

Light and Life

Term 3, 2014



"THE FRANCIS EFFECT"



A HIT AT CATECHIST MASSES!



Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Catechist Newsletter

SPECIAL
BOOK
OFFER
INSIDE



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FRONT COVER

A cut-out life size "Pope Francis" was taken for Pastoral Visits in all Area Masses. More photos on page 8.

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Mimi Rivera 9390 5122 for RSVPs

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Central Area	Sarah Christie
Eastern Area	Robert Milan
Northern Area	Christopher Cox
Southern Area	Denise Humphreys
Western Area	Teresa Culjak

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Mimi Rivera

From CCD Director Doug Mawhinney

Upon returning home from Kindy one day last month our eldest announced wide eyed, *All I want to be when I grow up is a saint!* This stirred my heart. The words of Saint John Paul II rang in my ears, *Do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium.*

Pope Francis, in recognising Popes John XXIII and John Paul II as saints, said: *we need saints today who go to the movies, who eat pizza, dance and play sports, who surf the internet and listen to their iPods, who love the Eucharist, are open, sociable, normal, happy companions, who are in this world and who know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane. We need saints.*

Our *Christ our Light and Life* curriculum aims to help our students want to become saints: ordinary people wanting and working with the Holy Spirit's extraordinary gifts of grace to love as Jesus loves. Peter Rosengren, our *Catholic Weekly* editor, insightfully said in a tribute to St John XXIII and St John Paul II that their greatness should not put being saints out of our sights - we are in communion with them already.

May our lessons and prayers help point to the eternal vista of being in communion: that *the Kingdom of God is close at hand* (Mark 1:15), that we are now surrounded by *a great cloud of witnesses* (Hebrews 12). When studying St Paul's letters, I recall having a dream about being in a stadium running a relay race with Jesus and all the saints cheering us on. Faith brings us into communion with more than meets the eye and provides *another way of knowing*, throwing open the doors of our hearts to look upon the world through the eyes of the Spirit. By being in communion, we go out faithfully echoing the Word of God, Jesus, who continues to build his Church upon rock.

Importantly, our Archdiocesan approved curriculum builds upon this rock of St Peter, our first Pope. The Special Religious Instruction Review in Victoria is showing how important it is that we teach our approved curriculum. Our Teacher's Manuals, learning outcomes and activity books provide a sure foundation upon which your own creativity may help build up your students. May their thanks, prayers and exclamations continue to inspire us:

All I want to be when I grow up is a saint! Amen,
thanks be to God.

Doug

From the Faith Education Officers

Eastern Area

Robert Milan

The Church has recently canonised Popes John XXIII and John Paul II, who empowered the laity and highlighted the need for lay catechists, as is our current Vicar, Pope Francis. We are grateful to God for sending us strong and inspirational Shepherds.



Parishes continue to work towards attaining Working With Children Checks (WWCC) and Basic Accreditation Level One. To comply with these requirements a training day can be organised to work in with catechists' schedules.

The Catechist Gathering held at the Polding Centre was an overwhelming success. Denise Humphreys Southern Area FEO, enlightened the 100 catechists and CCD staff regarding the 2014 SRE Review that will affect us all. The catechists were then introduced to "The Liturgicals" – a combined presentation by the Faith Education Officers – who presented creative ways to teach SRE in response to the Holy Father's request for creativity in catechesis. We have since received feedback that many of the attendees were inspired to try some of the "teaching, tips and tactics" presented. A very educational and fun-filled day was had by all.

The Eastern Area Mass was held at St Mary Magdalene's Parish, Rose Bay, on a beautiful sunny autumn day. Thank you to Monsignor Tony Doherty who led the Mass and to the concelebrating priests. Narelle Hills, Catechist Coordinator and her team worked hard in organising the day to bring it all to fruition. The presence of the Holy Father, in the form of a cardboard cut-out, was a massive hit with catechists and CCD staff rushing to take photos.

A reminder that the Eastern Area Coordinator Meeting is on Friday 25 July, 10am-12pm, at the Polding Centre.

Robert



Catechists at the Eastern Area Mass

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Southern Area

Denise Humphreys

The Area Mass was once again well attended. Thank you to Fr Phil, Terri and the Menai catechists for overall organisation and to the wonderful catechists and priests who attended from both sides of the water.



Hopefully I will see many of you at the Annual Catechist Mass on 21 September. Southern Area is acting as host for the Mass providing a combined choir. Please contact your coordinator if you are available to help as an usher or helper for the afternoon tea or even join the choir.

We are now half way through the year and into a long stretch of Ordinary time. Often people express a worry about being ordinary. *"I am just an ordinary mum."* However, one of my favourite definitions of a saint is someone who does the ordinary in an extraordinary way. I encourage you to do what you can in the time available, as well as possible.

The liturgical colour for this season is green. Green is the colour of life and growth – the greening of our lawns after long awaited rain is a welcome sight and soon we will be looking for the first green shoots of the spring flowers. While other seasons of the year celebrate events in the life of Christ, Ordinary Time presents us with Jesus' deeds and teachings during his public ministry. During this term you will find the *Christ our Light and Life* curriculum contains lessons about the deeds and teachings of Jesus. These lessons are designed to help our students grow in their understanding of the Christian life.

Please ring or email if you need help and I will get back to you. Our Southern Area Coordinator Meeting on 28 July starts 10am at CCD Miranda Centre.

Denise



Angela and Denise



Mary, Rhonda and Gloria



Sylvania catechists surround Pope Francis

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From the Faith Education Officers

Central Area

Sarah Christie

Greetings catechists of Central.

What a term it has been for all catechists in the Archdiocese! Over the past few months we have all worked tirelessly to obtain our new Working with Children Checks and receive accreditation ahead of the SRE review later this year.



I have been so pleased with your efforts and am so thankful for your cooperation in this matter. For those of you without any accreditation, please contact me so we can start the ball rolling.

The last SRE review was done over thirty years ago and much has changed since then. It is imperative that we work to modern standards and also remember that the effective teaching methods required of us are not just about regulations but are for the good of the children.

Doug's arrival at CCD has heralded in a new phase of Accreditation and we'll be looking at ensuring we have more focus on practical teaching tips and tactics. It is so wonderful that we all have our own devotions and experiences of the faith. However, we need to hand on the Word of God in a way that is tangible and relatable to our students. Teaching SRE is not just a matter of WHAT but also HOW.

I hope that our Catechist Gathering was beneficial in this respect. Do remember that we are here to talk you through different ways of storytelling – and if you have High School catechists in the class, let their youth and enthusiasm be an asset to your teaching which by their “doing” will also help their faith grow.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that, after almost five years in this role, I'll be heading off on maternity leave. I am thankful for your prayers as I prepare to welcome my first child into the world, and look forward to working with you all once again in January 2015 (God willing). You have made my job a dream and taught me so much.

God Bless,

Sarah

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Western Area

Teresa Culjak

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

The first half of the year has been busy training catechists with a Basic Level One ensuring that standards are met for the SRE review taking place at the end of the year. With the Census results for 2014 almost ready, I will have a more precise understanding of how well the target has been met. A gentle reminder for those who have yet to undertake any training, please do so at your earliest convenience. Each catechist needs to complete at least Basic Level One training by the end of the year. I am more than willing to come to your parishes to host a course. Don't be afraid. Presenting these courses over the past seven years, I've seen how beneficial these courses are in building confidence, understanding and developing new skills. You will not be disappointed. I am happy to host weekend/evening courses to assist those who have busy schedules during the working day.



Our Western Area Mass was celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. It was a beautiful balmy evening that helped entice almost 200 catechists to attend and give thanks for this wonderful ministry to which we have been called. It was an opportunity to come together, meet friends and witness that we are not alone in this experience. It is not an easy task to organise and with heartfelt thanks, I wish to congratulate Toni Whitfield, the Catechist Coordinator at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Fr Anthony and all catechists for their hard work and dedication in making the event a success.

A quick teaching tip: *The Holy Spirit is powerful and He has the power to change hearts. Pray to Him before you arrive into the classroom and you'll see the difference in your lesson!*

I wish you every blessing for the remainder of the year.

Teresa

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From the Faith Education Officers

Northern Area

Chris Cox

Greetings to all Catechists in the Northern Area.

I hope you have had a great Term 2 and are settling in to the cold winter months of Term 3. I have had a busy term, training, and teaching and in-servicing catechists in Basic One accreditation and the WWCC.



The High School Catechist program is well underway in the Northern Area with Year 10 and 11 students from Marist Sisters Woolwich, Domremy Five Dock, Rosebank College Five Dock, St Aloysius College Kirribilli, Southern Cross Vocational College Burwood and Holy Cross Ryde all helping as student catechists in their local public primary schools. I would especially like to thank all the catechist coordinators who have assisted me in the program and ask for your continual prayers for the students and their work.

The Northern Area Catechist Mass, held at St Martha's in Strathfield, was a wonderful occasion where catechists from the northern region prayed and celebrated together. The catechists of St Martha's, which is a vibrant parish alive with the Holy Spirit, were obviously inspired by St Martha and her warm hospitality. A big thank you to those catechists and all who attended and particularly to Suzanne Miceli, St Martha's Catechist/Sacramental Coordinator.

We were blessed to have His Holiness Pope Francis grace us with his presence, he was a huge hit. If you would like him to visit your parish or school please let me know.

This term the Northern Area will be having the second Coordinator's meeting on Friday 21 July, 10am-12.30pm in the Polding Centre Sydney.

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

God Bless,

Chris



Judith Orrock and Meadowbank catechists with His Holiness at the Northern Area Mass.

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From the Catechists

"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Jesus, Luke 18:16



"I love working with the children and especially listening to their stories."

Susan, Catechist

"I decided to become a Catechist after seeing the benefit that religious education is having on my children's lives."

It's a shame to have children in a public school with no one to teach them about faith."

Betty, parent of Catholic Primary School students, now a Catechist too

Faith is a gift from God, "a Catechist is right there at the centre of this exchange of gifts."

Pope Francis

Being a Catechist is "one of the most spiritually fulfilling things I have done in my life."

Rose, Catechist

"Seeing the joy and appreciation in a student's face who said, 'Thank you for teaching me Scripture.'"

Robert, Catechist

Book your "Pope Francis" class visit!



Contact your Area FEO to book a life-sized foldable cardboard cut-out for a proven Papal pop-up hit with the kids!

Remember only the school can take photos of students - invite the Principal along, it may even make the local news!



Holy Tweet

His Holiness Pope Francis sends catechists a tweet.



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

twitter



Following

Thank you to all teachers: educating is an important mission, which draws young people to what is good, beautiful and true.

Reply Retweet Favorite More

RETWEETS
11,501

FAVORITES
11,033



EVENT CALENDAR

JULY 2014

14 Jul (Mon)		Start of Term 3	
14 Jul (Mon)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Central Area Coordinators Meeting	CCD Bankstown 15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown
18 Jul (Fri)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Western Area Coordinators Meeting	All Saints 48 George Street, Liverpool
21 Jul (Mon)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Northern Area Coordinators Meeting	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
25 Jul (Fri)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Eastern Area Coordinators Meeting	Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
28 Jul (Mon)	10:00am to 12:00pm	Southern Area Coordinators Meeting	CCD Miranda 50 Kiara Road, Miranda

AUGUST 2014

27 Aug (Wed)		Archdiocesan Catechist Council Meeting (By invitation)	
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SEPTEMBER 2014

19 Sept (Fri)		End of Term 3	
21 Sept (Sun)	2:00pm to 5:00pm	Annual Catechist Mass	St Mary's Cathedral

SPECIAL OFFER ALL CATECHISTS

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in conjunction with *The Catholic Weekly* is pleased to bring our Catechists this special offer. You can own a copy for **just \$2** *excluding postage (normally retails for \$5*). Hurry, stocks are limited.

Historic 84 page, quarto size, gloss, perfect bound book

Recently, to mark the canonisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II *The Catholic Weekly* produced a special, high quality, gloss magazine to celebrate this remarkable milestone in the life of the modern Church. The magazine, entitled 'The Face of Sanctity,' was distributed to all our readers on the same weekend as the canonisations, on 27 April.

Since the canonisations took place last month we have received many requests from around the country for copies.

While we recognised it was important to mark the event, we also wanted as many as possible to know why these particular canonisations were important. They were, of course, about the

THE CANONISATION BOOK Popes John XXIII and John Paul II A CELEBRATION IN WORDS AND PICTURES



particular lives and sanctity of both beloved popes but they were also about things such as the Second Vatican Council, the landmark event in the modern Church, and how both the new saints played their unique roles in helping the Church address the many new challenges of the modern era.

If you would like to take advantage of the offer, please contact
Amanda Lu at The Catholic Weekly
Phone (02) 9390 5118
Email amanda.lu@catholicweekly.com.au

Do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium. – Saint John Paul II



CCD Free Courses for Catechists

- Pre-bookings are essential.
- Class sizes are limited.
- Classes could be cancelled if there are not enough bookings.

To book ring 9390 5122 or send an email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CATECHIST ACCREDITATION COURSES

Basic One Accreditation Course

Eastern Area	Aug 8 Fridays 10:00 am to 2:00pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney	Robert Milan
Eastern Area	Aug 15 Fridays 10:00 am to 2:00pm	Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney	Robert Milan

Basic Two Accreditation Course

Southern Area	July 17, 24 & 31 Thursdays 10:00 am to 1:00pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
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Intermediate Accreditation Course

Southern Area	Jul 25, Aug 8, 15, 22, 29 & Sep 5 Fridays 10:00am to 1:00pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
Southern Area	Jul 26, Aug 9, 16, 23, 30 & Sep 6 Saturdays 10:00am to 1:00pm	CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda	Denise Humphreys
Western Area	Jul 28, Aug 4, 11, 18 & 25 Mondays 10:00am to 2:00pm	All Saints Parish 48 George Street, Liverpool	Teresa Culjak

Advanced Accreditation Course

None offered in Term 3

CATECHIST MINISTRY COURSES

Ministry – MC05

Robert Milan

August 20 & 27, Wednesdays 10am – 2pm
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney



With reference to Scripture and Tradition, this unit helps participants to appreciate the development and diversity of Church ministries as based upon Christian service (*ministri*).

Catechists who wish to enrol in Catechist Ministry Certificate (CMC) subjects must have completed Basic One, Basic Two, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation Courses (or their pre-approved equivalent) prior to CMC course attendance.

SECONDARY SRE COURSES

8 & 15 Sept (Mondays), 10:00am to 2:00pm

Presented by Chris Cox

L6, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

To book ring 9390 5122 or send an email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

SMARTBOARD COURSES

Beginner Classes

21 July (Mon) 10am to 3pm, Polding Centre, Robert M

22 August (Fri) 10am to 3pm, Polding Centre, Robert M

Master Classes

None offered in Term 3

To book ring 9390 5122 or send an email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au





My Story

By Lina Xuereb of Earlwood Parish

A Year 5 student came to me and said,
"We don't have scripture anymore."

My catechist journey started when I took a job at Coles, Earlwood, from 10am to 2pm. I was a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima, Kingsgrove; however, given my roster, I started going to morning Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Earlwood. I saw an ad in the parish bulletin about the desperate need for catechists but ignored it many times. Eventually I saw the priest and was told they needed someone on Tuesdays, which was my day off. I saw it as a sign and was placed as a Kindergarten teacher at Undercliffe Public School, where a priest and some uni students taught the older classes.

Some time later, the priest passed away and the university students stopped coming. Afterwards a Year 5 student came to me and said, 'We don't have Scripture anymore'. The week after two boys came asking why they still didn't have Scripture. The third week three boys came and it reminded me of the Bible. Our Parish Priest, Father Purcell, suggested I do it. The principal gave me the school hall and, even though I hesitated, I was given all the classes.

I eventually gave a talk at the parish and soon we had many more catechists, including our coordinator, Barbara Martin, who has been doing the job brilliantly for many years.

One of my tricks as a catechist is to keep the parents involved. I give the Parish Bulletin to my students in the hope that their parents become more aware of parish events and the faith. I also discuss family life in the lessons – what behaviours might annoy their

parents and how they can stop these – and end up having parents coming up to me saying thank you!

I feel a little doubt in myself before every lesson, so I pray to the Holy Spirit, and once I get into that class, I am completely relaxed, happy and in God hands. It's like all the words I speak come from the Holy Spirit and I learn things myself.

The curriculum lessons are easy and the kids love the puzzles. It's great to see the children listening and looking so happy. The most important thing I want my students to know is that God is real and is always there, that he will always love and forgive them and that they should love and forgive also.

Importantly we have the support of our fellow catechist teams and our Parish Priest. Fr Colin Mason is wonderful, he visits the school, attends all our meetings, and orders food and gifts for the end of year parties. We're very blessed to have him.

People ask me how I have been doing this for so long. With faith and the strength of God, it doesn't



feel hard, it feels amazing and wonderful.

When I received my service awards, I felt a lot of peace. My family came and I couldn't believe how 20 years had gone. Some people see it as a sacrifice but it's been a pleasure. I am looking forward to the 30 year milestone of being a Life Member.

I keep a book of notes that the children and their parents have written for me over the years. This encourages me to keep going.



Lina Xuereb with
other Earlwood catechists



Lina with Earlwood Parish Priest
Fr Colin Mason

Area Masses 2014



Living lives of Thanksgiving

We gave thanks to God at our five Area Masses and thanked you, our Parish SRE Catechists, our Priests, Parish Staff and FEOs for all your support in helping reach our Parish children in public schools. The homilies of Mgr Tony Doherty (a former CCD Director), Fr Phil Zadro, Fr Anthony Fregolent, Fr Chris Slattery and Fr Peter Kwak encouraged us with their own experiences of catechesis and appreciation of Catechists. May we continue to live lives of thanksgiving as we go out to echo the Good News that Jesus brings. Thank you!



Teaching Tips

Classroom Management

By Sr Jean Marie Brennan MSC

Reprinted from *The Catechist Newsletter*, 1994



Most classroom misbehaviour comes from the need of students to belong to their group. Students need to establish their status and position within the group and feel accepted. To achieve this acceptance, students may use positive or negative behaviour.



Remember that scripture is generally not a normal class group within the school. Your class is made up of a mix of pupils coming from as many as four or five class groups and is often held on foreign territory. As it is once a week class we need to spend time each week bonding our class so that students feel they belong. A good way of doing this is singing or playing a game related to the lesson.

We also need to remember that society has changed. Schools are not the environments they were, no longer can adults simply control through their role. Threat or physical punishment or sarcasm is not an option so what can we do? Inappropriate teacher responses can easily serve to reinforce disruptive patterns of belonging.

In correcting student behaviour we have a tendency to bring in the big guns too soon. It is helpful to have a hierarchy of deterrents:

Non-verbals

- Eye contact
- Hand Movement
- Facial Expression – frown, brief stare

One-way verbals

- Vocal Variation
e.g lower voice, pause, special mention
- Task Instruction
'Please, Maggie, work quietly.'
- Restate the rules
- Refer student to the rules
- Inform student of the consequence (which you must always be able to carry out)

Verbal interchange

- Daniel, what are you doing?
- Why are you doing it?
- Is it against the rules?

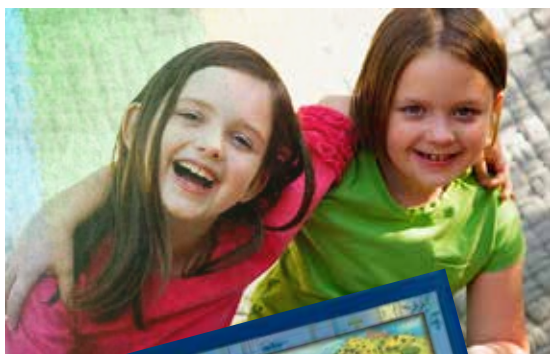
Isolation of the disruptive student within the classroom. Never send a student outside.

Confer with catechist colleague and arrange for him/her to take your student for one lesson.

In serious cases consult with the class teacher, Catechist Coordinator then the Principal.

Many teachers find it therapeutic to express their anger and frustrated feelings associated with behaviour problems in some acceptable way. To be able to talk with a fellow catechist, the Catechist Coordinator or your Faith Education Officer to get the problem off your chest is often half way to solving it. This debriefing is sometimes necessary to continue our catechetical ministry with satisfaction.

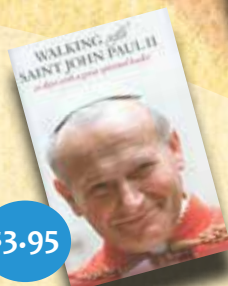




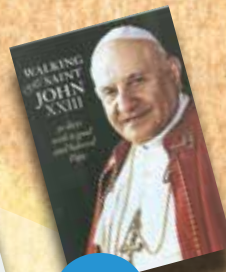
I want to be a Saint Collection



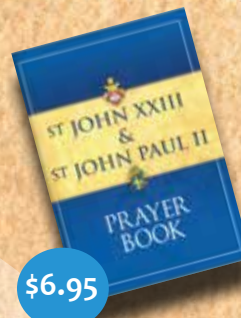
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A Child's Book of Saints

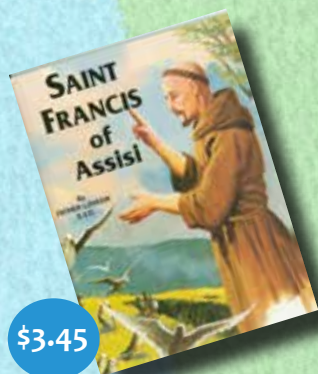
By Christopher Doyle

A Child's Book of Saints is beautifully illustrated. It makes an ideal gift or addition to the family collection.

Walking with Saint John Paul II

By Gwen Costello

This beautiful booklet contains many daily reflections from one of the greatest spiritual leaders of our time, Saint John Paul II. Each of the Pope's priceless gems centres on a christian virtue and are meant to be prayerfully pondered.



\$3.45

Saint Francis of Assisi

By Father Lovasik SVD

There is hardly a saint who is more known and loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike than Saint Francis of Assisi. His greatest aim in life was to find peace and to love God and all his creatures.

Walking with Saint John XXIII

By Gwen Costello

In this little booklet readers are invited to walk with Saint John XXIII for 30 days to reflect on his teachings. It comes with related scripture passages, prayers and practices.

St John XXIII & St John Paul II Prayer Book

Compiled by Joanna Bogle

This lovely prayer book has prayers for those who desire to deepen their spiritual life.

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

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Priscilla Donovan | 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.



Archdiocesan Art Competition

The Christmas Story commences in Term 3



Year 5 and Year 6 class artwork submissions for the Christmas Story are due on **19 Sept**, the last day of Term 3.

Catechists, please plan your Christmas lessons early and gather materials for this exciting competition. Artwork can be prepared on A3 cartridge paper 110 gsm or up to the maximum size of 80cm x 120cm. Artworks can be in landscape or portrait mode.

Each artwork entry must have the following information attached:

- Child's full name
- School's full name and suburb
- Child's age and class
- Artwork title
- **Brief explanation/reflection** on the artwork

The artworks should be sent or hand delivered by **19 September 2014** to:

- Your Faith Education Officer (FEO), or
- CCD City Office, 6th Floor, Polding Centre, or
- Miranda CCD Office, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda



The birth of our lord "Jesus" brings both light and peace to us, even to those who feel that they do not belong.

Competition Details

1. The subject matter is drawn from the Sydney Religious Education Curriculum:

Year 5:

- Prepare the Way* Isaiah 40:3-5
- The Birth of Jesus and the Visit of the Shepherds* Luke 2:8-14
- The Journey to Bethlehem* Luke 2:1-7

Year 6:

- The Annunciation* Luke 1:26-36
- The Angel's Message to Joseph* Matthew 1:18-25
- The Birth of Jesus and Visit of the Magi* Matthew 2:1-12

2. All artworks selected for the exhibition will be displayed in St Mary's Cathedral from 30 November 2014 to Epiphany Sunday, 4 January 2015.
3. All exhibitors will receive a Certificate of Artistic Achievement.
4. Artworks will be judged both on their artistic merit and on the artist's reflection on the chosen Scripture. Artists are asked to include some historically accurate material in their artwork eg. rug, urn, oil lamp, article of clothing, style of building. The student's intention for the artwork, media selected and scriptural connection is an important component of the judging criteria.
5. All successful exhibitors eligible for prizes will be notified through their school. Their invitations to the official opening of the exhibition, on Sunday 30 November at St Mary's Cathedral Crypt, will include family members and school staff.

