

# Our Parish Catechists

*Handing on what we have received  
the hope and joy that Jesus brings*

TERM 1, 2015



I drew the birth of Jesus to represent Jesus who was born literally in a shed with all the animals. Jesus wasn't born like some people in a hospital so you should be thankful of what you got. You may be wondering why there are puzzle pieces. It's because Jesus will eventually bring us all together just like a jigsaw puzzle in heaven. I hope you enjoy.

*Thank you*

*James – Belmore South Public School*



Supporting  
Parish Catechists

Archdiocese of Sydney  
**CCD Catechist Newsletter**







◀ 50 Year Awardee  
Meg Campbell with  
Bishop Brady

▼ 30 Year Awardees at Life  
members luncheon



► Archdiocesan  
Accreditation Awardees



# Annual Catechist Mass 2014

~ St Mary's Cathedral ~

▼ 20 Year Awardees



# Welcome ....



Doug Mawhinney CCD Director

## **To our Parish Catechists and Helpers and those who are about to begin ...**

Welcome to 2015, to sharing the hope and joy that Jesus brings.

Welcome to assisting our new Archbishop to help ensure that our young people encounter Christ, to receive more than any secular ethics course can provide.

Welcome to providing a time and space for our Parish children in public schools to see how to pray, to share their joys, hopes, sorrows and what is important in their lives.

Welcome to being a Catechist this year—to doing something of eternal significance! Whilst sport is big in Australia, you are in fact training our children to really exercise in an eternal way, to be truly fit for the Kingdom of God.

Our Catechist newsletter has been renamed "Our Parish Catechists" to more readily say what the newsletter is about. The presence of Catechists in our Parishes is a good sign that a Parish is breathing the missionary Spirit to 'Go, teach...' We always need more Catechists, you who go

out to serve our Parish children enrolled in public schools or prepare our children and adults for the Sacraments.

## ***Pope Francis has proclaimed, We need good Catechists!***

God is very good at sending messages, both 'texting' and in person, as the Bible shows. You are no doubt reading this because the Holy Spirit has prompted a Catechist to tap you upon the shoulder or your attention may have been drawn to a Catechist recruitment poster. God does not make the able willing but may make the willing able. Invite others to consider becoming Catechists – and please be like God, persistent in calling.

## ***A "How to" example from one Parish bulletin:***

A message from our Year 2 Catholic children at the local Public School. These lovely children have no scripture teacher for Wednesdays 10:25am to 11:05am. Will you answer their prayer? Training and resources provided, contact ...

***"Dear God, please send us a scripture teacher. We will work hard, pay attention and do really good drawings.***

## ***We miss hearing stories about Jesus.***

***Do you think we can please have a new teacher soon?"***

Training and resources are indeed provided. Catechesis simply means to 'echo down'. We have an approved curriculum to provide you with a sure foundation upon which your own creativity may build. And so we say with St Paul, we hand on to you what we have received (1 Corinthians 11:23; 15:3-4).

The CCD is also here to support you with 'teaching tips and tactics' to help navigate the way to our students' hearts. To be even more effective and creative in your catechesis, please take advantage of the CCD's Accreditation courses.

These courses will also ensure that you meet the Education Department's wise recommendations for practical ongoing training and child protection measures.

As you prepare to meet your new students, I thank you, our volunteer Catechists and helpers, for your generosity in giving your time and using your God-given talents for the sake of our children, that is of eternal significance.

## CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Classroom Tips & Tactics	4
The stakes are high	5
FEO Articles	6
CCD Events Calendar	11
CCD Courses – Term 1	12
Thankyou	14
Prayer in the classroom	15

## CCD HEADOFFICE

### **Address**

Polding Centre Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### **Postal Address**

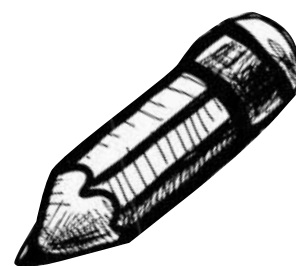
PO Box A286 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

**Phone** (02) 9307 8330 **Fax** (02) 9283 5146

**Website** [www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



# Classroom Tips & Tactics



‘For *new* and not  
so *new* catechists’

## If you are a new Catechist - welcome to the wonderful world of SRE!

So far you should have attended an orientation session (Basic One), obtained a Working with Children Check number and had your clearance verified by your Parish, met the Parish Priest who then issued you with an SRE authorisation card.

Your Parish Catechist Coordinator has outlined local school procedures and issued you with a Teacher's Manual and you have Activity Books for your students. You are now ready to prepare your first lesson – remember you are preparing for what the students will be doing not just what you will be doing during the lesson.

The Christ our Light and Life Teacher's Manual has an introductory lesson in each year level. Use this as the basis of your first lesson: you do not need the Activity Books for this lesson – just a sheet of paper for each student. This will help you to start the year off right by teaching these framework procedures first:

- Your classroom rules and consequences
- Entering and leaving the classroom
- Giving attention on your signal

- Sitting and listening during lessons
- Raising their hand to ask a question
- Setting up and starting with “our prayer place”

Remember for Kindy kids especially, a ‘plain’ Cross will do for now: don’t “kill off” Jesus in the eyes of those who may not have heard of him yet.

Here a few survival tips for the first few lessons:

- **Take charge** - have a clear class routine and discipline plan set up, with both rewards and consequences – explain it to the students on “Day 1” and review it throughout the first term.

- **Learn the students’ names** - use name tags, seating arrangements, class roll to help with this. A piece of card folded in half with their name written large and placed on their desk works well. This can be collected and placed as a marker in their books – the roll is then easier to mark next time by noting the name cards/ Activity Books not handed out.

- **Set the class rules** - make these simple and few in number. When you first go to your class have a look for the school rules. Most primary schools have these in clear display in the class room: usually a *safety* rule, a *learning* rule and a *respect* rule.

- **Focus** - Be sure you have the attention of everyone in your class before you start your lesson. Do not attempt to teach over the chatter of students who are not paying attention. Inexperienced Catechists sometimes think that by beginning their lesson, the class will settle down. Sometimes this works but mostly students just get the idea that you accept their inattention and that it is permissible to talk while you are presenting a lesson.

- **Keep students busy and engaged** - A class full of bored students won’t all sit quietly waiting for you to figure out what is next.

- **Circulate** - Get up and move around the room. While your students are working, make the rounds. Check on their progress; check that each student has started, that the students are on the correct page, have a book too to show them the page. An effective Catechist will make a pass through the whole room about two minutes after the students have started a written task in the *Activity Books*. Remember, *Activity Book* exercises provide you with a way of assessing if the students have got the point (i.e. the *Teacher's Manual* “Lesson Outcomes”), and so are not simply for colouring-in, though creativity is certainly called for!

# The stakes are *high* ...



Cardinal Timothy Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

## 'If You Are Reading This, Thank Your Catechist'

### **LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?**

*What they do is simply and sincerely in obedience to the Lord's last mandate: "Go, teach...!"*

During the summer a brother-bishop from Africa was visiting. Over a cup of coffee, he remarked, "We couldn't do it in Africa without our catechists. They teach our children, lead prayer, prepare our youngsters for the sacraments of penance, first holy Communion and confirmation, get parents ready for the christening of their baby, make sure our couples wanting to get married understand the awe and duties of the sacrament of matrimony, and, perhaps most importantly, model to the village what it means to be a faithful, joyful Catholic.

"For us," my brother-bishop from Africa concluded, "the vocation of a catechist is one of the highest in the Church."

Catechists of this archdiocese — hear me say the same thing about you!

You have seen the bumper sticker, "If you can read this, thank your teacher."

If there are cars in heaven, the bumper sticker will read, "If you are reading this, thank your catechist."

Bad news from the studies is that people are less than excited about

"religion." Good news is that they are eager for meaning, purpose, "spirituality" and belief.

Our catechists connect the dots: meaning, purpose, spirituality and belief are found in Jesus and His Church.

They have their work cut out for them ... But our catechists keep at it ... and the Church cannot do without them.

Here is the recipe, as we know from experience, for effective religious education:

- A committed parish priest with a full-time, professional, paid director/coordinator of religious education;
  - Enthusiastic catechists who have been properly trained and formed;
  - Strong parental investment, with Mom and Dad committed to Sunday Mass attendance, family catechesis and the consistent attendance of their child at class;
  - A content-based catechesis where the children integrate the fundamentals of our Catholic faith, and see it and celebrate it in the Church through prayer, the sacraments and lives of virtue.
- ... the Church has been slugging away at this sacred mission since Jesus gave us our walking orders right before He returned home to His Father.

A couple of years ago, I was visiting

the "hot unit"—critically ill—of a paediatric hospital.

As I was leaving, I saw a man in the corner shadows of the waiting room. He looked up and caught my eye. "Father, I've got a Ph.D. from Yale; I've got more money than I know what to do with. But right now, the only thing that's keeping me going is the Our Father, the Hail Mary and Psalm 23, all learned in the CCD at St. Alphonsus parish 30 years ago. Could you come and say those prayers with me next to the bed of my little girl on chemo?"

He'll tell you the value of religious education.

"Jesus asked, 'What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet suffer the loss of his soul?'"

That's the sacred enterprise of our catechists—they're preparing our kids not just for happiness and meaning in this life, but for eternity.

So, the stakes are high.

■ Source care of Catholic New York

*Cardinal Timothy Dolan visited Sydney in September 2014 to preach the annual clergy retreat. Upon landing, Cardinal Dolan requested to be taken to St Mary Mackillop's Chapel in North Sydney to pray. These words above from this joyful and perceptive man of prayer are presented here for your inspiration and encouragement. God bless you and your students, Doug.*

## FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS Central Area

### SARAH CHRISTIE

Email: [sarah.christie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sarah.christie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



### *Greetings to all in the Central Area*

I trust you all had a wonderful festive season. It is my absolute pleasure to return to work alongside you as you serve the Lord in the public schools of Sydney.

I'd like to start off by congratulating all who received awards at our Annual Catechist Mass, and the new life members who were inducted late last year. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment.

I'd also like to commend my dear friend and colleague Robert Milan, who has done a marvellous job in my absence. I thank him for his tireless work in ensuring that catechists had a Basic 1 accreditation to their name. Over the next few months, I urge coordinators to notify me of new recruits so that we can keep this

accreditation up to date in line with legal requirements.

Finally, many thanks to all who sent in cards, gifts and well-wishes to congratulate me on the birth of my daughter Alissar. I feel truly blessed and I am glad to say that motherhood has been a beautiful experience so far. I named her after a Phoenician princess and she has certainly received the royal treatment. Special thanks to Maureen Kelly of Revesby Heights who made her a collection of beautiful blankets and cardigans that came in handy during the cooler days just after her birth.

It's going to be a great challenge returning to work but I am thankful to be working alongside you and wish you all the best for a happy and prosperous new year.



◀ Alissar's first Santa Christmas photo

# FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

## Eastern Area

### ROBERT MILAN

Email: [robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



## Greetings to all in the Eastern Area

Our newly appointed Archbishop, His Grace, Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP has chosen the motto "Proclaiming the truth in Love". As catechists our work is an extension of His Graces' motto as we proclaim the Gospel [the Good News] to our young people without blemish and in truth and most importantly out of love. Welcome to our new Archbishop and welcome to another school year to all our dedicated catechists from the Eastern Area.

This year marks a momentous occasion for me as I celebrate two blessed occasions – my ten year anniversary working with the CCD and ten years of marriage to my beautiful wife, Claudette Milan. I must say, ten years does go by quickly. Thank you to all catechists for your support in my role as a FEO, it has been the best journey of faith, personal friendships and vocation.

I wish to welcome back Sarah Christie from her maternity leave, she has been missed and it's wonderful

to have her back.

Throughout 2014, we have made significant inroads into ensuring all catechists are trained in the minimum qualification of a Basic Accreditation Level One course. There are still a handful of catechists yet to complete an accreditation course, and as a result, I will be facilitating a number of Basic Level One Accreditation Courses across the Eastern Area including the Polding Centre. The venues of City, Maroubra Bay and Randwick will be hosting BAC Level One courses. Throughout 2015 a BAC Level One will be held every month to begin the full accreditation of all new catechists.

As always, please feel free to contact me for any support, advice and recruitment.

Have a wonderful, blessed and productive year.

*Robert*

**Phone: 9307 8330**

---

**"A REMINDER"** that to be an authorised catechist in the Archdiocese of Sydney, all NEW Catechists must have the following:-

- Priest | Coordinator Interview and initial approval →
- Apply for the new Working With Children Check →
- Verification at the Parish →
- Observe a lesson or two with a senior catechist →
- Attend and complete an approved accreditation course run by the Archdiocese of Sydney [or equivalent]→
- Authorisation Card is issued by the Parish Priest.

**NB:** Whilst awaiting the WWCC, catechists are still permitted to commence as long as the above is in progress and they are in possession of the APP [A confirmation of lodgement via RMS (former RTA) is required].



# FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

## Northern Area

### CHRIS COX

Email: [chris.cox@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:chris.cox@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



### Greetings to all in the Northern Area

Dear Catechists of the Northern Area,

Welcome back to a brand new year for 2015. I hope you had an amazing Christmas and New Year with your family and friends.

I am excited to be at service to our catechists this year and make their job easier and a little less stressful!

I would welcome any invitations to attend any of your Catechist meetings and answer any questions that you may have.

On a separate note, I had the privilege and honour of marrying a beautiful primary school teacher late last year. Her name is Danielle who I had met Studying at Notre Dame University.

Thank you everyone for their gifts and well wishes.

I look forward to working with you all this year.

Warm regards,

*Chris*

Phone: 9307 8332

► Congratulations & best wishes, Chris and Danielle, from all of us at the CCD!



Every year, the Department of Education Communities (DEC) requires the Archbishop of Sydney, who is the Approved SRE Provider, to sign an Annual SRE Assurance form stating that Catechists **MUST**:

1. Use an approved curriculum - *Christ our Light and Life*.
2. Have initial and ongoing training courses provided and must undergo the Basic Level one Accreditation course before commencing teaching SRE.
3. Are aware of new child protection legislation and follow the CCD Code of Conduct.
4. Have a *Working with Children Check* number verified by their Parish — the WWCC is now a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work.

All four of these requirements are covered in the Basic One Accreditation course, which is mandatory for potential catechists before they undergo full time teaching.

For existing catechists the WWCC phase in process will close on the **31 March 2015**. All existing catechists must have a WWCC number whether they are a 'helper' or just 'filling in'.

If you are not a qualified teacher, and have not completed a Basic One course, please negotiate a suitable time with your Coordinator and a course will be made available in your parish or nearby. Basic One Accreditation is an intensive course and takes up to 4 hours.



# FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

## Southern Area

### DENISE HUMPHREYS

Email: [denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



## Greetings to all in the Southern Area

### Welcome to the New Year and your new catechist class.

The first SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATOR meeting for 2015 will be held at Miranda CCD Centre 50 Kiora Road on Wednesday 28 January from 10am – 12.30 pm. A representative from each parish should attend this meeting. This is usually the coordinator, however another catechist from the parish is also most welcome to attend. Coordinators please check that all of your catechists have applied for a WWCC number and that this has been verified by your parish.

Starting a new year with a new class can be daunting. I have often heard catechists ask the following questions. How will I manage the class? What if I do not know enough about my faith? What will I teach?

The ACCREDITATION COURSES help you gain basic skills in preparation and planning your lessons using the approved curriculum. They provide an opportunity for you to learn more about our Catholic faith and how to present it to students at an age appropriate level.

These courses also provide opportunities to observe and discuss teaching strategies that are really creative ways of avoiding discipline problems. All new catechists are required to attend a Basic 1 course before taking a class on their own and they are to complete the Basic 2 course within their first year of being catechists. You will find details of these courses in this newsletter.

We are on a journey of faith and the God of surprises is ever calling us to new experiences. Just as the Christmas Crib was symbolic of a beacon of light drawing us to the Infant King at Bethlehem, so too is the Cross a beacon of light calling us onto the great mystery of his love. Our work as catechists implies an ongoing commitment to that love. Let us open the door to the power of the Holy Spirit - great things can happen. I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or e-mail if you need help.

*Denise*

**Phone/Fax: 9524 6400 (Miranda CCD Office)**

It is a good idea to plan your lessons early and if possible 'talk through' the first few lessons with a more experienced catechist. A well planned lesson usually means fewer discipline problems. After each lesson take the time to reflect on how you went. Get to know the names of the students as soon as possible. Use name tags and make a class roll.

When you receive your teacher's manual you will notice that the *Christ Our Light and Life* curriculum has Lent and Holy Week lessons within some of the first eight lessons. This year Special religious education (SRE) classes will start only one or two weeks before Lent begins and we start our journey to Easter so you will have a little time to identify and prepare those Lent lessons. This also means you will have time to teach the rest of the first eight lessons after the Lent lesson but before the Holy Week lesson. Please remember that

Easter season starts on Easter Sunday and lasts until Pentecost – so there will be plenty of time to teach the Easter lessons in Term 2.

There are many resources you can use to enhance your Lent and Easter lessons. The *Big Books* – blue for Kindergarten, red for Year 1 and yellow for Year 2. Br Julian Quinlan's has developed A3 resources for each lesson. See your coordinator for copies of these. Finally each parish is given one Caritas pack – usually sent to the Parish Priest.

### You may be able to borrow some of these resources.

- Project compassion boxes - small boxes, envelopes and one large box
- A DVD containing a three, six and 12 minute presentation – use the six minute presentation
- Various posters

## FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS Western Area

### TERESA CULJAK

Email: [teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)



### *Greetings to all in the Western Area*

**Welcome to Term 1, 2015! Ready, Set, Go...**

It is a new year, with new hopes and aspirations and a new grace to proclaim the Gospel. With this theme of 'new', the question we can ponder is, "How can I make my classroom teaching, new?" Some suggestions include using a Smart Board, developing a prayer space or fasting from a type of food on the day of your SRE class. Whichever way you choose, the Lord has chosen you for 2015 to proclaim His name to His little ones. The Holy Spirit walks with you, remember to invite Him in.

A special thank you to all catechists who attended the Advanced Accreditation Course in late 2014. I was touched by your openness and genuine desire to come to know the Lord in a deeper way. In a particular way, I encourage you and all catechists to hold firm to the Lord's words, "Seek me with all your heart and you will find me." The Lord will show you great and marvellous things and will "grant you the desires of your heart"

when you delight yourself in Him. Never give up on hope.

A practical reminder, that all catechists are required to complete a minimum training of a Basic Accreditation Course, Level 1. It is imperative that this course be completed by the end of Term 2. The Course consists of a Basic Catechism, Child Protection, Lesson Planning and Classroom Management. Your teaching in the classroom will benefit from these courses and they will be held across the Western Area on different days and times to assist busy schedules (elsewhere in newsletter).

May the Holy Spirit be with you this year in building the New Civilisation of Love!

*Teresa*

**Phone: 9708 3738**



▲ Life members inducted at the Annual Catechist Mass upon 30 years service as Catechists.



# Events Calendar

# 2015

TERM 1, 2015

## january 2015

<b>27 Jan (Tues)</b>	Start of Term 1	
<b>28 Jan (Wed)</b>	Southern Area Coordinator's Meeting	10:00am to 12:00pm CCD Miranda 50 Kiara Road, Miranda
<b>30 Jan (Fri)</b>	Northern Area Coordinator's Meeting	10:00am to 12:30pm Polding Centre - 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

## february 2015

<b>1 Feb (Sun)</b>	Catechist Sunday	
<b>2 Feb (Mon)</b>	Eastern Area Coordinator's Meeting	10:00am to 12:30pm Polding Centre - 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
<b>6 Feb (Fri)</b>	Western Area Coordinator's Meeting	10:00am to 12:00pm Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Mt Pritchard Parish) 230 Humphries Road, Bonnyrigg
<b>9 Feb (Mon)</b>	Central Area Coordinator's Meeting	10:00am to 12:00pm CCD Office at 15 Cambridge Ave, Bankstown
<b>18 Feb (Wed)</b>	Ash Wednesday	

## march/april 2015

<b>23 Mar (Fri)</b>	Term 2 Newsletter Release	<b>6 Apr (Mon)</b>	Easter Monday
<b>2 Apr (Thur)</b>	End of Term 1	<b>20 Apr (Mon)</b>	Start of Term 2
<b>3 Apr (Fri)</b>	Good Friday	<b>25 Apr (Sat)</b>	Anzac Day





# Events Calendar

## CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - Basic ONE

### SOUTHERN AREA - Denise Humphreys

<b>3 Feb (Tue)</b>	10am to 1pm	St Thomas Moore 298 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands
<b>5 Feb (Thur)</b>	10am to 1pm	St Joseph's Como-Oyster Bay 210 Oyster Bay Road, Oyster Bay
<b>7 Feb (Sat)</b>	10am to 1pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda
<b>14 Feb (Sat)</b>	10am to 1pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda
<b>23 Feb (Mon)</b>	10am to 2pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

### EASTERN AREA - Robert Milan

<b>9 Feb (Mon)</b>	10am to 2pm	St Mary & St Joseph's Parish 246 Malabar Road, Maroubra
<b>11 Feb (Wed)</b>	10am to 2pm	Our Lady of Sacred Heart 193 Avoca Street, Randwick
<b>18 Mar (Wed)</b>	10am to 2pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

### NORTHERN AREA - Chris Cox

<b>13 Feb (Fri)</b>	10am to 2pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
<b>17 Feb (Tue)</b>	10am to 2pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

### CENTRAL AREA - Sarah Christie

<b>18 Feb (Wed)</b>	10am to 2pm	CCD Bankstown 15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown
<b>23 Feb (Mon)</b>	10am to 2pm	CCD Bankstown 15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown

### WESTERN AREA - Teresa Culjak

<b>13, 20 Mar (Fri)</b>	10am to 2pm	Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Mt Pritchard Parish) Parish Hall 230 Humphries Road, Bonnyrigg
<b>16 Mar (Mon - Evening)</b>	6.30pm to 9pm	John the Baptist Meeting Room 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg

# 2015

TERM 1, 2015

## CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - Basic TWO

**CENTRAL AREA** - Sarah Christie

2, 9 & 16 Mar (Mon) 10am to 2pm

CCD Bankstown  
15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown

**EASTERN AREA** - Robert Milan

27 Feb, 6 & 13 Mar (Fri) 10am to 2pm

Polding Centre  
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

**SOUTHERN AREA** - Denise Humphreys

10 Feb (Tue) Day 1 10am to 1pm

St Thomas Moore  
298 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands

7, 14 & 21 Mar (Sat) 10am to 2pm

CCD Miranda  
50 Kiora Road, Miranda

23 Mar (Mon) Day 1 10am to 1pm

CCD Miranda  
50 Kiora Road, Miranda

## CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - Intermediate

**SOUTHERN AREA** - Denise Humphreys

27 Feb, Mar 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Fri) 10am to 1pm

CCD Miranda  
50 Kiora Road, Miranda

## CCD SMART Board and Secondary School COURSES SMART Board Beginners Class

**EASTERN AREA** - Robert Milan

20 Feb (Fri) 10am to 3pm

Polding Centre  
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

## Secondary SRE Course

**EASTERN AREA** - Robert Milan

20 & 27 Mar (Fri) 10am to 2pm

Polding Centre  
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney



Thank you!

# Well Done!

Having been with the CCD for a year now, it is important to thank all the hard working staff.

Eddie and Jim who keep our finances in order; Eleanor, Priscilla, Rachael and Rose who collate all the book orders and keep the bookshop going; Rosetta our new Administration Coordinator; Denise, Robert, Teresa, Sarah and Chris who work in the field training and supporting Parish catechists.

This year we had 400 catechists attend the mandatory Basic One accreditation course – a mammoth effort for the FEOs.

We are the largest provider of SRE material for Catechists in Australia. And at this time of year, Eddie, Chris, Robert, and Eleanor, also work at our warehouse packing parish orders and organising mail outs (as in this photo).

Finally thank you to all Parish Catechists – who take the Good News of Jesus to the Catholic children who attend public schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

*Doug Mawhinney*



► What our CCD Warehouse looks like..... Activity Books & Teacher Manuals ready to post to Parishes. Well done, Robert and Chris, with this batch of packing at the CCD 'Gym'!



# Teaching children to pray



Catechists have a responsibility not only to teach their students about faith, but also to provide opportunities for them to experience a living faith through participation in prayer and liturgy. The General Directory for Catechesis (1997) directs us to challenge students to permeate their lives with a spirit of prayer, so as to discover the mysterious action of God, who gives us strength in our weakness [85]

We can pray in different ways. Just sitting quietly to listen can be prayer. Put simply, prayer is communication with God, it is a dialogue (speaking and listening and silence), and it is being with God, being aware of God, sitting in the presence of God. Prayer is a gift from God. Prayer comes naturally, yet it does not necessarily come easily.

When do we start? How do we start? The first lesson in Kindergarten is about the Prayer Place. We introduce our students to the awe, wonder and mystery of God, and our need to have a relationship with God through prayer. The Prayer Place should be a feature of your SRE class. It could contain some or all of the following.

- A Bible (A children's picture bible for younger classes;
- A cloth showing the liturgical season. (Purple preparing for a feast, white celebrating a feast, green the feast is growing inside us.)
- A candle (battery operated tea light candles are useful); icons, cross/ crucifix,
- Pictures/

posters relating to the theme of each lesson.

Prayer does make a difference. A catechist is firstly a witness to prayer by nurturing her/his own prayer life. The depth and authenticity of a catechist's prayer life will be the first affirmation and lesson about prayer. When we enter into prayer in all its forms we enter the place where the sacred and the mystical awareness of God find common ground in our lives.

There are three main expressions of prayer in our Christian Tradition: vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer. There are examples of these three types of prayers in our curriculum. Vocal prayer is the one most often used in the classroom. It is an external expression of words addressed to God it can be formal or informal.

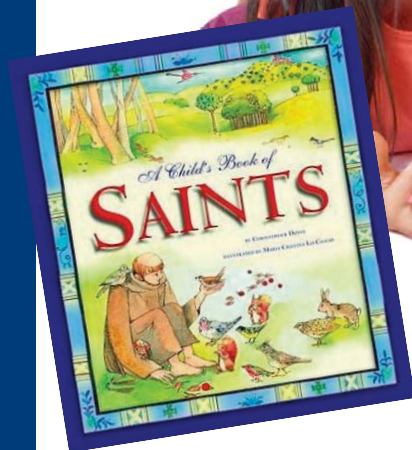
- Formal prayer: These prayers are taught and used throughout the curriculum.
  - Sign of the Cross (Kindergarten), Our Father and Hail Mary (Years 1 and 2),
  - Glory Be and Short Act of Contrition (Years 3 and 4),
  - Come Holy Spirit and Creed (Years 5 and 6).
  - Informal prayer: we pray simply using our own words.
- The prayers the students write and the prayer at the end of each lesson is this type of prayer.

Many of the saints spent their life in prayer. Here are some of their thoughts on prayer:

- Give yourself to prayer continually (St Ignatius of Antioch).
- There is only one way to find God and that is by prayer (St Teresa of Avila).
- The more we pray the more we wish to pray (St John Vianney).



◀ Prayer in the classroom

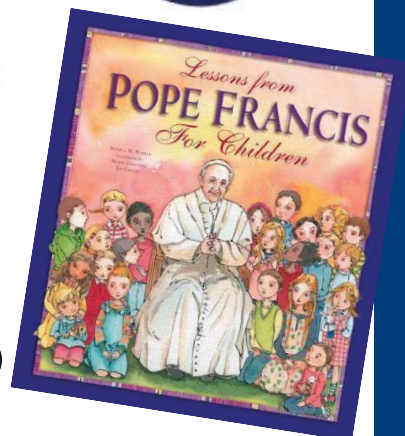


**\$9.95**

A Child's Book of Saints  
Ideal gift or addition to the  
family collection.

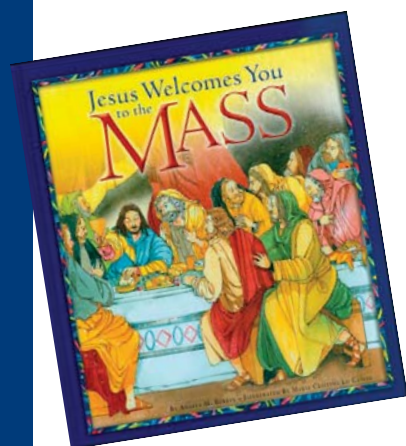
*By Christopher Doyle*

# CHILDREN'S MUST HAVE BOOKS



**\$15.95**

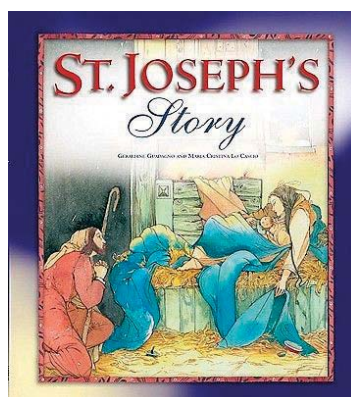
Pope Francis talks about God's  
love, friendship with Jesus, the  
gifts of the Holy Spirit, prayer,  
taking care of the poor, getting  
along with our families and  
more.....*By Angela Burrin*



**\$12.95**

Jesus welcomes you to the  
Mass 'speaks' directly to  
children and linking liturgy  
scenes from the Gospels.

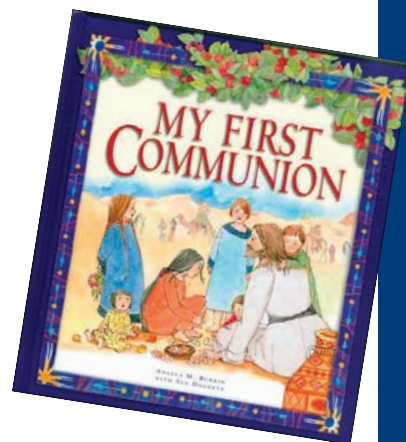
*By Angela Burrin*



**\$14.95**

A beautifully illustrated book for  
children (ages 6 to 10)

*By Geraldine Guadagno*



**\$12.95**

My First Communion  
Special child's keepsake.

*By Angela Burrin*

## Available from:

Sydney Catholic Books & Resources  
Ph: 02 9307 8340 Fax: 02 9283 5146  
E: [books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)  
Online bookshop: [www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au](http://www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au)

Conditions apply. Birthday Vouchers cannot be used in  
conjunction with Christ our Light and Life, To Know Worship  
and Love Text Books, Big Books, Sacramental Programs and  
already discounted stock. The voucher can be used within a  
year of the catechist's birthday.



## VOUCHER SPECIAL

Join our Birthday Club and  
receive a 25% discount  
voucher for your birthday.  
Use the voucher in person  
or email your selection.  
Register by ringing the  
bookshop on 9307 8340.