TERM 2, 2015

ARCHDIOCESAN
CATECHIST
GATHERING

Monday
4 May 2015
10am - 1.30pm
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

DO SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE!

Be a Catechist or classroom helper
We have the ‘what to teach’ and activity books and we show you how … we just need you!

Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Catechist Newsletter

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

Pope Francis

Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings …

For more information contact your local Parish or the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) on (02) 9307 8370 or visit www.cdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Supporting Parish Catechists

Supporting Parish Catechists

Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Catechist Newsletter
Welcome … to Term 2

Happy Easter, the Lord is Risen and has appeared to his disciples!

The importance of storytelling together with art has long held my interest.

Around Easter time last year I saw a THINK poster in our daughter’s Kindy classroom. Appropriately the first letter ‘T’ stood for ‘Is it true?’

This colourful poster brought me to think of Pilate’s, “Truth? What is truth?” when Truth himself, Jesus Christ, God being human, was standing right before him. I have often asked, I wonder why Pilate could not see the Truth? What was missing?

To answer this question with students we would look to Caravaggio’s Supper at Emmaus artwork and ask, what is happening here? At the breaking of bread, one disciple (Cleophas, with the shell on his cape?) has recognised the Risen Jesus, the other’s eyes are just being opened; and the one serving, the innkeeper supposedly, sees nothing extraordinary at all. I wonder why?

Children have answered these ‘I wonder’ questions with, “Because they know Jesus and he doesn’t” pointing to the two disciples and then to the innkeeper; and, “Because Pilate doesn’t really know Jesus even though he can see him.”

Here we have it. Seeing is not the same thing as knowing. This is important and even throws light upon why some people are currently debating against SRE “Scripture in Schools”. More on this at the Catechist Gathering - Monday 4 May (see p. 6).

The children’s answers above speak of relationship, of being in communion, over and above judging by appearances. It is why the Risen Jesus had us in mind when he said, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe, after Thomas saw and touched his wounds. Faith is a gift given by God through being brought into relationship, in to communion, that provides another way of knowing.

It is also why, “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” – Saint John Paul II.

Catechist Recruitment

The Easter Season is an excellent time for recruitment, hence the poster on the cover of this newsletter. We are here to help.

Pentecost Catechist Retreat

In preparing to celebrate Pentecost in the middle of Term 2, Teresa Culjak has arranged for a Catechist Retreat Day on Friday 15 May together with help from the Emmanuel Community. Details on page 14.

Here are a few words from Pope Francis about Pentecost and being in relationship with God:

A Church that evangelizes must always start from prayer, from asking, like the Apostles in the Upper Room, for the fire of the Holy Spirit. Only a faithful and intense relationship with God allows us to leave our enclosures and announce the Gospel with parrhesia (courage).

Thank you for going out to announce the Gospel. Please call others to do the same to provide the time and space for more students to pray, to learn to know and love God who gives us the Spirit, God who is Love.

Doug Mawhinney
Director CCD Sydney

Happy Easter, the Lord is Risen and has appeared to his disciples!

The importance of storytelling together with art has long held my interest.

Around Easter time last year I saw a THINK poster in our daughter’s Kindy classroom. Appropriately the first letter ‘T’ stood for ‘Is it true?’

This colourful poster brought me to think of Pilate’s, “Truth? What is truth?” when Truth himself, Jesus Christ, God being human, was standing right before him. I have often asked, I wonder why Pilate could not see the Truth? What was missing?

To answer this question with students we would look to Caravaggio’s Supper at Emmaus artwork and ask, what is happening here? At the breaking of bread, one disciple (Cleophas, with the shell on his cape?) has recognised the Risen Jesus, the other’s eyes are just being opened; and the one serving, the innkeeper supposedly, sees nothing extraordinary at all. I wonder why?

Children have answered these ‘I wonder’ questions with, “Because they know Jesus and he doesn’t” pointing to the two disciples and then to the innkeeper; and, “Because Pilate doesn’t really know Jesus even though he can see him.”

Here we have it. Seeing is not the same thing as knowing. This is important and even throws light upon why some people are currently debating against SRE “Scripture in Schools”. More on this at the Catechist Gathering - Monday 4 May (see p. 6).

The children’s answers above speak of relationship, of being in communion, over and above judging by appearances. It is why the Risen Jesus had us in mind when he said, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe, after Thomas saw and touched his wounds. Faith is a gift given by God through being brought into relationship, in to communion, that provides another way of knowing.

It is also why, “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” – Saint John Paul II.

Catechist Recruitment

The Easter Season is an excellent time for recruitment, hence the poster on the cover of this newsletter. We are here to help.

Pentecost Catechist Retreat

In preparing to celebrate Pentecost in the middle of Term 2, Teresa Culjak has arranged for a Catechist Retreat Day on Friday 15 May together with help from the Emmanuel Community. Details on page 14.

Here are a few words from Pope Francis about Pentecost and being in relationship with God:

A Church that evangelizes must always start from prayer, from asking, like the Apostles in the Upper Room, for the fire of the Holy Spirit. Only a faithful and intense relationship with God allows us to leave our enclosures and announce the Gospel with parrhesia (courage).

Thank you for going out to announce the Gospel. Please call others to do the same to provide the time and space for more students to pray, to learn to know and love God who gives us the Spirit, God who is Love.

Doug Mawhinney
Director CCD Sydney

Happy Easter, the Lord is Risen and has appeared to his disciples!

The importance of storytelling together with art has long held my interest.

Around Easter time last year I saw a THINK poster in our daughter’s Kindy classroom. Appropriately the first letter ‘T’ stood for ‘Is it true?’

This colourful poster brought me to think of Pilate’s, “Truth? What is truth?” when Truth himself, Jesus Christ, God being human, was standing right before him. I have often asked, I wonder why Pilate could not see the Truth? What was missing?

To answer this question with students we would look to Caravaggio’s Supper at Emmaus artwork and ask, what is happening here? At the breaking of bread, one disciple (Cleophas, with the shell on his cape?) has recognised the Risen Jesus, the other’s eyes are just being opened; and the one serving, the innkeeper supposedly, sees nothing extraordinary at all. I wonder why?

Children have answered these ‘I wonder’ questions with, “Because they know Jesus and he doesn’t” pointing to the two disciples and then to the innkeeper; and, “Because Pilate doesn’t really know Jesus even though he can see him.”

Here we have it. Seeing is not the same thing as knowing. This is important and even throws light upon why some people are currently debating against SRE “Scripture in Schools”. More on this at the Catechist Gathering - Monday 4 May (see p. 6).

The children’s answers above speak of relationship, of being in communion, over and above judging by appearances. It is why the Risen Jesus had us in mind when he said, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe, after Thomas saw and touched his wounds. Faith is a gift given by God through being brought into relationship, in to communion, that provides another way of knowing.

It is also why, “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” – Saint John Paul II.

Catechist Recruitment

The Easter Season is an excellent time for recruitment, hence the poster on the cover of this newsletter. We are here to help.

Pentecost Catechist Retreat

In preparing to celebrate Pentecost in the middle of Term 2, Teresa Culjak has arranged for a Catechist Retreat Day on Friday 15 May together with help from the Emmanuel Community. Details on page 14.

Here are a few words from Pope Francis about Pentecost and being in relationship with God:

A Church that evangelizes must always start from prayer, from asking, like the Apostles in the Upper Room, for the fire of the Holy Spirit. Only a faithful and intense relationship with God allows us to leave our enclosures and announce the Gospel with parrhesia (courage).

Thank you for going out to announce the Gospel. Please call others to do the same to provide the time and space for more students to pray, to learn to know and love God who gives us the Spirit, God who is Love.

Doug Mawhinney
Director CCD Sydney
Classroom Tips for Term 2

Call each child by name - they know your name.

Do you know each of their names?

By this time you should have the names of all the students in your class and be keeping a class roll – you only need to record who is away. A quick way of doing this is to count the students when you first arrive and then ask who is missing. You then have a list of names to use during the lesson.

You could ask the students to sit in the same place each lesson. This allows you to make effective use of name-dropping while teaching. If you see a student talking or off task, simply drop their name into your dialogue in a natural way.

“Before the Holy Spirit came, Matthew, they were afraid and did not understand all Jesus had taught them.” Matthew hears his name and is drawn back on task. The rest of the class doesn’t seem to notice.

Routines and rituals for beginning lessons, classroom prayer, story hearing, bookwork and ending lessons should be in place by now. Have you discovered the 8 take home sheets at the back of each activity book? These go home twice a term and are designed to show the parents what is covered in their child’s SRE lesson. Some catechists find it helpful to start these in class time – then at the end of the lesson tell the students to fold the sheet and put it in their bag. It may be best to avoid the word ‘home work’ and refer to it as a ‘take home’ sheet and encourage the students to show their parents the work they have done in class.

Good preparation gives you time to be proactive and to vary your lessons. Remember a student’s attention span is approximately their age - 5 to 10 minutes. Use pictures, music, action songs, the Big Books and Br Julian’s material and our smartboard resources sources to regain and keep their attention.

CONTENTS

Welcome 2
Classroom Tips for Term 2 3
Telling the Christian Story in the Classroom 4
Big Books - Curriculum & Story Content 5
FEO Articles 6
CCD Events Calendar 11
CCD Courses – Term 2 12
Searching for the biggest love 14
Catechist Retreat 14

Sutherland Parish
Catechists collecting books for 2015.

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
We humans are all storytellers. For young children, secure in their environment, telling stories is a natural and spontaneous activity. Their early stories include those about what has happened, is happening, or might happen to them. Through storytelling children discover not only latent identities within themselves, but deep feelings as well. They delight in the story’s plot, the characters and in the sound of the right word in the right place, so folklore has a special attraction for them. Folktales also provide a break from the routine of ordinary life.

There is no more important task for SRE teachers than to share the story of God and His people with their students. When they know the stories and events, hopes and dreams, promises and pledges that shaped our biblical ancestors, they will become aware of their faith-family history. (See opposite - page 5, list of the Big Books mentioned in our curriculum and their story content).

**GOOD STORIES AND TALES CAN CLOTHE ALL WHO HAVE THE HEART OF A CHILD WITH A RELIGIOUS PERCEPTION OF LIFE’S MYSTERIES**

**THESE STORIES NEED TO BE TOLD**
In infants classes the Bible story should be in the head of the teacher. In primary classes the bible story should be in the hands of the teacher. In other words become familiar with them so that they become your own. In this way you will communicate to the students that these are your stories and their stories – the stories of God and His people.

How we say something is as important as what we say. Students pick up our attitude even when we think we are hiding it. For the story to have power, the person telling the story needs to be involved in the story and want to tell it.

Jesus was an excellent teacher and a skilled storyteller. He used parable stories to help people understand his message – stories that always ended with a sense of hope. Parables speak to people of all cultures. They challenge listeners to re-interpret and re-evaluate their thoughts and behaviour.

**CHECKLIST FOR PRESENTING A STORY**
* Make sure the listeners are comfortable.
* Never begin until you have the attention of the whole group.
* EYES: look directly at the listeners as you speak.
* VOICE: speak clearly and loudly enough to be heard in the back seat. Vary the tone of your voice to suggest character and moods. Vary pitch and pace as the story demands.
* GESTURES: Be yourself. Use only gestures that are spontaneous. Do not allow unnecessary movements to distract the attention of the hearers.
* Build up suspense through the use of pauses.
* Use direct speech.
* Be enthusiastic. A story should be appreciated by the teller.

By Denise Humphreys
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light Blue</th>
<th>Big Book</th>
<th>Story Contents</th>
<th>Lesson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Kindergarten&quot;</td>
<td>The Good Shepherd</td>
<td>The Good Shepherd; Lost and Found</td>
<td>K - 3, K- 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Last Supper</td>
<td>Washing of the Feet; Take and Eat</td>
<td>K - 5, K – 6, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Easter story</td>
<td>From Death to New Life Jesus is alive</td>
<td>K - 7, K – 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Testament Stories</td>
<td>Noah and the Ark; Abraham and Sarah</td>
<td>K - 19, K- 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jonah</td>
<td>Jonah</td>
<td>K - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>King David</td>
<td>God Chooses David David and Goliath</td>
<td>K- 22, Yr 2- 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Remember Me From Death to New Life Alleluia! Jesus is Alive</td>
<td>Yr 1- 8, Yr1- 8, Yr1 – 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Year 1&quot;</td>
<td>Ascension and Pentecost</td>
<td>Jesus returns to his Father ; The Spirit Comes</td>
<td>Yr 1- 11, Yr 1- 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parables for the kingdom</td>
<td>The Mustard Seed; The Yeast; The Treasure and the Pearl</td>
<td>Yr 1- 25, Yr 1- 23, Yr 1- 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jesus Cares for People</td>
<td>The Ten Lepers; Feeding the Five Thousand</td>
<td>Yr 1- 26, Yr 2- 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph the dreamer</td>
<td>First half of story Second half of story</td>
<td>Yr 1 - 19, Yr 1 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Journey to new life</td>
<td>Lent; Palm Sunday Holy Week Easter Pentecost People</td>
<td>Yr 1- 4, Yr 1- 7, Yr 2 - 8, Yr 2 – 9,10, Yr 2 – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Year 2&quot;</td>
<td>Stories about Jesus</td>
<td>Zacchaeus; The Poor Widow</td>
<td>Yr 2 -26, Yr 2 - 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parables Jesus Told</td>
<td>The Prodigal Son; The Sower and the Seed; The Good Samaritan</td>
<td>Yr 2 - 4, Yr 2 - 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Blue</td>
<td>Moses</td>
<td>Baby Moses The Burning Bush God of Freedom</td>
<td>Yr 2 – 26, Yr 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CCD Catechist NEWSLETTER 5
It’s been a bustling and busy start to the year and I am so pleased with all of your efforts to book in for courses, confirm WWCC protocol and ensure you are all prepped for the remainder of the school year.

**Remember that having a working with children clearance is not enough: you need to be verified as an "employee" of your parish by your Priest or a representative of the Parish.**

Training has already commenced with High School Catechists who are now going into schools across the Central Area as helpers to our existing catechist teams. It’s great seeing former High School Catechists come in to my Basic One to be retrained as catechists of their own classrooms.

Given the global news headlines in recent months, your students might be exposed to more negativity than usual. Remember that your living witness of God’s love in the classroom is a great source of positivity so embrace it and work with it by making the lessons fun, diverse and engaging.

Students remember so much when they are involved in stories so don’t be afraid to explore the lesson’s scripture passage in unique ways: role play, mime, sculpture or guessing games are always a treat.

If you have signed up for the Bookshop’s Birthday Club incentive, you can also pick up a range of CDs to add some musical fun to your lessons. I’m happy to brainstorm ideas with you if you’d like to make an appointment to see me.

By making learning fun and reminding the students of the love and hope in their faith, you are bringing so much good into their everyday.

*The seed that you are planting in their hearts with your SRE lesson may blossom in one, five or twenty years – but it’s a gift that keeps on growing and will nurture them when they need it.*

Happy teaching!

Sarah
Greetings to all in the Eastern Area

The year has certainly kicked off in a positive way with a number of new faces joining the catechist ranks across the Eastern Area.

A very warm welcome to all our new recruits and thank you for your commitment and willingness to share your faith with our young people in the Public schools, truly, you are living your Baptismal promise and taking on a serious and rewarding [eternal] vocation.

Pope Francis reminds us of the vocational nature of catechesis. I have been privileged to meet most of you at the Basic Accreditation Level One course that were held at Maroubra Bay, Randwick and the Polding Centre. My last count was approximately 20 new recruits from the Eastern Area alone. Well done to our tireless Coordinators who go to great lengths to find the next catechist, these catechists are rare jewels and we are all thankful to have recruited so many. Please continue to send new recruits to BAC Level One and ensure all WWCC are completed.

I would like to welcome our newest Coordinator Agnes Loye, from the Coogee Parish, who takes over from Adele Cornale. I would like to thank Adele for her service as a Coordinator and am thankful that she will remain a catechist in the Coogee Parish.

The Coordinator role is a very important role and carries with it immense responsibility. The coordinator is tasked with the role of finding catechists to cover classes, shuffling catechists around, ensuring they are satisfied with the class they have been entrusted to teach, all WWCC and training is carried out as per legislative requirements and much more, and especially integrating a team of catechists together. It certainly is not an easy role, so thank you to all our previous and current Coordinators.

Finally I wish to thank all Coordinators who attended the February Coordinator Meeting. These meetings are becoming more crucial due to the changes to Child Protection, Accreditation requirements, and the forthcoming DEC SRE Review. I understand that many of you are extremely busy and some have fulltime professional roles, however having you or representative present is vital for information dissemination.

The Eastern Area Mass is being held on Wednesday 6 May at St Anne’s Bondi Beach from 11am commencing with a Mass Prayer, Thanksgiving and Celebration followed by a Shared Lunch [please bring a plate to share].

Robert

Phone: 02 9307 8330
Happy and Holy Easter

We have had a great start with new Catechists attending the Basic One Accreditation ‘Induction’ course for 2015.

The Department of Education and Communities requires that, to be an approved SRE provider, the Archdiocese of Sydney must have initial and ongoing training courses provided for Catechists.

However, we have many outstanding catechists who have not yet completed an initial Accreditation Course.

Please contact the CCD office on 02 9307 8330 or email office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au to fulfil the requirements to be a catechist in a public school.

Many thanks to all Coordinators who assisted with ongoing training and the recruitment of new catechists.

As you are aware the Working with Children Check phase in period ends on 31 March 2015. This means ALL Catechists must have a WWCC number before they can enter a classroom to teach.

If you have any potential catechists that would like to observe a lesson before committing they are allowed to do so by signing in as a visitor at the school office. Please check with your school first for confirmation.

So I have my WWCC clearance number, what next … ?

Your Parish Priest or a delegated member of the Parish will then VERIFY that you are a representative of the Parish.

Please check if this has been done with your parish. WWCC applications must be verified within 6 months or the application may expire.

I am pleased to announce that this year’s Area Mass will be held at Holy Spirit North Ryde on 5 June 11am, located at 195 Coxs Road, North Ryde.

It will be great to see another huge turnout from all the Catechists in the Northern Area.

I have enjoyed attending many meetings that have been held around the region and I look forward to joining you at your next meeting.

Warm regards,

Chris

Phone: 02 9307 8332
Greetings to all in the Southern Area!

It has been very rewarding meeting so many newly recruited catechists at the Basic One (Orientation) courses last term. Under the new DEC requirements all new catechists must obtain a WWCC clearance and complete Basic One (Orientation) or equivalent before they enter a classroom to teach. They should also enroll in Basic Two during their first year of teaching. Please contact me if you would like this course to be run at your parish.

The Basic Two course runs over 3 day sessions. In the southern area I am running one day of the Basic Two course each term in various parishes. Day 1 in Term 1, Day 2 in term 2 and Day 3 in Term 3. These days are designed to help you teach curriculum topics for the current term. Lessons in Term 1 covered Creation, Lent and Holy Week.

If the Lord has not risen our faith is in vain. The early Christians were willing to die rather than deny that Jesus who was crucified also rose from the dead. In Term 2, we explore the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Easter season lasts until Pentecost Sunday (24th May) you have four weeks in which to tell these stories. Remember to change the prayer cloth to white as we are now celebrating the great feast of Easter.

The Southern Area Mass will be held at St Joseph’s Church, Rockdale on Thursday 21 May at 11 am. After Mass we will be gathering for a shared (bring a plate) lunch.

St Joseph’s Church fronts onto the shopping centre and is a very short stroll from the station, however street parking is limited. Please come and celebrate together and meet other catechists of the area.

Ring or email if you need help and I will get back to you.

Denise

Phone: 02 9524 6400
It’s been a very busy start to the year as we have sought to ensure that all Catechists have their WWCC numbers verified and complete their Basic 1 Accreditation training. The new legislation has required a little more effort on behalf of the catechist and I am grateful at how helpful and willing the catechists have been in complying with these new requirements.

A special acknowledgement and thank you to all Parish Catechist Coordinators who have worked tirelessly preparing catechists for their new classes and ensuring their catechists have met the required legal standards. I know that this hasn’t been an easy task and I thank you for your time, generosity and commitment to this ministry. I heart-warmingly agree with Cardinal Pell who said, “Catechists are a jewel in the crown of the Church!” It is such a gift to be working so closely with catechists in the Western Area.

I was ecstatic to hear the big increase in numbers of students willing to be involved in our High School Catechist Program this year.

When the program first began in 2009, there were twenty students from Patrician Brothers Catholic College.

In February 2015, there are well over one hundred students from Freeman, Patrician Brothers, Mary MacKillop and All Saints Catholic Colleges. The Holy Spirit is definitely moving through these schools. In addition, past students from this program now attending University have signed up to continue the catechist ministry. A great result!

As we journey with the Lord during these last days of Lent, let us ask the Lord for a heart like His. As Pope Francis reminds us,

“In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, or indifferent.”

Let us have big hearts to love our students and each other.

Best Wishes for the Term.

Teresa

Phone: 02 9708 3738

Greetings to all in the Western Area
April
2 Apr (Thur)  20 Apr (Mon)  
End of Term 1  Start of Term 2

May
2 May (Tue)  
Central Area Mass  11:00am  
Our Lady of Lourdes, 280 Homer St, Earlwood
4 May (Mon)  
Catechist Gathering  10:00am to 1:30pm  
Polding Centre - 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
6 May (Wed)  
Eastern Area Mass  11:00am  
St Anne's Parish , 47 Mitchell St, Bondi Beach
15 May (Fri)  
Catechist Spiritual Retreat  10:00am to 2:00pm  
Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa
21 May (Thur)  
Southern Area Mass  11:00am  
St Mary MacKillop Parish, Rockdale City

June/July
5 Jun (Fri)  
Northern Area Mass  11.00am  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 195 Coxs Rd, North Ryde
15 June (Mon)  
Term 3 Newsletter Release
26 June (Fri)  
End of Term 2
13 July (Mon)  
Central Area Coordinators Meeting  10:00am to 12:00pm  
CCD Office, 15 Cambridge Bankstown
17 July (Fri)  
Western Area Coordinators Meeting  10:00am to 12:00pm  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Mt Pritchard  
230 Humphries Rd, Bonnyrigg
20 July (Mon)  
Northern Area Coodindators Meeting  10:00am to 12:30pm  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
24 July (Fri)  
Western Area Mass  10:00am to 2:00pm  
St Christopher’s Parish, 195 Heathcote Road, Holsworthy
TBA  
Southern Area Coodindators Meeting  10:00am to 12:00pm  
CCD Miranda - 50 Kiorda Road, Miranda
## CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - **Basic ONE**

### NORTHERN AREA

Chris Cox

- **24 Apr (Fri)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - Polding Centre
  - 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

- **19 Jun (Fri)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - Polding Centre
  - 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

### SOUTHERN AREA

Denise Humphreys

- **27 Apr (Mon)**
  - 10am to 1pm
  - CCD Miranda
  - 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

- **23 Jul (Thur)**
  - 10am to 1pm
  - CCD Miranda
  - 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

### CENTRAL AREA

Sarah Christie

- **15 Jun (Mon)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - CCD Bankstown
  - 15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown

### EASTERN AREA

Robert Milan

- **13 May (Wed)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - Polding Centre
  - 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

### WESTERN AREA

Teresa Culjak

- **20 & 27 April (Mon)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Parish Hall
  - 230 Humpries Rd, Bonnyrigg

## CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - **Basic TWO**

### SOUTHERN AREA

Denise Humphreys

- **May 11 (Mon) Day 2**
  - 10am to 1pm
  - St Thomas Moore
  - 298 Bay St, Brighton-Le-Sands

- **May 14 (Thur) Day 2**
  - 10am to 1pm
  - St Joseph’s Como-Oyster Bay
  - 210 Oyster Bay Road, Oyster Bay

- **May 18 (Mon) Day 2**
  - 10am to 1pm
  - CCD Miranda - 50 Kiora Road, Miranda

### WESTERN AREA

Teresa Culjak

- **25 May & 1 Jun (Mondays)**
  - 10am to 2pm
  - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Parish Hall
  - 230 Humpries Rd, Bonnyrigg
CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - Intermediate

CENTRAL AREA
Sarah Christie
May 11, 18, 25, 1 & 8 June
(Mondays)
10am to 2pm
CCD Bankstown
15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown

EASTERN/NORTHERN AREA
Robert Milan/Chris Cox
May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26
(Fridays)
10am to 2pm
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

CCD ACCREDITATION COURSES - Advanced

SOUTHERN AREA
Denise Humphreys
May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
(Saturdays)
10am to 1pm
CCD Miranda
50 Kiora Road, Miranda

CCD SMART Board COURSES
SMART Board Beginners Class

Chris Cox
May 19 (Tue)
10am to 3pm
Polding Centre
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

Denise Humphreys
Jun 15 (Mon)
10am to 3pm
Polding Centre
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Searching for the biggest love

A Catechist’s response to the ABC’s “God in Schools” forum: Is religious education a plus or minus for kids?

I am a primary school trained teacher and I have been a primary school Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher for the past seven years. I love teaching these classes because the children display great curiosity, wisdom and hunger. I have discovered that SRE seems to fulfil a need that they have for meaning, acceptance and love.

Our lessons include time for the children to pray to God in their own words, for their own concerns and those of others; learning how to navigate a bible by placing one in their hands and challenging them to find references, read them and discuss them; and learning about moral choices, not just by discussing what might be right or wrong in given situations, but by exploring the deeper motivations of choosing good over evil, based on love.

This is where the children begin to understand the difference between relying simply on loving feelings and a deeper love that chooses the best for others even when it is at a personal cost. It is this love that the children intuitively see in Jesus and experience when we pray together.

The children never cease to amaze me with their intuition regarding what Jesus is all about. Rather than telling them, I can wonder with them and they come to the answers themselves.

I had one particular student who struggled in ordinary classes and had very low self-esteem. In the first month or so of our classes, the student was tuned out and seemed defeated by any kind of attempt to learn.

However, the stories and wondering, the prayer and love seemed to break through. The student became an enthusiastic class member who proved to be intuitively spiritual and hungry to know more about the big questions and the love of God. The student shone in our classes! I watched with wonder as this student grew in confidence and happiness during the lessons.

I didn’t realise how noticeable the difference was until the student’s mother wrote a letter to my SRE Coordinator and asked that I transfer to the higher classes so that I could continue with this student. The student’s mother suggested that the student’s success in SRE had helped the student to improve in other subjects at school.

Of course, we rearranged our classes and I continued up to the higher grades. What a joy it was to be able to continue to assist the development of this child.

When I reflect on this student’s growth and the growth of all the students in my classes, I see something very beautiful. As we meet each week, discover Christianity together, and then relate it to our lives, the students blossom.

As the year progresses, the students begin to confide in me their worries and concerns. It takes great delicacy to deal with these confidences in an appropriate way. I offer a few words to encourage them and let them know that they are valuable and loved by God and then I tell them that I will pray.

If the situation is significant I report it to school leadership so that they are aware of the student’s concerns. I ask myself why they open up like this. I believe it is because they are hungry for love.

It is not that these students aren’t greatly loved by their parents or families; I can see that they are. It would seem that the children know that their need for love is even bigger than what one or two human beings can provide. They instinctively know what we adults often forget; that we were made to love and be loved and that this is the secret to complete fulfilment.

They also know that our need to receive and give love is an ongoing need that isn’t easily satisfied. They are not as convinced of their own resources or self-sufficiency. They know that they need a big love, the biggest love. A love that our classes present to them and that they are grateful to receive.

I would hate to think that my students, and all other SRE students, would be deprived of this form of discovery ... for man does not live on English and maths alone!

Catechist Retreat - Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Jesus instructed his Apostles to wait until they were “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49)

In preparation to celebrate Pentecost, a retreat for Catechists and friends, featuring spiritual talks, adoration, the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass, hosted by CCD Sydney with the Emmanuel Community. Morning Tea and Lunch provided, donation appreciated.

When: 10am-2pm, Friday 15 May 2015
Where: Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa
RSVP: CCD Office on 9307 8330 by Friday 8 May 2015

For more information on the Emmanuel Community: http://www.emmanuelcommunityinaustralia.blogspot.com.au

14 CCD Catechist NEWSLETTER
ANNOUNCING the 2015 Rome Pilgrimage Tours - staying at Domus Australia PLUS ASSISI

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney in conjunction with Harvest Pilgrimages is offering a special Rome Pilgrimage tour package which includes accommodation at Domus Australia and in Assisi. The 7-night tours are competitively priced from $5,495 (June departure) and from $5,650 (October departure) and include return economy airfares (ex Sydney or Melbourne), all accommodation (twin share), breakfasts, evening meals, tours as outlined, admission fees and prepaid tipping. Single supplement $790 per person. Please phone Harvest Pilgrimages for full details on 1800 819 156.

Two tours are scheduled for 3 June 2015 and 26 October 2015 with limited capacity. A third Christmas tour in Rome is being planned with departure date and prices to be advertised later. Interested people can register their interest by contacting Harvest. The tours offer a true Pilgrimage experience in the Eternal City.

Harvest Pilgrimages have specially designed the itinerary for the Archdiocese of Sydney and includes a private Mass at St Peter’s Basilica, Sunday Angelus with Pope Francis, visits to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, Mass at St Paul’s Outside the Walls, the ancient catacombs, the Colosseum, a Christian Rome tour, Rome by Night tour, and an overnight stay and tour to Assisi. Phone Harvest Pilgrimages for a tour information pack.

What’s included in these exclusive tours:

✓ Return economy airfare Melbourne or Sydney to Rome via Dubai
✓ 6 nights accommodation twin share in Domus Australia and 1 night in Assisi twin share
✓ Tours and admissions as outlined in the itinerary including a Rome by Night tour
✓ Ground transport by luxury airconditioned coach
✓ Breakfasts daily (continental) and all Dinners including special nights
✓ Porterage (one piece) and all tipping included
✓ Option to extend
✓ Tour co-ordinator
✓ Quality Harvest cabin bag, ticket wallet and Pilgrim’s Journal

Tour promoted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (1800 753 959), bookings through Harvest Pilgrimages (1800 819 156).
Introducing your child to the Bible
A delightful way to introduce classic Bible Stories for children.

Come visit Priscilla & Eleanor at
Sydney Catholic Books & Resources
Polding Centre, Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
or email books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 02 9307 8340    Fax: 02 9283 5146
Online bookshop:
www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au

St Mary’s Cathedral
Share our love of Our Cathedral
St Mary’s Cathedral’s new book Our Cathedral showcases beautifully captured images of our beloved national icon – from archival treasures of yesteryear to more recent photographic commissions, Our Cathedral celebrates the beauty and artistry of architect William Wardell’s neo-Gothic masterpiece. Since its rebuilding after the 1865 fire, St Mary’s has been an important part of our cultural landscape. The seat of Sydney’s archbishop, the Mother Church of Australian Catholics, a key witness to this nation’s most momentous events, and not to mention our most intimate personal memories. On sale now at Sydney Catholic Books & Resources.

St Mary’s
Our Cathedral
$7.50 (RRP)

Join our Birthday Club and receive a 25% discount voucher for your Birthday.
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.