today's generation of students so much and whom so many revere, is available to secondary and tertiary students. This initiative will give a huge boost to the great work of the new evangelisation in Australia and will be a direct response to Pope John Paul the Great's challenge in Ecclesia in Oceania to ensure that all the baptised grow in faith and in understanding of the truth of Christ, acknowledging that there is a need for new ways and methods of evangelisation, inspired by deeper faith, hope and love of the Lord Jesus. A national database of names will be kept by ACSA, with each student issued a numbered card. This will also allow participating suppliers to email hundreds of Catholic students across the country with information and news particular to the supplier.

ACSA President Daniel Hill stated, “We are very excited about this initiative and are proud to be working with Sydney Catholic Books and Resources who have a strong tradition of providing quality books, CDs, DVDs and other resources. This card and this discount is available to all. Whether it be students at secular universities, seminarians, students at Australian Catholic University, CIS, Notre Dame, Campion College or wherever they may be- the card is there for them. Students studying religion, theology, philosophy etc can even order their text books and attain the discount- a huge boost for students wanting to give themselves to the Church.”

The Card will be officially launched at the ACSA Annual National Catholic Students Conference, taking place from 7-9 July 2006 at Newman College Melbourne.

For further information or comment
Daniel Hill 0422 904 636
Sydney Catholic Books and Resources has found that the recently released Big Book series is a big seller. The series books, which were published to supplement the Religious Education curriculum and the To Know, Worship and Love textbook series have proven to be an instant hit with catechists. The Big Books series includes Creation, Old Testament Stories, Jonah, King David, Moses, Joseph, The Good Shepherd, Parables of the Kingdom, Jesus Cares For People, Stories About Jesus, Parables Jesus Told, The Last Supper, Holy Week and Easter, The Easter Story, A Journey To New Life and Ascension and Pentecost. Priced between $28 and $35 the Big Book series is a wonderful resource for any catechist. The books have been linked to many of the lessons for the Kindergarten—Year 2 Christ Our Light and Life program. The Big Book series is ideal for use in the family home and make a perfect gift for a young child.

CCD is pleased to make available a new selection of resources, including books, journals, videos, DVDs and CDs. Of particular interest is the latest in CDs from St Joseph’s Communications in the US, including The Two Shall Become One by Archbishop Fulton J Sheen, The Da Vinci Code: A Catholic Response by Mark McNeil and Meditations on the Passion of Christ by various presenters. The most popular titles to date have been the Bible Studies of the Four Gospels by Scott Hahn. The CD sets are available with Bible Study Guides. More than 20 different titles are available, some of which are new and exclusive to Sydney Catholic Books and Resources. For the latest in books, journals CDs and videos call Eleanor Emmerson or Nella Ruello on 9390 5130 or 1300 365 130 or visit www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

The “BIG BOOKS” are between 12 and 28 pages in length, excluding covers and are slightly bigger than A3 in size - opening out to A2.
New Releases,  
NOW AVAILABLE!

- Dating And Courtship: $29.95 (Audio CD)  
- Genesis I-XXII: $45 (2 Audio CDs)  
- Jesus I Trust In You: $23.95 (Audio CD)  
- The Legacy Of Pope John Paul II: $29.95 (Audio CD)  
- The Gospel Of John: $67.95 (15 Audio CDs)  
- The Passion Of The Christ: $21.95 (DVD)  
- Life In The Spirit: $21.95 (Audio CD)
The feast of Mary Help of Christians was inaugurated on May 24, 1814 by Pope Pius VII who had been imprisoned by Napoleon as a thanksgiving for being released and reinstated in Rome.

Our celebration of Mary Help of Christians as our patronal feast symbolises the Roman and Irish heritage which is the foundation of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the new Church of Australia at a significant time in our history. Australia in 1843 was facing issues of land, immigration and education and the Church found herself involved in all these issues.

In 1844 the bishops nominated Mary as a special patron of Australia under the title Mary, Help of Christians.

Let us invoke Our Lady’s intercession through the following reflection on this special day devoted to Mary’s assistance.

### Opening Prayer

Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, Help of Christians.
Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### Scripture reading:

Luke 1: 46-49, 53-55:

Mary spoke the following words in her Magnificat:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant.
Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed.
For the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.
His faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him
He has used the power of his arm
He has routed the arrogant of heart
He has pulled down princes from their thrones
And raised high the lowly.
He has filled the starving with good things
Sent the rich away empty
He has come to the help of Israel his servant
Mindful of his faithful love.
According to the promise he made to our ancestors
Of his mercy to Abraham and his descendants for ever.”

### Litany

**Leader:** We can allow the seeds of God’s Kingdom to grow in the ups and downs of our lives just as Mary did.
**We ask her to help us to listen and act just as She did when we pray.**

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You trusted God when you said “yes” to God’s invitation to be Jesus’ mother.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You gave birth to Jesus in a lonely place away from your family and friends.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You were courageous but afraid when Simeon said You and Your Son would have to suffer.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You and Joseph had to leave your country as refugees to save Jesus’ life.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** When you lost Jesus you didn’t understand what He was doing.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You suffered with your Son as you watched Him die on the Cross.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Leader:** You are our spiritual Mother helping us to listen to your Son.

**Response:** WALK WITH US, MARY.

**Let us pray,**

We turn to you for protection,
Mary, Help of Christians.
Listen to our prayers
And help us in our need.

Save us from every danger,
And may you bring
The blessing of peace and unity
To all peoples of Australia.

Mother of Jesus and our good mother,
walk with us now sharing our joys and sorrows,
our successes and failures, our hopes and dreams.

Help us to listen to your Son’s message in the Scriptures.
Help us to see it in the goodness of people,
and in the grandness of God’s creation.

Help us to live the message we hear each day
and allow God’s seed to grow in us
so that we may build His Kingdom of love in our world.

Amen.

For further information on the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, and for teaching and learning strategies for the day logon to the CCD website at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au