

Light and Life

Term 2, 2010

SRE and
Ethics
Should they
compete?



Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Newsletter

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FRONT COVER

Cover Artwork by Paul Mooney of
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Northern	Philomena Smith
Southern	Denise Humphreys
Western	Teresa Culjak

From the Director, Robert Haddad

Dear Catechists,



The year 2010 is proving to be challenging after the beginning of the secular Ethics trial in ten NSW public schools. Despite assurances to the contrary, the Ethics trial has had a significant impact on the number of students attending SRE classes.

By way of example, students attending Anglican SRE has dropped 47%; Catholic losses total 30%. All CCDs in NSW are closely monitoring the situation and will be providing feedback to the State government via our representatives on the Director-General's Consultative Committee for SRE. Stay tuned for further details.

On better news, I am glad to provide updates on the following areas:

Redeveloping the K-6 curriculum. Work continues on revising Year 3 books. This should be completed in July.

Year 7-12 curriculum. The new Year 7 has been completed; work on the new Year 8 has begun. The new Year 9 is currently being trialled in classes. Feedback would be greatly appreciated.

High School Catechist Project. The number of Catholic schools participating in this project has increased in 2010 from 4 to 12; student participation has risen from 50 to 130.

Seminar Teams. Four seminar teams have now been formed, some of which are currently active in Canterbury Boys, Dulwich Hill and Kingsgrove North High Schools.

New High Schools. Catechists or seminar teams are now active in seven additional public high schools, namely, Bass Hill, Canterbury Boys, Concord, Dulwich Hill, Riverside Girls, Bossley Park and Kingsgrove North. This has been countered by the loss of Bankstown Girls in 2010. It is hoped that at least another two high schools will be added to this list before the end of the year.

Catechist Gathering/Lunch and Learn. Our recent May Catechist Gathering was highly successful, being booked out to maximum capacity. The recent initiative of *Lunch and Learn* for catechists held monthly at Smithfield is also proving to be popular and informative.

As a final point, be aware that the CCD is always ready to assist parishes in their catechist recruitment initiatives. Please don't hesitate to contact us for assistance. *Robert Haddad*

From the Faith Education Officers

EASTERN

Robert Milan

An encouraging observation within the Eastern Area has been the growth of catechists enrolled in Basic and Intermediate Accreditation Courses. I am confident this trend will continue through to the Advanced Course in Term 3. A thank you to coordinators for encouraging long serving and new catechists to participate in these courses.



Throughout 2009 and as part of the Orientation Meetings in February 2010 I facilitated Child Protection inservices at many parishes. I would like to remind coordinators that an invitation for you to hold a Child Protection inservice in your parish is still open. All coordinators are reminded of the up-coming Coordinator Meeting scheduled for Friday 23 July 2010 from 10am.

Most of our catechists have heard of or encountered the Ethics Course as trials are well underway. The Eastern Area has five primary schools involved in the trial. The schools involved are: Darlinghurst, Rozelle, Ferncourt, Randwick and Crown Street Public. Although the CCD is not opposed to the teaching of Ethical behavior through the Ethics Course, we are, however, opposed to the competition this course will bring to Catholic, Anglican, Jewish, Muslim and various other SRE providers. Most Reverend Bishop Peter Ingham is cognisant of the need for Ethics and would encourage an Ethics based course in the public school system. He recommends a timeslot in which all students could participate. This would give students (especially those who attend SRE) a double lesson on ethics. It has been reported that Catholic student numbers in Years 5 and 6 have dropped by 25% in one school and to over 50% at another. I ask you all to be vigilant because our Mission of Catholic Education, Formation and Evangelisation of our young people and their families at public schools is at the cross-roads.

I am available to speak at Mass at any Parish as part of the recruitment drive. Apart from Catechist Sunday, mid year to around October is the best time for recruitment.

Robert

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NORTHERN

Philomena Smith

Greetings to all Catechists in the Northern Area.

I hope you have had a great Term 2 and are preparing for the cold winter months of Term 3. I have had a busy term, training, teaching and inservicing.



The High School Catechist program is well underway in the Northern Area with year 11 students from Marist Sisters Woolwich, Domremy Five Dock, Rosebank College Five Dock and Southern Cross Vocational College Burwood all helping as student catechists in their local public schools. I would especially like to thank all the catechist coordinators that have assisted me in the program and ask for your continual prayers for the students and their work.

I have conducted a series of Child Protection Inservices as it is important that all are aware of the various laws and codes of conduct associated with our role as catechists.

The Northern Area Catechist Mass held at St Charles Borromeo Ryde was a wonderful occasion where catechists from the Northern Area prayed and celebrated together. A big thank you must go to the catechists of Ryde parish who hosted the event, particularly to catechist coordinator Merryl Foster.

This term the Northern Area will be having the second Coordinators meeting on Friday 30 July, 10am-12.30pm in the Polding Centre Sydney.

I have been given the opportunity to teach a CMC course on Moral Theology on the 13 & 20 August 9.30am- 3.30pm in the Polding Centre, Sydney. This topic is a key interest of mine and I look forward to further developing and enhancing catechists' understanding in the area.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you require any assistance.

Philomena



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From the Faith Education Officers

SOUTHERN

Denise Humphreys

Welcome to Term 3! By now you should be fairly settled with your class – the class rules have been established – you know the students' names – you have established a pattern of preparation and teaching that gives you some sense of achievement and control.



Term 3 is often when you feel brave enough to try something different in your class. Perhaps you could bring in a song as part of the lesson – maybe you would like to try some artwork – perhaps now is the time to make sure you have enough visual materials to enhance your lessons. Hopefully some of the catechists teaching Year 5 and Year 6 classes will start planning and gathering materials for the Archdiocesan Christmas Story Art Competition.

An enthusiastic group of catechists completed the CMC course *Teaching and Learning Strategies* at Miranda in Term 2. This course is designed to help with classroom management and lesson preparation.

Thank you to all the catechists who helped to make our Area Mass such a great occasion. It was good to see so many of our parish priests there to support you, especially all those who ventured out of the Shire.

Term 3, here are a few dates for your diary:

- Catechist Coordinator meeting Monday 19 July at Miranda.
- The Annual Catechist Mass at St Mary's Cathedral will be held on Sunday 26 September at 2pm.
- An Intermediate Accreditation Course will run during Term 3 on Fridays at Miranda, details are on page 6.
- A unit of the CMC course Church History will be held on Mondays.

I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or email if you need help.

Denise



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CENTRAL

Sarah Ayoub

Greetings to all in the Central area! I hope you are all well and enjoying the start of a new term, despite the cool and crispy weather.



The past term has been a relatively busy one over at CCD headquarters. In addition to taking an Intermediate Accreditation Course, I have been busy arranging Catholic scripture in new high schools, and working on the High School Catechist project with Bethlehem College, Ashfield and St Charbel's College, Punchbowl.

I also joined my colleagues and staff from other Dioceses at the annual CCRESS Conference which was hosted by the Diocese of Wollongong. Our sessions focused on the betterment of Catholic Scripture in public schools and the trial of the Ethics courses. Under the leadership of the Bishop of Wollongong, the Most Rev. Peter Ingham, a petition was arranged to voice our concerns about the impact of these Ethics Courses to the future of SRE.

The term brought with it a number of positive highlights. We had the Area Mass on 26 May at St Joseph's in Enfield for the celebration, prayer and thanksgiving of catechists in the area. In light of this, I take the opportunity to thank all those who celebrated with us, especially for Enfield Coordinator Helmarri Anziliero and parish priest, Fr Joseph Le Van Trong, for arranging the celebration.

I have also had the pleasure of teaching a CMC Course on the Controversies in Church History. The course debunked some of the myths on certain events that secularists often criticise when they attack the Church at their most opportune moments.

Term 3 will certainly bring with it challenges as I arrange a retreat, continue to teach and expand Scripture into more high schools, and hold the Coordinators meeting on Friday 6 August. I look forward to working with you, and meeting those challenges and goals with the help of the Lord.

God Bless,

Sarah

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From the Faith Education Officers

WESTERN

Teresa Culjak

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

Well done, you've reached the half way mark of this year.

It was great to see so many of you in attendance at this year's Western Area Mass. The Gospel of the day was indeed providential. It confirms that the Lord has invited you to this ministry. He has chosen you. He has given you His grace to bear fruit, to build a civilization of love, to open the hearts of the students entrusted to you.

Many thanks to the team (Fr Terry Bell, Heather Watt and all the catechists) at Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield who united together in love and service to prepare this event. It was a joy working with you.

The Basic Accreditation Course was very popular this term, with almost 20 catechists completing the course. It's always a joy to present these courses and there is always sadness when it does come to an end. I do look forward to seeing many of you at the Intermediate Accreditation Course in Term 3. Please see page 6 for details.

Lunch & Learn sessions at St Gertrude's Parish, Smithfield continue and have been very fruitful. For information on topics for coming months please see page 6. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please let me know. Family and friends are most welcome.

I have exciting news. There has been a breakthrough at Bossley Park High School. SRE is now active with almost 500 students attending weekly and fortnightly classes. Special thanks to Peter Miraziz and Mike Gaspi who are teaching these classes.

Thank you again catechists for your faithfulness and your 'yes'. Remember the Lord's words:

*You did not choose me,
No, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last.*

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From the Business Manager

Eddie Kropkowski

Curriculum Christ our Light and Life – 3rd Edition Stock

Special thanks to all parishes for your patience and assistance during the ordering and delivery process of *Christ our Light and Life* over the summer period. The bulk of which is all but complete for yet another year.



It is especially pleasing to note the great uptake of the new revised 3rd Edition of Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2. In fact, so successful, that stocks of Year 1 & 2 were exhausted by late March. The delay in reprinting additional copies was caused by rectifying minor errors and omissions in the student books following feedback from parishes. Currently, we are arranging to reprint further bulk quantities which will also cover requirements for next year's orders. However, this may take a further two to three months. Should any parish require stocks in the interim, please phone this office and we will endeavour to source any surplus books currently held in the system.

Furthermore, if any parishes are holding surplus Year 1 or 2 Student Activity Books, it would be appreciated if you would contact the bookshop on:

Freecall: 1300 365 130 Fax: 02 9283 5146
Ph: 02 9390 5130
Email: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

We will maintain a register pending receipt of new stock.

Eddie

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eddie.krop@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Area Coordinator Meetings

Area	Date and Time	Venue	FEO
Southern	19 Jul (Mon) 10am to 12:30pm	CCD Miranda	Denise
Eastern	23 Jul (Fri) 10am to 12:30pm	Polding Centre	Robert M
Western	26 Jul (Mon) 10am to 12:30pm	Liverpool Parish	Teresa
Northern	30 Jul (Fri) 10am to 12:30pm	Polding Centre	Philomena
Central	6 Aug (Fri) 10am to 12:30pm	Polding Centre	Sarah

Accreditation Courses - Term 3, 2010

BASIC

None scheduled for Term 3

INTERMEDIATE

Southern	Fridays - 10am to 1pm Jul 23, 30 & Aug 6, 13, 20, 27	Denise Humphreys CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road Miranda
Western	Mondays - 10am to 2pm Aug 9, 16, 23 & Sep 6, 13, 20	Teresa Culjak St Gertrude's Parish 8 Justin Street Smithfield

ADVANCED

Eastern	Fridays - 10am to 2pm Jul 30 & Aug 6, 20, 27 & Sep 3 (no Aug 13)	Robert Milan Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
Central	Mondays - 10am to 2pm Jul 26 & Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Sarah Ayoub St Felix Parish 550 Chapel Road Bankstown
Northern	Mondays - 10am to 2pm Jul 26 & Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Philomena Smith Holy Spirit Parish 191 Cox's Road North Ryde

LUNCH & LEARN



"Lunch and Learn" is an exciting new initiative to help catechists grow together in their Catholic Faith. It will be held on a Friday, once a month at St Gertrude's Parish, 8 Justin Street, Smithfield.

The next Lunch and Learn is on **23 July 2010**

9:15am Mass
9:45 -10:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11:00am Islam
by Fr Paul Stenhouse MSC
12:30-2:00pm Lunch (Please bring a plate to share)

You are welcome to attend all or part of the program.

RSVP Essential: CCD on 9390 5122

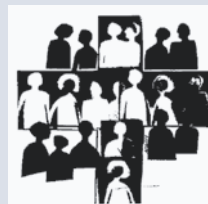
Future Lunch & Learn sessions include:

Friday 6 Aug 2010
Why Mary Matters?
By Paul Elarde

Friday 3 Sept 2010
The Sexualisation of Girls
By Ms Mary Joseph

Catechist Ministry Certificate 2010

TERM 2



The Call to Holiness (MC04)

Robert Milan

Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St Sydney
Tues & Wed 9.30am – 3pm
July 13, 14



Legacy of John Paul II (MI23)

Eamon Keane

Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St Sydney
Thurs & Fri 10am – 3pm
July 8, 9

TERM 3



Church History (MI12)

Denise Humphreys

CCD Miranda
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
Mondays 10am–1pm
August 2, 9, 16, 23



Theology 1: Making Sense of the Faith (MC03)

Robert Milan

Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St, Sydney
Tues & Wed 9.30am–3pm
Aug 10, 11



Moral Theology (MI25) New

Philomena Smith

Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St, Sydney
Fridays 9.30am–3pm
August 13, 20



Christology (MI11)

Robert Haddad

Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St, Sydney
Thursdays 10am–2pm
August 19, 26

Note: Catechists can avail themselves of Catechist Ministry Courses (CMC) prior to completion of Accreditation Courses. However, CMC Certificates will be awarded only after Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation Courses have been completed.

CCD Calendar

June 2010

18 Jun (Fri)	10am – 2pm	Mary and Joseph Day	Mt Schoenstatt 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa
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July 2010

8 July (Thurs)	10am – 3pm	The Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23) Day 1	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
9 July (Fri)	10am – 3pm	The Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23) Day 2 (Last Day)	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
13 July (Tues)	9:30am – 3pm	The Call to Holiness (CMC MC04) Day 1	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
14 July (Wed)	9:30am – 3pm	The Call to Holiness (CMC MC04) Day 2 (Last Day)	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
19 July (Mon)	10am – 12:30pm	Southern Area Coordinator's Meeting	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
23 July (Fri)	10am – 12:30pm	Eastern Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
23 July (Fri)	9:15am – 2pm	Lunch & Learn: Islam	St Gertrude's Parish 8 Justin St, Smithfield
26 July (Mon)	10am – 12:30pm	Western Area Coordinator's Meeting	All Saints Catholic Church 48 George St, Liverpool
30 July (Fri)	10am – 12:30pm	Northern Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

Aug 2010

2 Aug (Mon)	10am – 1pm	Church History (CMC MI12) Day 1	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
6 Aug (Fri)	9:15am – 2pm	Lunch & Learn: Why Mary Matters?	St Gertrude's Parish 8 Justin St, Smithfield
6 Aug (Fri)	10am – 12:30pm	Central Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
9 Aug (Mon)	10am – 1pm	Church History (CMC MI12) Day 2	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
10 Aug (Tues)	9:30am – 3pm	Theology 1 (CMC MC03) Day 1	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
11 Aug (Wed)	9:30am – 3pm	Theology 1 (CMC MC03) Day 2 (Last Day)	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
12 Aug (Thurs)	9:30am - 1:30pm	Catechist Retreat on Prayer	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
13 Aug (Fri)	9:30am – 3pm	Moral Theology 1 (CMC MI25) Day 1	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
16 Aug (Mon)	10am – 1pm	Church History (CMC MI12) Day 3	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
19 Aug (Thurs)	10am – 2pm	Christology (CMC MI11) Day 1	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
20 Aug (Fri)	9:30am – 3pm	Moral Theology 1 (CMC MI25) Day 2 (Last Day)	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
23 Aug (Mon)	10am – 1pm	Church History (CMC MI12) Day 4 (Last Day)	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
26 Aug (Thurs)	10am – 2pm	Christology (CMC MI11) Day 2 (Last Day)	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

Sep 2010

3 Sep (Fri)	9:15am – 2pm	Lunch & Learn: The Sexualisation of Girls	St Gertrude's Parish 8 Justin St Smithfield
26 Sep (Sun)	2pm – 5pm	Annual Catechist Mass	St Mary's Cathedral St Mary's Road, Sydney

SRE VS ETHICS

BY SARAH AYOUB
FEO BANKSTOWN

The trial of a secular ethics-based course as an alternative to SRE is now underway in a number of select NSW State Schools, sparking outcry from supporters and providers of Special Religious Education (SRE) and highlighting the need to respond to preserve and keep intact the dedicated time traditionally set aside for religious instruction in public schools.

The Ethics Course trial, which was authorised through an unexpected and sudden intervention by the previous NSW Premier, Nathan Rees, is being conducted in Year 5 and 6 classes over ten weeks at ten public schools in areas around NSW, including Darlinghurst, Bungendore, Rozelle, Hurstville, Leichardt, Haberfield, Randwick and others.

The course, which is backed by the St James Ethics Centre and developed by Phillip Cam, an Associate Professor in the School of History & Philosophy at UNSW who specialises in philosophical enquiry for children, features topics such as bullying, stealing, graffiti, the use and abuse of animals, children's rights and interfering with nature.

While some of these topics are worthwhile for children – hence the backing of the government and the NSW Department of Education and Training – the Ethics Course trial, as it is currently being run, is not “a complement to religious education” as was originally promoted but rather has become an alternative to SRE. And the consequences of the trial have been – in some schools – very damaging with reports that up to 30% of Catholic students have been withdrawn from some SRE classes in participating schools.



It should not be a choice between faith and ethics.

The Sydney Anglican Church, which reportedly has lost up to 47% of their students in the trial schools, has set up a website to protect SRE through a branch of its diocese, Youth Works, which argues that the attack on SRE is threatening the values underpinning “Australia’s moral framework”, and that the objectives of the ethics course is to remove Christ “from the consciousness and hearts of the next generation.”

In an article for the Anglican Diocese website, journalist Jeremy Halcrow predicted that losses next year could amount to 60%, and that the courses have a progressively left wing agenda, failing to include topics on respecting parents or servicing fellow citizens in its curriculum. The article also highlighted the DET’s support of the trial, and the fact that positive media coverage for it has deliberately been sought in an attempt that encouraging parents to shift their children from SRE to the trial.

On the Catholic front, the campaign is not much different. Although losses in Catholic Scripture have not been as heavy, the Bishop of Wollongong, Peter Ingham, has established a petition addressed to the NSW Parliament in support of SRE in public schools. The petition has so far collected thousands of signatures from SRE supporters in the Catholic dioceses of Sydney, Parramatta, Broken Bay, Wollongong and Canberra-Goulburn. Tens of thousands of other SRE supporters from other denominations and faith traditions have signed other petitions expressing similar concerns.

According to the Archbishop of Sydney, George

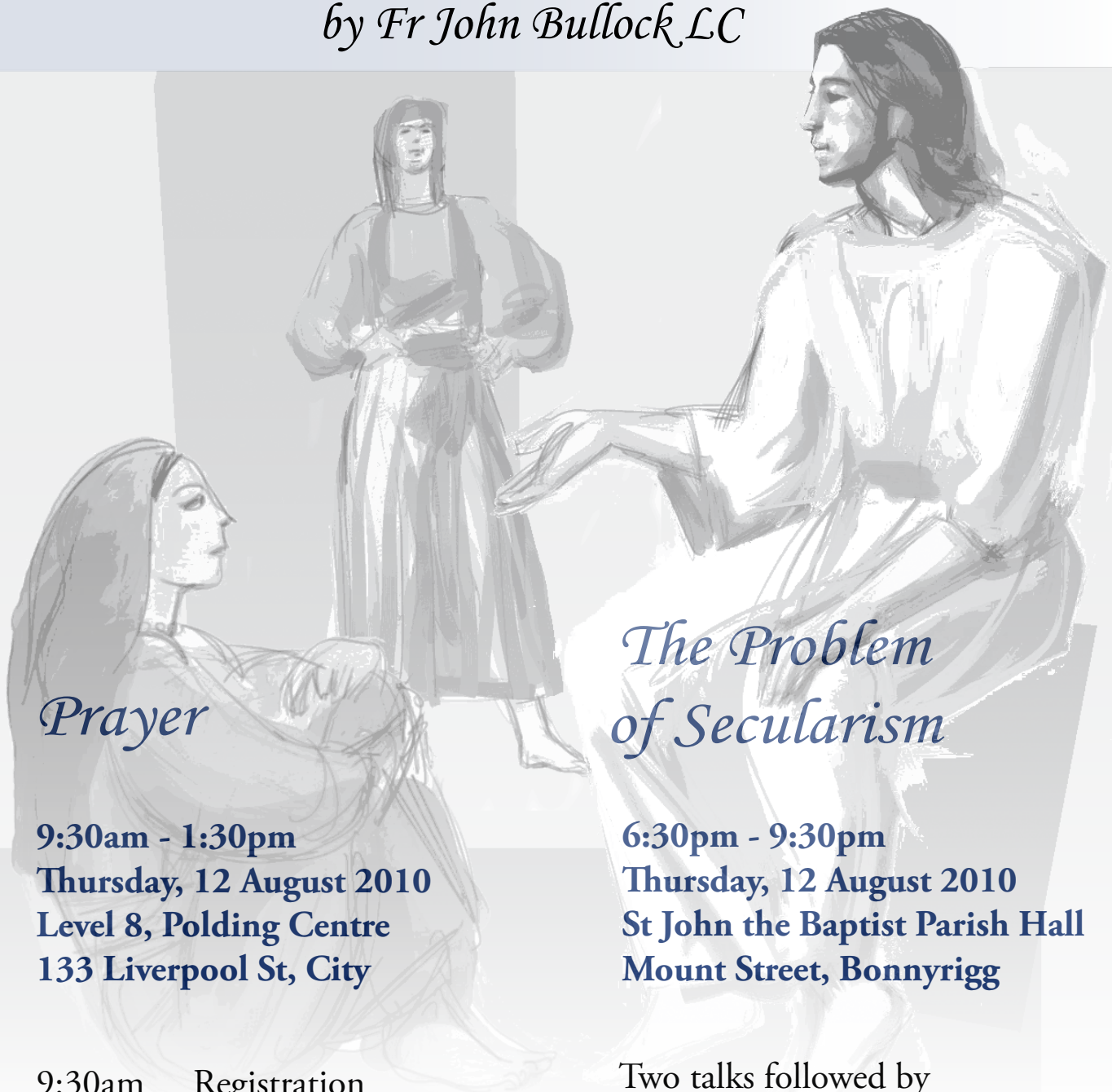
Cardinal Pell, the St James Ethics Centre is being actively hostile to religion, saying at the launch of his latest book in May that “*public discourse often proceeds as though nearly everybody was irreligious.*”

Despite this seemingly blatant challenge to faith education in our public schools, supporters of SRE should continue to fight against the recent changes – not arguing for a complete ban on ethics courses, but rather arguing that they should be run separately to SRE because there should not be a choice between faith and ethics.

Although the Ethics Course was originally intended to provide some lessons of substance to those students whose parents opted out of SRE, one major flaw in its implementation is that it is still not a compulsory alternative to SRE, meaning that parents can still choose to opt out of it thus leaving a number of students who will not be in any formal lessons while SRE is being conducted.

The implementation of the ethics program is indicative of the current secular climate that is seeking to dominate our society. As some high school Scripture students have been telling their teachers, it is “*simply insulting to assume that morals and ethics are not taught as part of our Scripture programs.*” Indeed, this push to implement an alternative to SRE does not come from a general sentiment, but rather from minority interest groups with significant support in the media. Our nation only risks further moral and social decline if the influence of Christianity among the young becomes further marginalised.

Two Retreats on 12 August for Catechists *by Fr John Bullock LC*



Prayer

9:30am - 1:30pm

Thursday, 12 August 2010

**Level 8, Polding Centre
133 Liverpool St, City**

9:30am Registration
10:00 Meditation 1
11:00 Morning Tea
11:30 Meditation 2
12:30pm Mass
1:10 Lunch and conclusion

The Problem of Secularism

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Thursday, 12 August 2010

**St John the Baptist Parish Hall
Mount Street, Bonnyrigg**

Two talks followed by
Q&A exchange on
Atheism, Religion,
Politics and Sexuality

Light supper provided

Pre-booking for these retreats are required. Catechist Coordinators are asked to contact **Mimi Rivera (9390 5122)** by **Wednesday 4 August** with the number of catechists from their parishes who wish to attend.

Children of Hope

Mon 28 Jun - Sun 11 July 2010

Children of Hope

is a programme developed by Fr Antoine Thomas, Community of St Jean, which introduces children to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is active in many parishes across the USA and other countries and has been in operation since 1994.

Fr Antoine will be leading the tour across Sydney. Speak to your parish priest about booking Fr Antoine and then invite your students and their parents.

“There really is something to this. I could see it in the eyes of my child.”

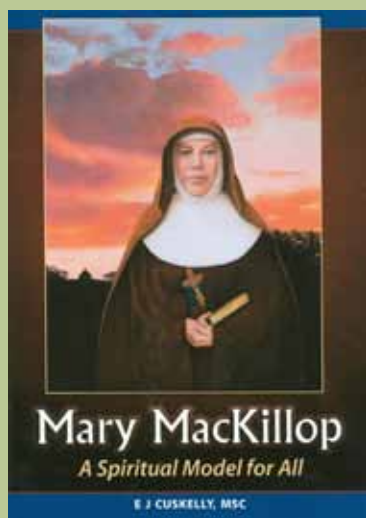
Parent of Participant, 2009

*For more information and booking enquiries, please contact
Kay Ishak on 0411 080 276
Or email scene@sydneycatholic.org*

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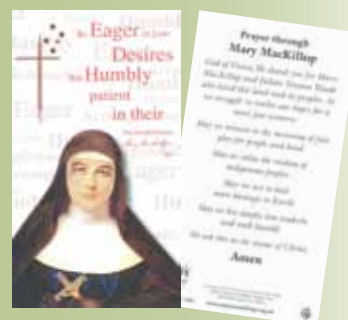
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Eleanor Emmerson Nella Ruello

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