

Our Parish Catechists

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



TERM 2, 2015



"Faith is pure gift:
a gift received and a gift given."
... A catechist is right there,
at the centre of this exchange of gifts
— Pope Francis

**DO SOMETHING
OF ETERNAL
SIGNIFICANCE!**

ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHIST GATHERING

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

**Be a Catechist
or classroom helper**

We have the 'what to teach' and activity books
and we show you how ... we just need you!



**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 8330 or visit
www.ccdsydney.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

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.



◀ Sutherland Parish Catechists collecting books for 2015.

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Telling the Christian Story in the Classroom

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).

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.

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



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 Humpreys



	Big Book	Story Contents	Lesson
"Kindergarten"	Light Blue	The Good Shepherd	The Good Shepherd; K - 3
		Lost and Found	K- 4
		The Last Supper	Washing of the Feet; K - 5
		Take and Eat	K – 6, 18
		The Easter story	From Death to New Life K - 7
		Jesus is alive	K – 9, 10
		Old Testament Stories	Noah and the Ark; K - 19
		Abraham and Sarah	K- 20
		Jonah	Jonah K - 23
"Year 1"	Red	King David	God Chooses David K- 22
		David and Goliath	Yr 2- 25
		Easter	Remember Me From Death to New Life Alleluia! Jesus is Alive Yr 1- 8 Yr1 – 9, 10
		Ascension and Pentecost	Jesus returns to his Father ; Yr 1- 11
		The Spirit Comes	Yr 1- 12
		Parables for the kingdom	The Mustard Seed; Yr 1- 25
		The Yeast;	Yr 1- 23
		The Treasure and the Pearl	Yr 1- 24
		Jesus Cares for People	The Ten Lepers; Yr 1- 26
"Year 2"	Yellow	Feeding the Five Thousand	Yr 2- 19
		Joseph the dreamer	First half of story Yr 1 -19
		Second half of story	Yr 1 - 20
		Journey to new life	Lent; Yr 1- 4
		Palm Sunday	Yr 1- 7
		Holy Week	Yr 2 - 8
		Easter	Yr 2 – 9,10
		Pentecost People	Yr 2 – 11
		Stories about Jesus	Zacchaeus; Yr 2 -26
"K/1/2"	Dark Blue	The Poor Widow	Yr 2 - 15
		Parables Jesus Told	The Prodigal Son; Yr 2 - 4
		The Sower and the Seed;	
		The Good Samaritan	Yr 2 - 16
		Moses	Baby Moses K - 21
		The Burning Bush	Yr 1 - 21
		God of Freedom	Yr 2 – 26 Yr 3

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS Central Area

SARAH CHRISTIE

Email: sarah.christie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Greetings to all in the Central Area

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



Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

Monday 4 May, 10am to 1.30pm

Session 1: Praying with Children



We welcome Mrs Frances Tilly, who is a trained leader in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and spiritual director with a background in high school teaching, to talk with us about praying with children.

In providing retreats and spiritual direction, Frances has supported primary teachers, Catholic Mission and also the CCD Directors at the 2013 CCRESS conference with her gentle wisdom and prayerfulness.

Where: Level 8, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
RSVP: 02 9307 8330 or office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

More information on the schedule for the day to be advised



FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

Eastern Area

ROBERT MILAN

Email: robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



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

► Basic One - Accreditation Course
18 Mar 2015, CCD Polding Centre

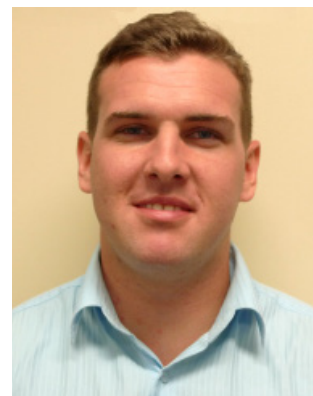


FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

Northern Area

CHRIS COX

Email: chris.cox@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Greetings to all in the Northern Area

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

► Basic One - Accreditation Course
13 Feb 2015, CCD Polding Centre



FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS Southern Area

DENISE HUMPHREYS

Email: denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



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

► Catechist Coordinators Gathering
28 Jan 2015, CCD Miranda



FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS Western Area

TERESA CULJAK

Email: teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Greetings to all in the Western Area

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



▲ Western Area Coordinators Meeting - 6 Feb 2015



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 Kiora Road, Miranda



Events Calendar

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

2015

TERM 2, 2015

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)



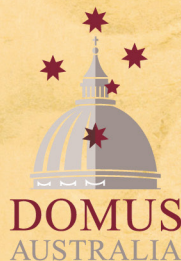
In preparation to celebrate Pentecost, a retreat for Catechists and friends, featuring spiritual talks, adoration, the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass, hosted by CCD Sydney with the Emmanuel Community. Morning Tea and Lunch provided, *donation appreciated*.

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>



Rome

Pilgrimage Tours

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.

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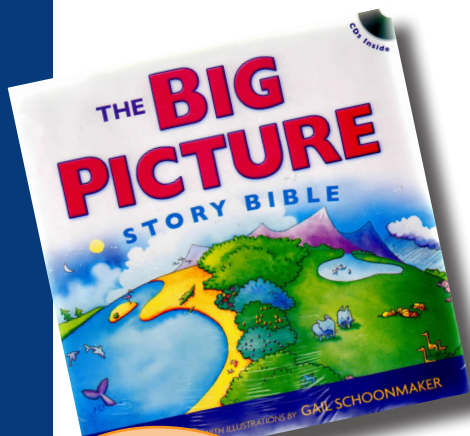
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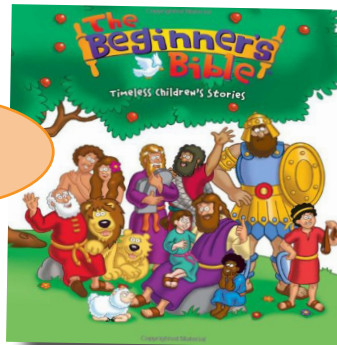
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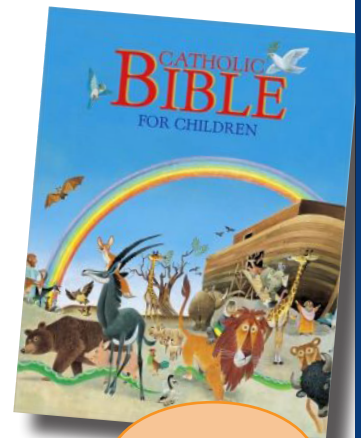
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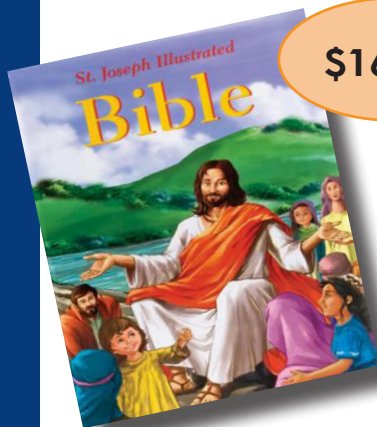
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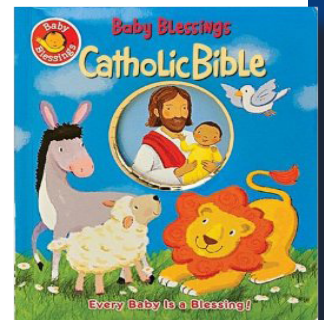
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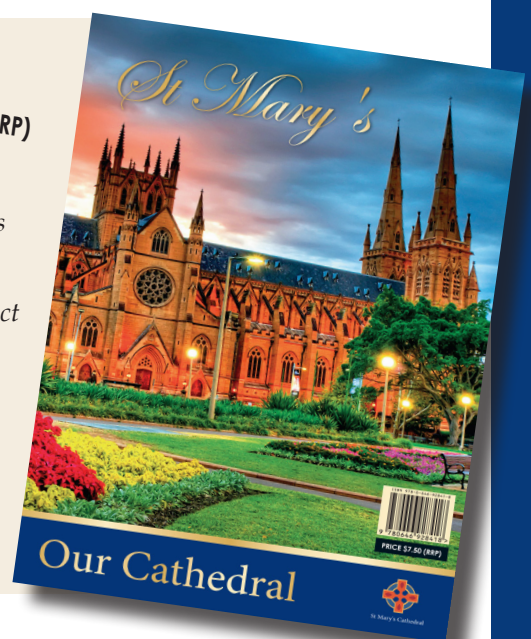
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