

# *Light and Life*

Term 1, 2011

## *SRE & Ethics:*



*Where to now?*

Archdiocese of Sydney  
CCD Newsletter

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## FRONT COVER

Cover artwork by Paul Mooney of Mooney Fine Art.

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## FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

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

## From the Director, Robert Haddad

Dear Catechists,

Welcome back for 2011!



**Ethics Update.** The teaching of secular ethics will start in 57 public schools across NSW, beginning Term 1 this year. Most of these schools are in our Eastern and Northern Areas.

Ninety "facilitators" have been trained to provide 20 hours of teaching in Years 5 and 6. It is envisaged that ethics will eventually be taught K-6. We will be asking all coordinators to monitor the impact of these classes on our student numbers.

**K - 6 Curriculum.** The great news continues. K-4 is now totally complete and work has commenced on Year 5. It is hoped that Year 5 will be completed by May and Year 6 by November.

**7 - 12 Curriculum.** Years 7, 8 and 9 are now totally complete. Year 10 has been drafted and edited and is now in the hands of our graphic artist. The aim is to totally complete Years 7 to 12 by the end of this year.

**New Sacramental Programs.** The CCD has been asked by Bishop Julian Porteous to participate in the production of new sacramental programs for the Archdiocese. Denise Humphreys, FEO for Southern Area, has been seconded to write the teacher manuals and student activity books for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It is envisaged that the writing of these books will take three months and be completed in late June.

**WYD Competition.** I wish to thank all catechists and students who assisted and participated in the Madrid 2011 World Youth Day competition. The winners of a \$2000 voucher from Harvest Pilgrimages were Theresa Maree Coyle, Denis Sylvester, Julie Pham, and Victoria Costello.

**Staff changes.** Marijana Nujic had a baby girl and is on maternity leave. We wish her all the best. During the remainder of 2011 Sarah Christie (nee Ayoub) will be looking after the Central Area.

**Catechist Council Changes** A big thank you to those catechists who have recently completed two years of service on the Archdiocesan Catechist Council. New members of the Council have been notified of their appointments for 2011 and 2012.

Robert Haddad

## From the Faith Education Officers

### EASTERN

#### Robert Milan

What a fantastic start to 2011! With recruitment drives across the Eastern Area, there appears to be a heightened interest and a large number of new catechists and helpers joining the team – welcome aboard! The Eastern Area Coordinator Meeting was attended by 13 coordinators with seven apologies, my sincere thank you to you all for your attendance and for those who sent their apologies. This great vibe within the Eastern Area was made possible by the efforts and positive attitude of all catechists. The recruitment drive at Marrickville generated the greatest interest with 19 recruits handing over their details to be contacted by Sister Ritzlou. A reminder to coordinators that I am available for recruitment should you wish to book a recruitment weekend. I suggest that recruitment take place between the months of February to the end of Term 3. It is imperative that prospects are contacted immediately after the recruitment weekend, otherwise the enthusiasm and the interest wanes. Another tip, if a prospect says 'No', this may mean 'not now'. So I would ask *"May I call you in six months time to see if your situation has changed?"* People need to hear the message several times and be asked on more than one occasion.

The Basic One Accreditation Course has proven to be a hit with both new and current catechists attending across all venues. I would like to thank all coordinators and Parish Priests for accepting the invitation to host these courses. Catechists have certainly appreciated courses being held at their parishes.

The Eastern Area would like to welcome back St Clare's College Waverley for another year. The College has found the High School Student Catechist Program extremely rewarding for the girls. They will be once again be paired with Waverley Public School.

Wishing you a delightful year and I hope to see you in my journeys.

Yours in Christ,

Robert

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### NORTHERN

#### Philomena Smith

Greetings to all in the Northern Area! I do hope you have settled well into 2011 and had a fantastic start to the teaching year. Welcome to all new catechists who may have just started. Term 1 like usual has been busy for me, full of teaching, meetings and courses.



Congratulations to all catechists who received awards on Catechist Sunday, you are an inspiration to your church community.

During Term 1, I have had the opportunity to go throughout the region teaching the Basic One course and have had excellent attendance numbers. I would like to thank all those catechists and coordinators who attended the Basic One course as it is very important to accredit and increase our knowledge and skills as catechists.

The High School Catechist program is up and running again in the Northern Area with students being trained and entering schools as helpers and catechists. We have been very fortunate to increase the schools involved in the Northern Area. I am happy for the good news to spread with more Catholic high schools taking part. Please advise me if you know of any schools interested.

This time is personally going to one of great change for me as I embark on the vocation of marriage. I would just like to thank all catechists who have offered their support and prayers for me. During the month of May I will be travelling the world and thinking of you all!

While I am away, the Intermediate Accreditation course will begin at the Polding Centre, I will be back to teach the last few weeks.

Please let me know if you require any assistance.

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## From the Faith Education Officers

### CENTRAL

#### Sarah Christie

Greetings and welcome to another term. I trust you all had an enjoyable and restful festive season.

As most of you may have heard, my colleague Marijana Nujic has just had her second child, and as such, I have resumed the duties of looking after the Central Area full-time for the remainder of 2011.



As a result of this, I have been extremely busy holding Basic One courses at a variety of parishes, which saw catechists refresh their learning of basic catechism and the ever-important Child Protection Legislation. It also saw new catechists start their catechist accreditation courses in preparation for what we hope is a long and fruitful career in the ministry.

Speaking of careers in the catechist ministry, we have at CCD always said that you are never too young or old to be a catechist, and we have been particularly excited about the High School Catechist project since it began. In light of this, I am delighted to report that the Central Area is now going to be welcoming student catechists from De La Salle Revesby, in addition to student catechists from St Charbel's in Punchbowl and Bethlehem College in Ashfield. I will be working with all three schools over the next term to train the young people involved and pair them up with public schools in the area.

Coordinators who attended the meeting for 2011 will no doubt have made you aware of the schools which have included the Ethics Program as an alternative to Scripture in the area. I urge you to pay close attention to changing class numbers and dynamics, as I will be reporting losses to my Director and colleagues as part of a monitoring of changes due to ethics.

Finally, I would like us all to keep in our prayers the late Betty Brayshaw from Greenacre, who died recently after 40 years as a catechist. May she find eternal rest in the Lord whose love she always shared with her students.

God bless you all, and all the best for 2011.

Sarah

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### WESTERN

#### Teresa Culjak

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

Welcome to Term 1, 2011.

We have many special events ahead of us in 2011 including the return of Lunch & Learns held monthly at St Gertrude's Parish. Details are on page 6. It is an opportunity for all us catechists, family and friends to grow in our understanding of the Catholic faith in a relaxed and prayerful environment.



I would like to remind you that there has been a change of date and venue in regards to the Western Area Mass. It will now be held on Friday, 10 June 2011, at Mary Immaculate Parish, Bossley Park. Please join us as we celebrate the catechetical ministry, and join together in thanksgiving for all the marvels the Lord has done through us. The Mass will begin at 11am followed by lunch. Please bring a plate to share.

A special welcome to all those beginning their journey as catechists. I would like to invite you to attend our Basic One and Two Accreditation Courses held in May/June as also shown on page 6. Topics will include Child Protection, Lesson Planning, Classroom Management and much more to assist you in the classroom. It is a wonderful experience and opportunity to meet others also starting in the catechetical ministry.

In just a few months, the Church will be celebrating the Beatification of John Paul II; a man whom the world loved, and is greatly missed. JP II had a remarkable life and I encourage you to use this opportunity to discuss in your classes his papacy. He beatified 1,345 people, canonised 483 people, wrote 14 encyclicals, met 17,642,800 pilgrims in audiences, visited 876 cities and spoke eight languages. These are just a few of his many achievements.

As we journey this year, may we become people of the beatitudes, salt and light for the world and proclaim the Gospel without fear taking the motto of our beloved John Paul II... "*Be not afraid.*"

Thank you for your commitment.

Teresa

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## From the Faith Education Officers

### SOUTHERN

#### Denise Humphreys

Welcome to all catechists who are teaching Catholic SRE (scripture) classes in 2011, especially those of you who are new to this ministry. I was very pleased to see so many new catechists and some a little more experienced completing the Basic One course at Miranda this term.



Good preparation gives you time to be proactive and to vary your lessons. Remember a student's attention span is approximately their age - five to ten minutes. Use pictures, music, action songs, the Big Books and Br Julian's resources to regain and keep their attention.

This year Easter is very late, just before the beginning of Term 2. There are many resources you can use to enhance your Lent, Holy Week and Easter lessons. The Big Books – blue for Kindergarten, red for Year 1 and yellow for Year 2. Br Julian Quinlan has developed resources for each lesson. These are now available on a CD.

I encourage you to attend these workshops:

- Br Julian on Friday 25 March at Miranda.
- Catechist Gathering on Monday 9 May in the City.

The Southern Area Catechist Mass will be held at St Patricks Parish, Sutherland on Friday 20 May. All catechists and prayer partners are invited to attend. After Mass, there will be an opportunity to gather for a BYO lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Sutherland church is within ten minute walking distance from Sutherland Train Station.

As mentioned in the Director's report, I will be taking a leave of absence from hands on CCD work during Term 2. I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or e-mail if you need help.



Denise

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## Staff Update

### Notice to Coordinators and Catechists of the Southern Area



Denise Humphreys has been appointed by Bishop Julian Porteous as the principal draft writer of the proposed new Sacramental Program for the Archdiocese of Sydney. This is both a great honour and responsibility for Denise and follows her excellent work in

revising the *Christ our Light and Life* K-6 curriculum.

As Denise's work load is already onerous, it has been decided to relieve her of all responsibilities in looking after the needs of catechists in the Southern Area for a period of three months, commencing April 1. It is envisaged that Denise will complete her work on the Sacramental Programs during this time and return to normal duties with the CCD on July 4. During Denise's absence a casual relief person will be employed to look after the Southern Area. Name and details will be announced in due course.

On behalf of the CCD I wish Denise all the best during her period of secondment.

Robert Haddad

Director of CCD Sydney



### Casual Work Opportunity

CCD seeks a Faith Education Officer to work on a casual basis from April 1 to July 4. The selected individual will work for the Southern Area during the period.

Please contact the Business Manager Eddie Kropkowski on 9390 5122 for details.

## Accreditation Courses - Term 2, 2011

### BASIC ONE

Western	May 16 & May 23 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield	Teresa Culjak
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### BASIC TWO

Southern	May 16, 23, 30 & June 6 (Mondays) 10am – 1pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
Western	May 30, June 6, 20 & 27 (no June 13) Mondays 10am – 2pm	CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield	Teresa Culjak

### INTERMEDIATE

Combined Areas	May 16, 23, 30, June 6 & 20 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney	Robert Milan
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### ADVANCED

None offered during the term.



**Br Julian Quinlan  
Presents  
The Art of Storytelling**

**Plus ideas and resources  
for Holy Week and Easter Lessons**

Friday 25 March  
10am-1pm  
Miranda CCD Centre  
50 Kiora Rd Miranda (Just next to Vinnies)

**LUNCH  
& LEARN**



“Lunch and Learn” helps catechists grow together in their Catholic Faith. It is held on a Friday, once a month, at St Gertrude’s Parish, 8 Justin Street, Smithfield.

The next Lunch and Learn is on **20 May 2011**

9:15am Mass  
9:45 -10:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11:00am **The new translation of the Roman Missal**  
by David Orr OSB  
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

**Would you like Br Julian to run a session  
on storytelling in your Parish?**

Please ring Br Julian on  
0405 096 018 to arrange a suitable date.



**Future Lunch & Learn sessions include:**

Friday 17 June 2011  
**The Eucharist**  
By Robert Haddad

# CCD Calendar

## April 2011

27 Apr (Wed)

Start of Term 2

## May 2011

9 May (Mon)	10:00am to 1:30pm	Catechist Gathering	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
10 May (Tues)	9:30am to 3:00pm	Controversies in Church History (CMC MI22), Day 1, Sarah Christie	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
11 May (Wed)	9:30am to 3:00pm	Controversies in Church History (CMC MI22), Day 2, Sarah Christie	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
13 May (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Theology 1 (CMC MC03), Day 1, Robert Milan	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
18 May (Wed)	11:00am to 1:00pm	Central Area Mass	St Christopher's 233 Tower St, Panania
20 May (Fri)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Theology 1 (CMC MC03), Day 2, Robert Milan	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
20 May (Fri)	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Southern Area Mass	St Patrick's 136 Flora St, Sutherland
24 May (Tues)	11:00am to 1:00pm	Eastern Area Mass	St Andrew's 6 Prince Edward St, Malabar
25 May (Wed)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Church: Universal & Local (CMC MC06), Day 1, Robert Milan	St Gertrude's Parish 6 Justin St, Smithfield

## June 2011

1 Jun (Wed)	10:00am to 2:00pm	Church: Universal & Local (CMC MC06), Day 2, Robert Milan	St Gertrude's Parish 6 Justin St, Smithfield
8 Jun (Wed)	10:00am to 2:00pm	The Eucharist (CMC MI19), Day 1, by Robert Haddad	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
10 Jun (Fri)	11:00am to 2:00pm	Western Area Mass	Mary Immaculate Parish 110 Mimosa Rod, Bossley Park
15 Jun (Wed)	10:00am to 2:00pm	The Eucharist (CMC MI19), Day 2, by Robert Haddad	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
24 Jun (Fri)	11:00am to 1:00pm	Northern Area Mass	Holy Name of Mary 1A Mary St, Hunters Hills

## July 2011

End of Term 2

12 Jul (Tues)	10:00am to 3:00pm	Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23), Day 1, by Eamonn Keane	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
13 Jul (Wed)	10:00am to 3:00pm	Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23), Day 2, by Eamonn Keane	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

## Catechist Ministry Certificate Courses - Term 2, 2011

Theology 1 (MC03)	Church: Universal & Local (MC06)	Controversies in Church History (MI22)	The Eucharist (MI19)	Legacy of John Paul II (MI23)
				
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney	St Gertrude's Parish 6 Justin Street, Smithfield	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
Robert Milan Fridays 10:00am – 2:00pm May 13 and 20	Robert Milan Wednesdays 10:00am – 2:00pm May 25 and Jun 1	Sarah Christie Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am – 3:00pm May 10 and 11	Robert Haddad Wednesdays 10:00am – 2:00pm June 8 and 15	Eamonn Keane Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00am – 3:00pm July 12 and 13

## Cover Story

*SRE & Ethics - Where to now?*

“The challenge will always remain to convince families and students who wish to re-consider their choice of Ethics to ‘come home’ to Catholic SRE.”

*Robert Haddad*

CCD Sydney Director



The 2011 academic year opened with an unfortunate announcement from the State Shadow Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, that the Liberal-National parties will not scrap Ethics classes if they win government on March 26. Only last November 24 Piccoli was reported by the Sydney Morning Herald as saying, *“While the NSW Liberals and Nationals understand the importance of ethics we do not believe it should be positioned as an alternative to special religious education ... We don’t think that students should have to choose between special religious education ... and ethics classes.”* Piccoli’s latest announcement is undoubtedly a back-flip and effectively means that the battle over Ethics classes during SRE time has come to an end.

Where to now? The reality is that Ethics classes are here to stay. The St James Ethics Centre have set up a new organisation called **Primary Ethics** to organise the recruitment, training and placement of ethics “facilitators” as well as arranging for future curriculum development K-6. Primary Ethics have announced that they will start 2011 with 90 facilitators teaching in 57 schools across NSW. Most of these schools are in Sydney’s eastern, inner west and lower northern suburbs. They plan to teach the same curriculum as trialed during 2010, extending the 10 lessons over 20 hours.

Primary Ethics and their supporters are undoubtedly determined to take advantage of their political success and quickly advance Ethics into as many schools as possible. Besides the 57 schools earmarked to commence teaching Ethics in 2011, there are nearly another 70 P & Cs who have requested it for their

schools. This number will probably grow steadily in the years to come. Supporters of SRE should be weary of this growth trend as recruitment of new families and their children into Ethics classes will not be drawn solely from the pool of non-SRE students.

On the other hand, there are also positive opportunities for SRE. The Ethics debate has made all SRE providers more conscious of the need to improve their own ‘game’, particularly as regards teacher training and curriculum development. There is now a conscious awareness to ensure that all scripture teachers have at least a basic level of accreditation covering classroom management, child protection and theological knowledge. Greater emphasis must also be given to recruit younger teachers and male role models and expand our presence into more secondary schools. Finally, while the media portrayed trial ethics classes as paragons of perfect teaching and classroom behaviour, eventually Primary Ethics will have to grapple with the same everyday issues SRE providers deal with – retiring and drop out teachers, poor quality delivery, curriculum revision, loss of student interest, etc. The challenge will always remain to convince families and students who wish to re-consider their choice of Ethics to ‘come home’ to Catholic SRE.



# ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHIST GATHERING

**MONDAY, 9 MAY 2011  
10.00AM - 1.30PM**

**POLDING CENTRE  
COMBINED TAYLOR & BARLOW ROOM  
133 LIVERPOOL STREET  
CITY**

## **Guest Speakers/Topics:**

10.00 am: **Introduction and Welcome**

Robert Haddad, Director CCD

10.30 am: **The Life and Legacy of Blessed Pope John Paul II**

Eamonn Keane, Redfield College

11.30 am: **Break for Refreshments**

12.15 pm: **Challenges and Opportunities:  
Q and A Forum on Ethics, School Chaplaincy  
and High School SRE**

John Donnelly, Jude Hennessy and Robert Haddad

CCD Directors of Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney

1.15 pm: **Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements**

Places are limited. Catechist coordinators are asked to contact **CCD** via email on [books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au) or 9390 5122 by **April 21, 2011** with the number of catechists from their parishes who wish to attend the Catechist Gathering.

# Life Members Photo Gallery

CCD gave a warm welcome to ten New Life Members in a special Mass at Lidcombe and lunch at Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club last 26 November 2010. Catechists are awarded Life Membership after serving for at least 30 years.



CCD Director Robert Haddad



**From left to right, front row:** Joyce Ebb of Revesby, Mary Hardaker of Padstow, Joe Castle of Mascot, Nonie Kennedy of Liverpool, **back row:** Carmen Rose Caruana of Mt Pritchard, Frances Gibson of Concord West, Tina Lenzo of Brighton-Le-Sands, Venetia Delaney of Liverpool, Nadia Caravello of North Ryde and Lina Saldaneri of Liverpool.





Fr Peter Lynch



Frances Gibson



Joe Castle



Venetia Delaney



Carmen Rose Caruana



Philomena Smith and Sarah Christie



Shirley Bond played beautifully and inspired people to sing with her.



Nonie Kennedy and Lina Saldaneri in offertory procession to Fr David Vaughan PP and Fr Peter Lynch.



Sr Christina O'Connor Guest of Honour



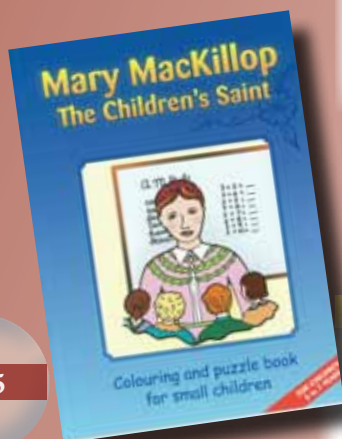
Concelebrants Fr John Flader, Fr Stanislaw Kluk of North Ryde and Fr Peter Lynch of Brighton-Le-Sands



Catechist supporters from Balmain parish



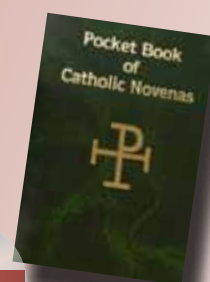
# New Releases



\$9.95

## **Prayer Book of Catholic Novenas**

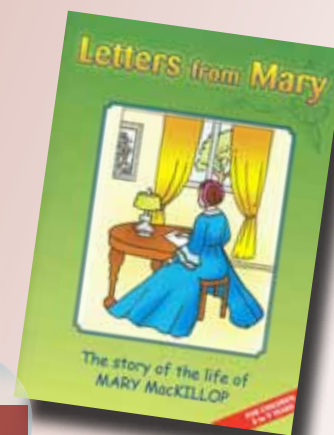
*Beautiful, full colour illustrations enhance this booklet that contains the most loved Catholic Novenas for every Catholic in pocket book form.*



\$7.95

## **Mary MacKillop - The Children's Saint**

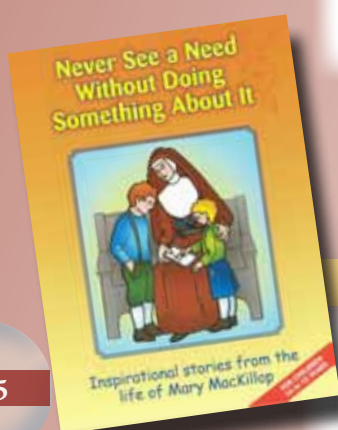
*Children aged 5 to 7 years will love the activities in the workbook, and learn about Australia's first Saint while doing them.*



\$9.95

## **Letters from Mary**

*In this workbook Mary tells her story to children aged 8 to 9 years, through a series of imaginary letters. Lots of interesting activities for the children to do.*



\$9.95

## **Never See a Need without Doing Something About It**

*This workbook is for children aged 10 to 12 years. Interesting activities are included with each story from Mary's life.*

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Eleanor Emmerson

**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.