

Light and Life

Term 4, 2010

**We saw His star in the East
and have come to worship Him!**



Original Artwork by Jewel Soares
Year 5, Lane Cove Public School

**Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Newsletter**

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FRONT COVER

"Humble Wisdom" by Jewel Soares, 10 yrs old.

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Eastern	Robert Milan
Northern	Philomena Smith
Southern	Denise Humphreys
Western	Teresa Culjak

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT ARTIST

Mimi Jane Rivera

From the Director, Robert Haddad

Dear Catechists,

I am glad to provide updates on the following areas:



Ethics trial. Following a favourable report by Dr Sue Knight, the State Government has formally approved the introduction of Ethics as an alternative to SRE for Years 5 and 6 commencing Term 1, 2011. However, in light of the upcoming state elections in March 2011 and the opposition's refusal so far to publicly support the ethics trial, the issue remains alive and subject to further debate and discussion.

K-6 Curriculum. Great news! Both the revised Years 3 and 4 curricula have been completed and will be ready for purchase and delivery in the New Year. Work will commence on the revision of the Year 5 curriculum this side of Christmas.

Year 7-12 Curriculum. The new curricula for Years 7, 8 and 9 have now been completed. Work has commenced on Year 10. Year 10 should be completed and available for use by March 2011. Further comments and feedback from catechists would be greatly appreciated.

Launch of new Music CD. The new music CD accompanying the *Christ our Light and Life* curriculum *Let's Sing Sing Sing!* was launched at the Catechist's Gathering held on Friday 15 October at Dooley's, Lidcombe. The live performance of five of the songs was very well received by all the catechists in attendance. The CD is now available for purchase from Sydney Catholic Books and Resources.

WYD Competition. I wish to thank all catechists who assisted in spreading the word and promoting the WYD Youth Day competition. The CCD received a good number of applicants and we hope to announce the names of all the winners as scheduled on December 3.

Briefly ...

- Congratulations to all new 2010 Life Members.
- A quick thank you to all catechists who encouraged and assisted students to submit artworks for the 2010 Christmas Art Competition.
- Catechist Coordinators who wish to make themselves available to teach the new Basic One Accreditation can still approach their respective FEOs. Please do so by Christmas.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas!

Robert Haddad

From the Faith Education Officers

EASTERN	NORTHERN
<p>Robert Milan</p> <p>St Mary of the Cross Mackillop was canonised on 17 October 2010, becoming Australia's first saint. May she always guide our paths, our work, our schools, our families and our nation. Congratulations to the Sisters of St Joseph for all their hard work in the community and the number of lives they have touched for the past 100 years and so.</p> <p>As 2010 draws to a close, I express my deep appreciation and admiration to catechists, coordinators and parish priests for their work, prayers, support and enduring commitment. You are all truly inspiring! I take this opportunity to wish you all a holy and blessed Christmas and a fulfilling 2011.</p> <p>As catechists, you work tirelessly without seeking reward. Truly, catechists are our greatest treasure. May God bless you and reward you for all your work.</p> <p>Please note the following Eastern Area dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Meeting, Friday 11 February, 10am-12:30pm, Polding Centre. Eastern Area Mass, 24 May, 11am-12pm St Andrew's Parish, Malabar. Mass is followed by a shared lunch. <p>Towards the middle of 2010 CCD Director Robert Haddad mentioned that the Basic Accreditation Course (BAC) would be divided into Basic One and Basic Two. This was done in order to increase the percentage of accredited catechists. The Basic One will now replace the Orientation/Child Protection Meetings held in February of each year. Basic One will run for two four- hour sessions on separate days as shown on page 6.</p> <p>I encourage all to consider acquiring Basic One accreditation.</p> <p>Rest up everyone and enjoy the Christmas spirit and have a wonderful New Year.</p> <p>Robert</p> <p>Tel: 9390 5122 Fax: 9283 5146 robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au</p>	<p>Philomena Smith</p> <p>Greetings to all catechists in the Northern Area. It is that time of the year when everyone is getting ready for Christmas. This term I have tried to get around and meet catechists by visiting schools. This has been a very worthwhile experience for me as I see first-hand the catechists at work, including the struggles and all the good things that take place in the classroom. Thank you to all those catechists who have let me come into their classrooms.</p> <p>The Northern Area, together with Central and Eastern, hosted the first combined area <i>Lunch & Learn</i> at Lewisham this term. Robert Haddad spoke on <i>How to Speak with other Christians</i>, a topic many catechists deal with day to day in their work. Thanks to all those who attended and to Robert for speaking. We look forward to more <i>Lunch & Learns</i> in 2011. If your parish would like to host an event please let me know either by email or phone.</p> <p>I have also started to train more students as part of next year's High School Catechist program. Hopefully there will be more Catholic schools in the Northern Area coming on board for 2011. Please continue to pray for the students and for growth in the program.</p> <p>Term 1 will be full of teaching for me, something I enjoy. I have managed to spread myself throughout the region providing the new Basic One course in a variety of locations, days and times. Anyone who would like me to teach a course in their parish please contact me. I am very flexible with how the course will be run. It is eight hours in duration which is usually done in two by four hour sessions.</p> <p>I hope you have a joyful and blessed Christmas and New Year.</p> <p>Philomena</p> <p>Tel: 9390 5122 Fax: 9283 5146 philomena@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au</p>

From the Faith Education Officers

SOUTHERN

Denise Humphreys

Congratulations to Tina Lenzo from Brighton-Le-Sands, our new life member from the Southern Area, who has been a catechist for 30 years.



By the time you read this newsletter you may have taught your final SRE class for 2010. I hope you have an enjoyable break over Christmas and come back to the ministry refreshed in the New Year. Looking back over the last 12 months these are some of the things for which I am most grateful:

- The very efficient way Oatley parish organised the Area Mass.
- The 150 entries from our area for the Archdiocesan Art Competition. Art works from Menai Public School, Brighton-Le-Sands Public School, Marton Public School, Ramsgate Public School, Carlton South Public School, Bexley North Public School will be in the exhibition.
- The Year 12 students from De La Salle College who taught SRE to groups of 20 – 25 infant students at Burraneer Bay. These students then helped mentor the next group of Yr 11 students who took over the ministry in Term 4.
- The catechists who stepped forward to take high school classes for Cronulla and Caringbah parishes.
- Last, but by no means least, all the catechists who teach each week.

Congratulations to all those who participated in the various levels of accreditation this year and Catechist Ministry Certificate courses. Next year the Basic One course will be offered in Miranda CCD Centre.

Once again I would like to thank you for all the prayers and support you have given me during the year. I hope you all have a happy and holy Christmas.



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CENTRAL

Sarah Ayoub and Marijana Nujic

Greetings to the coordinators and catechists in the Central Area!



As we move into Term 4, we are confronted with the reality that the ethics classes will be a part of public school education. We take comfort in the fact that many of our students and their parents will prefer the SRE classes because of the combination of faith and values it offers.

We have both recently had the pleasure of working side-by-side in Central Area. We look forward to hearing from you with regards to the Basic One and Basic Two courses for next year. Both of us are willing to come to your parishes to run the two-day Basic One workshops, so please don't hesitate to call us to arrange a date.

We'd also like to congratulate catechists who successfully completed the Basic Course held at St Felix in Bankstown this past term. We look forward to working with all those who enrol for accreditation in 2011.

2011 looks to be a busy and exciting time. Central Area is sponsoring the Annual Catechist Mass in late September. We will be looking for volunteer ushers, readers and choir for the Mass. If you'd like to help or are particularly musical, please don't hesitate to notify Sarah of your availability.

Marijana has exciting news: she is pregnant with her second child and will be going on maternity leave in February. She hopes to catch up with you before this. Until her return, Sarah will remain as Faith Education Officer (FEO) for the area.

Thank you for all your support and help in spreading the good news and your devotion to your ministry. We are honoured to work with you. To all your families, all the best for a holy, joyous Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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From the Faith Education Officers

WESTERN

Teresa Culjak

Greetings to all in the Western Area.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you who have served in the wonderful ministry of SRE for 2010. Your time and efforts were no doubt instrumental in bringing the love of Christ to the many students who you teach every week. It is therefore fitting that I offer the wonderful scriptural quote. "*Well done good and faithful servant.*" - **Mt 25:23.**



The past term has seen the Western Area host a great series of *Lunch & Learn* seminars at the Smithfield Parish. I'm pleased to see that the inspiration behind these seminars has spread to other CCD areas. I'd also like to congratulate all those who have completed the Basic Accreditation Course (BAC) over the past term.

Term Four has been one of great highlights for the Western Area, particularly in relation to the Annual Catechist Mass. Your efforts as ushers, choir members or readers did not go unnoticed. Both His Eminence Cardinal Pell and Director Robert Haddad expressed their pleasure with the event. I thank you for all your hard work in making it a success and in ensuring that the Western Area was well recognised for its devotion to the ministry.

Another highlight of the term was my most blessed and fortunate opportunity of attending the canonisation of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, in Rome in October. I kept you all in my prayers as I travelled to all the holy sites of the region. I hope that through the intercession of St Mary of the Cross, who so loved the power of education for all and fought for its importance, you can continue to spread the faith of Christ in our public schools.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Teresa

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Christmas Art Competition Results

By Denise Humphreys

Once again Year 5 and Year 6 Catholic students attending public schools were invited to enter the Archdiocesan Christmas Story Art Competition. 22 schools responded to this invitation and CCD received over one hundred entries. Eleven of our students will have their artwork on display in the art exhibition. The students and the schools they represent are listed below:

Agnes	Clempton Park Public School	Yr 6
Alysha	Marton Public School	Yr 5
Bailey	Menai Public School	Yr 6
Jewel	Lane Cove Public School	Yr 5
Jonathan	Strathfield South Public School	Yr 5/6
Mi	Ramsgate Public School	Yr 6
Mia	Bexley North Public School	Yr 6
Shareena	Carlton South Public School	Yr 5
Stella	Brighton-Le-Sands Public School	Yr 5
Vivian	Menai Public School	Yr 6
Zoe	Bexley North Public School	Yr 5

The exhibition started in 28 November at the Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral. Catechists are encouraged to visit the exhibition. It will be open until after Christmas.



by Shareena

The entries were judged on both artistic merit and the students' written reflection on their artwork.



by Jonathan



by Mia

Samples of the creative student artwork appear on this page and on the front cover of this newsletter.



by Kate

Accreditation Courses - Term 1, 2011

BASIC ONE

Northern	Jan 25 & Feb 1 (Tuesdays) 9:30am – 1:30pm	St Therese's 8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone East	Philomena Smith
Northern	Jan 31 & Feb 7 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	St Joachim's 2 Mills St, Lidcombe	Philomena Smith
Southern	Feb 7 & 8 (Mon & Tues) OR Feb 7 & 14 (Mondays) OR Feb 14 & 15 (Mon & Tues) OR Feb 8 & 15 (Tuesdays), all 10am – 2pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
Eastern	Feb 7 & 14 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	St Marys and St Joseph's 246 Malabar Rd, Maroubra	Robert Milan
Central	Feb 9 & 16 (Wednesdays) 10:30am – 2pm	St Joseph's 126 Liverpool Rd, Enfield	Sarah Ayoub
Northern	Feb 11 & 18 (Fridays) 10am – 2pm	St Fiacre and the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary 98 Catherine St, Leichhardt	Philomena Smith
Eastern	Feb 12 & 19 (Saturdays) 10am – 2pm	Sacred Heart 193 Avoca St, Randwick	Robert Milan
Western	Feb 14 & 15 (Mon & Tues) 10am – 2pm	CCD Smithfield 8 Justin St, Smithfield	Teresa Culjak
Northern	Feb 14 & 21 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	St Michael's Meadowbank Parish 45 Maxim St, West Ryde	Philomena Smith
Eastern	Feb 15 & 22 (Tuesdays) 10am – 2pm	Sacred Heart 193 Avoca St, Randwick	Robert Milan
Eastern	Feb 17 & 24 (Thursdays) 10am – 2pm	St Michael's 29 Banks Aveue, Daceyville	Robert Milan
Eastern	Feb 21 & 28 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	St Brigid's 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville	Robert Milan
Northern	Feb 22 & March 1, 8 (Tuesdays) 6pm – 8.30pm	Sacred Heart Parish Hall 23 Cardinal St, Mosman	Philomena Smith
Northern	Feb 25 & Mar 4 (Fridays) 10am – 2pm	St Michael's Lane Cove 204 Longueville Rd, Lane Cove	Philomena Smith

BASIC TWO

Northern	Feb 28, Mar 7 & 14 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	St Michael's Meadowbank Parish 45 Maxim St, West Ryde	Philomena Smith
Eastern	Mar 7, 14 & 21 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney	Robert Milan

INTERMEDIATE

Southern	Feb 25 and March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8 (Fridays) 10am – 1pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
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ADVANCED

Western	Feb 28 & March 7, 14, 21 ,28 & Apr 4 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield	Teresa Culjak
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Please note that the CCD bookshop closes for Christmas holidays from midday of 23 Dec 2010 to 7 Jan 2011. Online orders accepted anytime as normal. CCD will be happy to process the online orders in early January.

CCD Calendar

Jan 2011

10 Jan (Mon)		Bookshop re-opens	
28 Jan (Fri)		Start of Term 1	
31 Jan (Mon)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Western Area Coordinator's Meeting	All Saints Liverpool 48 George St, Liverpool

Feb 2011

4 Feb (Fri)	10:00am to 12:30pm	Northern Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
6 Feb (Sun)		Catechist Sunday	
7 Feb (Mon)	10:00am to 12:30pm	Central Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
11 Feb (Fri)	10:00am to 12:30pm	Eastern Area Coordinator's Meeting	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
18 Feb (Fri)	10:00am to 12:30pm	Southern Area Coordinator's Meeting	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
25 Feb (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Ministry (CMC MC05), Day 1, by Robert Milan	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney





Mar 2011

4 Mar (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Ministry (CMC MC05), Day 2, by Robert Milan	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
7 Mar (Mon)	10:00am to 1:00pm	Foundations of Religious Education (CMC MC02), Day 1, by Denise Humphreys	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
11 Mar (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Church Teachings on Mary (CMC MI21), Day 1, by Robert Haddad	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
14 Mar (Mon)	10:00am to 1:00pm	Foundations of Religious Education (CMC MC02), Day 2, by Denise Humphreys	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
18 Mar (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Church Teachings on Mary (CMC MI21), Day 2, by Robert Haddad	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
21 Mar (Mon)	10:00am to 1:00pm	Foundations of Religious Education (CMC MC02), Day 3, by Denise Humphreys	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
25 Mar (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Theology of the Body (CMC MI25), Day 1, by Philomena Smith	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
28 Mar (Mon)	10:00am to 1:00pm	Foundations of Religious Education (CMC MC02), Day 4, by Denise Humphreys	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda

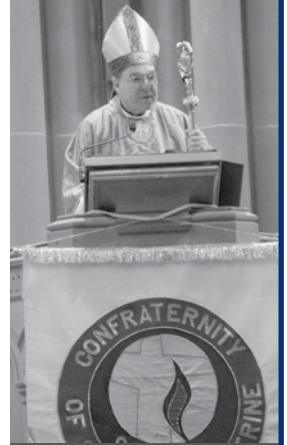
Apr 2011

1 Apr (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Theology of the Body (CMC MI25), Day 2, by Philomena Smith	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
8 Apr (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Theology of the Body CMC MI25), Day 3, by Philomena Smith	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
End of Term 1			

Catechist Ministry Certificate Courses - Term 1, 2011

Foundations of Religious Education (MC02)	Ministry (MC05)	Church Teachings on Mary (MI21)	Theology of the Body (MI25)
CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda  Denise Humphreys Mondays 10:00am–1:00pm Mar 7, 14, 21 and 28	Polding Centre L133 Liverpool St, Sydney  Robert Milan Fridays 10:00am–1:00pm Feb 25 & Mar 4	Polding Centre L133 Liverpool St, Sydney  Robert Haddad Fridays 10:00am–2:00pm Mar 11 & 18	Polding Centre L133 Liverpool St, Sydney  Philomena Smith Fridays 10:00am–2:00pm Mar 25 and Apr 1 & 8

Highlights of the 2010 Annual Catechist Mass



The main celebrant
George Cardinal Pell



Feyona van Stom - one of two who received
the Cardinal Gilroy Award for their 40 year service milestone



The St Gertrude's Parish Choir sang like angels.



Catechists took the gifts to the altar for the Offertory Procession.



CCD acknowledged the work of student catechists from
De La Salle College and nine other Catholic High Schools.



It was a very memorable
event for families like that of Nancy
Buchanan's.



Cantor Anna Kleibert



A number of parish priests from Sydney Archdiocese concelebrated the special Mass.



Photos courtesy of Catholic Weekly and Enrico Rivera Photography. Further photos available by request.



Veronica Ascoli - one of two people who received the Catechist Ministry Certificate



Fr Michael de Stoop



Mary Anne Mallon - one of 45 who received the Certificate of Accreditation



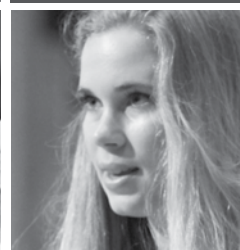
Sam Capra



Heather Watt



Michael Mendieta



Elizabeth Draffin



Sr Carmel Clancy, Sr Joan Bell, Sr Mary Hugh Smith and the Theresians had a mini-reunion.



17 catechists received the Apostolic Blessing. Elvira Arcella is shown above.



Director Robert Haddad thanked everyone who came to join the celebration.

FROM HIS EMINENCE GEORGE CARDINAL PELL



"If ethics courses are to continue in aggressive competition with SRE, it should be on the same footing; taught by volunteers with no direct or indirect government funding.

It should also be described for what it is."

Public school education in New South Wales has been free, compulsory and secular since 1880.

Since then, volunteers of different faiths have been providing thirty to forty minutes of special religious education (SRE) a week in public schools to those children of their respective traditions who choose to attend.

Today there are 12-15,000 volunteers teaching SRE in public schools, making them the second largest volunteer force in the state behind surf life-saving (17,000 volunteers).

This right of children to receive religious education in public schools is protected by legislation. Regulations prohibit other subjects being offered in SRE time.

Although the law is very clear, this right is being undermined by the state government and the inappropriately named St. James Ethics Centre by the introduction of ethics classes in SRE time. Ethics classes in SRE time were trialled in ten public schools in recent months.

Until recently the trial was shrouded in secrecy. It was almost impossible to discover the content of the ten ethics units and nearly as difficult to discover the terms of reference of the follow-up enquiry.

While it still claims that the ethics courses were offered only to those who had opted out of SRE, in fact the St. James Ethics Centre invited all Year 5 and 6 children in the trial schools to attend. As a consequence 478 deserted Anglican SRE and Catholic numbers fell by 29 per cent.

Despite their hostile approach, the secularists behind this push could not find sufficient volunteers for every class in the trial. When a petition with 52,000 signatures supporting SRE was quickly produced, a counter-petition in support of ethics could only gather 2,000 signatures.

If ethics courses are to continue in aggressive competition with SRE, it should be on the same footing; taught by volunteers with no direct or indirect government funding. It should also be described for what it is.

Some principals from the trial schools expressed concerns about the content of the ethics classes. Some units took a relativist approach to issues like lying and terrorism. One child thought the classes were great because there were no right or wrong answers on moral questions!



A good course in secular ethics could be useful, if it is broadly compatible with community values and the Ten Commandments.

It should be approved by a broad based committee representative of the community, rather than cobbled together in secret. It should also be available to all students in normal school time.

✠ George Cardinal Pell
Archbishop of Sydney
11 November 2010

IQ² Debate

on Ethics Education for non-SRE students



Last Thursday 17 November, the Director of CCD, Robert Haddad, participated in a debate hosted by the St James Ethics Centre on the proposition, “*Special ethics education should be allowed for children not attending scripture classes.*” Robert appeared to speak against this proposition, together with Brig. Jim Wallace from the Australian Christian Lobby and Rt Rev. Glenn Davies, Anglican Bishop of North Sydney. Speaking in favour of the proposition were Lisa Forrest (Olympian, parent), Stephen Crittenden (ABC Religion commentator) and Dr Simon Longstaff (St James Ethics Centre). Robert’s argument focused on the inappropriateness of placing an ethics course in the timeslot normally allocated to

Special Religious Education; rather ethics should be part of a comprehensive philosophical ethics course for all students K-12 and included in the proposed new National Curriculum. Further, the true complement to SRE is General Religious Education (GRE). It is more appropriate that GRE together with supervised reading/study, reading recovery, ‘hurdle help’, and participation in social justice action groups etc., be offered to non-SRE students, all properly managed by the Dept. of Education and Training. Overall, the side opposing the above proposition succeeded in changing the opinions of 7% of the audience, which amounted to over 70 individuals. In that sense the overall night was a success.

**The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is pleased to announce
this year's new Life Members for their 30 years of dedicated service.**

Thank you and congratulations!

Central Area

Joyce Ebb

Mary Hardaker

of St Luke's Catholic Church Revesby

of St Therese's Catholic Church Padstow

Eastern Area

Joe Castle

of St Therese's Catholic Church Mascot

Northern Area

Nadia Caravello

Frances Gibson

of Holy Spirit Catholic Church North Ryde

of St Ambrose's Catholic Church Concord West

Southern Area

Tina Lenzo

of St Thomas More Catholic Church Brighton-Le-Sands

Western Area

Carmen Rose Caruana

Venetia Delaney

Nonie Kennedy

Lina Saldaneri

of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church Mt Pritchard

of All Saints Catholic Church Liverpool

of All Saints Catholic Church Liverpool

of All Saints Catholic Church Liverpool



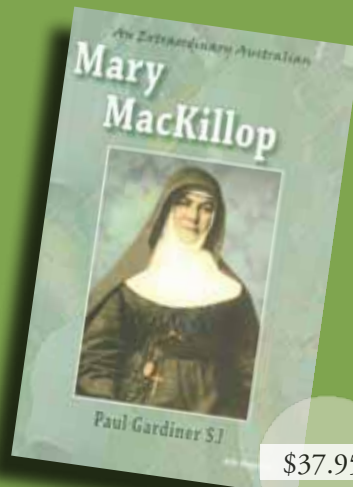
Recent Releases



\$37.95

Mary MacKillop in Challenging Times

Sheila McCreanor presents a collection of letters written by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop from 1883-1899. The letters provide eye witness accounts of incidents which lead us to discover the depths of Mother Mary MacKillop's character.



\$37.95

Mary MacKillop: An Extraordinary Australian

Fr Paul Gardiner, Vatican's official Postulator of the Cause of Mary MacKillop's sainthood, writes an authorised biography of Australia's first saint. Now in its sixth reprint, Fr Gardiner hides none of the shocking treatment St Mary of the Cross received from certain bishops and priests. Read how St Mary of the Cross still comes across as a strong, tender woman of boundless energy who was prepared to help anyone in need.



\$37.95

Sainthood in Australia: Mary MacKillop and the Print Media

Read about St Mary of the Cross MacKillop from a unique perspective. Sheila McCreanor uses media discourse case studies to study St Mary of the Cross' cultural image in the Australian print media. Students of media and religion studies, and individuals searching for the Australian identity, will find this book a valued reference for their research.

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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, Big Books, Sacramental Programs and already discounted stock. The voucher can be used within a year of the catechist's birthday.