

Family & Parish Based Catechesis Office  
Archdiocese of Adelaide



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Mark

YEAR B : Mark

Volume10 Edition 3 :2015

From the Team

Dear Fellow Catechists, welcome to this third edition of the 'Children's ministry update' newsletter for 2015. It is amazing just how quick this year is progressing. The recent work of this office is taking us to various rural communities to train catechists in leading Children's Liturgy of the Word, to help plan and support the religious education classes for children and their families who attend government schools and to implement the Sacraments of Initiation Policy and Pastoral Framework.

In the light of the recent visit by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, the focus of this newsletter is on the sacrament of Baptism. He is a theologian and author who was very inspiring, entertaining and shared real gems on ways to live as Christians. He highlighted the important fact that Baptism is a gift of grace and the responsibility of the whole Christian community. More on page 3.

Please note the following events to consider attending: **Catechists Thanksgiving lunch, Preparing Children of Catechetical Age for Baptism workshop** both of which have been organised by this office. A free **'Liturgy Help' workshop** will be offered to explore the key resources within Liturgy help and how they can be used in liturgy and prayer in your ministry. See page 8 for contact details

We advise that the proposed seminar focussing on the *Directory for Masses with Children* has been postponed until further notice.

We pray that this year is rich in blessings for you, Carmen Balales + Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc

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Diary Dates	
•	Godly Play Training 4/5/6 July
•	From Pope John XXIII to FRANCIS Monday 13th July
•	Mary mother of God through Visual Artists Tuesday 14th July
•	Catechists Thanksgiving Lunch Friday 7th August
•	Word + Sacrament Tuesday 15th Sept
•	Preparation for Baptism of Children of Catechetical Age Thursday 29th Oct

**Catechists Thanksgiving Lunch**

When: Friday 7th August

come share a meal & a chat!!

Time: 12noon- 2pm

no cost

Where: CRIS 112 Kintore St, Thebarton

RSVP essential by 28th July

Why: to thank you for your wonderful work!

Ph: 83016110/ 83016159

**PREPARING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE FOR BAPTISM**

Thursday 29th October

Room S1, 34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park

ALL WELCOME!!

RSVP 31st August; [worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au)

# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is the most beautiful thing that happens in someone's life. When someone is baptised it means that God the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit give the new Christian many very special gifts. To be baptised in the Catholic Church means more than being sprinkled with water on one's head and receiving a Christian name. As Father Timothy Radcliffe writes in his latest book *Take the Plunge*, "It is our sharing in Christ's victory over death, our lives are hidden in the risen Christ and we are taken up into the very life of God". (p1)

The word '*Baptism*' comes from a Greek word that means to '*plunge*' or '*immerse*'. To '*plunge*' someone in water represents the person dying, being buried and resurrecting with Christ as a '*new creature*.' (C.C.C. # 1214) Some call this Sacrament '*the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit*' because Baptism results in a new birth of water and the Spirit. Without it, no one can enter the Kingdom of God. [Jn. 3:5] (C.C.C. # 12)

**The gift of Baptism:** Baptism is something given, it is a grace. "Grace" is a gift of God to human beings. Baptism is the grace of new life with Christ: to live as he lived, to love as he loved. "As children of the font, we learn confidence in a love which is unshakeable. But as adults in Christ, we discover how it will turn our lives upside down and remake us." (Take the plunge p288)

This is how a five-year-old child understood the meaning of Baptism: "*Baptism is when Jesus is born in my heart*", and this is the basis. In fact he made the connections : Jesus (God made man) comes to live in us, to be born in our heart, where one loves him through Baptism. Baptism is at the same time our own birth in the life of God.

**What is the importance of Baptism?:** Christian baptism is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). These instructions specify the church's responsibility to teach and be Jesus' word, to make disciples, to welcome and to baptise those disciples.

Christian baptism has a deeper significance. It is to be done in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit—this is what makes it "Christian" baptism. It is through this ordinance that a person is admitted into the fellowship of the church. When we are saved, we are "baptised" by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the church. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "We were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." Baptism by water is a "re-enactment" of the baptism by the Spirit. Christian baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of faith and discipleship.

**What does Baptism mean?:** If the meaning of baptism could be boiled down to one word, that word would be identification. Baptism speaks primarily of a personal, public identification with Jesus Christ. In Romans 6:3-4 the Apostle Paul puts the matter this way:



*Don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Notice the strength of the expressions—"baptised into Christ" and "baptised into his death" and "buried with him in baptism." It means we have turned to a new life in Jesus Christ where we are publicly identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It means we are openly joining those who believe in Christ.

When we are baptised, we are in fact visually preaching the gospel.

# BAPTISM

**Fr TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE's 'gems'** He was master of the Dominican Order and has numerous best selling books and has been awarded the Michael Ramsey prize for theological writing. He currently gives retreats, lectures and conference key-note addresses worldwide. In his latest book *'Take the Plunge'*, he encourages us to rediscover the beauty of baptism as it touches the inmost dramas of human life: birth, growing up, risking falling in love, searching for meaning, managing failure and suffering and death.

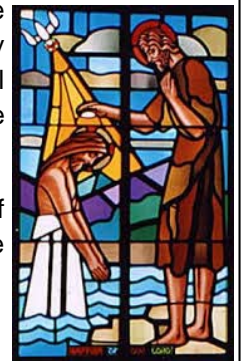
In his presentation, Fr Timothy cleverly took a parable and broke it open to relate it to everyday living. The Prodigal Son was used to tackle the generation gap and it being the biggest challenge faced by the church today. Accepting young people and challenging them back is to build unity and reconcile through speaking the truth. We are servants of grace and we shouldn't panic but have confidence in young people who will eventually come back. When they fall, help them up and encourage them to have another go!

The same applies to our families who bring their children to be baptised. They should feel "at home in the church". A home is a place where one can relax, feel free to speak and be oneself. The church should be humanity's home no matter what they have done. We are to be unconditional in our hospitality and befriend our families where they are at in their faith journey. Jesus was unconditional in all his friendships and he is our unconditional friend in our mess too! "We begin in our mess; we are the church".

Our faith is an incarnational faith and we are to be the Word of God. Baptism is the blessing of all our bodily existence and we truly become our self when we are conformed in Christ. Our role is to help our families enjoy their faith.

"Grace is God bursting into our lives" "Make people feel that God rejoices in them"

"Vocation is to be the person we are called to be" "Throw away your masks and be Christ like"



## BAPTISM ACTIVITIES

- Make and decorate a card celebrating baptism
- Read the story of when Jesus was baptised
- Make a dove using cottonwool for the body to symbolise the event of Jesus's baptism
- Present a 'Godly Play' session on baptism
- Look at the different symbols of baptism and discuss their significance
- Discuss new life and where it can be seen. Draw them.
- Ask the children to bring in their own baptismal candle and share their story
- Make a poster showing the symbols of baptism
- Use a photo of their own baptism as the centre of a poster about baptism
- Have a role play of a baptism ceremony using a doll.
- Visit the church to see the baptismal font, oil and the paschal candle
- Draw a picture of the church's baptismal font
- Write a thank you card to their godparents
- Bring in their baptism certificate to share with the group
- Share a blessing with the group and bless each child with water
- Renew their baptismal promises and discuss the meaning of each one
- Use pop sticks to stick cut outs of John the Baptist and Jesus, have a small bowl of water and retell the story of the baptism of Jesus

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Connecting Families with Parish

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could use to assist families to connect with the Sacrament of Baptism.

### Being Welcoming and Inclusive

Use the regular Parish Mass and Parish morning tea once or twice a year or a luncheon/barbeque for

## Family

- Welcoming new people to the parish
- For those who have had children baptized in the Parish (send invitations to those baptized that year)
- Send general invitation through the parish bulletin and the School newsletter to all families who have had children baptized or who are looking towards doing so

Talk again with the Parish about **the importance of our Baptism** and how through it we are all called to mission.

- How am I on Christ's mission within my parish boundaries to the churched and unchurched?
- How do I / can I connect with families in a welcoming and hospitable manner regularly?
- Am I accepting of others whatever their station in life at the moment, be it divorced, separated or feeling estranged from the Church?

As a Parish, group of parishes or deanery, is there a possibility of employing a skilled worker who can meet the needs of people who are challenged to approach the parish?



### Our Baptism calls us to be

#### sign of God's love.

- Send a card to the child on either their birthday or their baptismal day until they reach school age (put a return address in case the family has moved).  
  
(Can be sent by a member of the Parish who is less able to participate in other ways but would like to make a contribution)
- Invite the family to a Sunday Liturgy or to the next Family Mass where they can receive their child's baptismal certificate (especially on a Sunday when there is a morning tea to follow)
- If the family has school-aged children, invite them to the next Children's Liturgy of the Word within the Parish
- Invite the parents and/or godparents to speak with other parents who wish to baptize their child, of their own experience of their child's baptism (in a very simple informal manner) or invite them to meet other parents over a cuppa
- As part of the Baptism preparation, include ways in which parents can very simply nurture the faith of their child eg signing the cross on the child's forehead, reflecting upon the meaning of the baptismal water when bathing their child and pouring water over his/her head (Contact Sr Jenny Seal at this office if you would like further ideas)

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Connecting Families with each other

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could create on a page or insert in their bulletin for families to recall with their children the gift of Baptism. In this way, we can assist families to nurture their children's faith through the sharing of activities .

- Recall your Baptism and that of your children
- Recollect the memories and share them together through photographs, certificates, gifts and the name and godparents chosen
- Discuss what happened that day, who was present and all the arrangements of the day
- Talk to your child/children about how you felt on the day
- Share how you can each live out in your lives, the gifts of faith, hope and love received at Baptism

*God, help us to always remember how precious we are to you.*

- With your children, make a list or a chart (family tree) of as many people as you can who belong to your own family. Start with people who live in the house with you.
- Research and list what you can do with your local church family and spend time with them
- When you watch TV or videos together, look at families. What makes them families? Can you tell if characters in TV shows are part of God's family? How?
- Read in the Bible (Mark chapter 3 verses 31-35) what Jesus said about his family?



(adapted from 'Talking about God to Families with Children ages 5-10 by Mary Jo Zwar, 2003 Open Book Publishers)

### Family Prayer

- Set some time aside to pray as a family
- You will need:
  - A central focus with a cloth,
  - A cross, a bowl of water and a candle.

**We gather as a family to recall the meaning of our Baptism.**

**We light the candle as a symbol of Christ who is our Light, our Way for living.**

**Water was used at our Baptism where we were baptized in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

*(By the parents)* As a symbol of our baptism, we will now bless you with water with the sign of the cross on the forehead +

*(Then the children bless their parents)*

We now pray silently for a moment:

For those preparing for Baptism

All: that they may live a new life in Christ

For all the baptised

All: that they may live a new life in Christ

For all parents and children

All: that they may live a new life in Christ

For all who are thinking about baptism

All: that they may live a new life in Christ

We close our eyes and pray:

**God of Jesus Christ, Light of the world and of our hearts. Bless us all that we may live with faith, hope and love. Amen.**

# CATECHIST PRAYER PAGE

## The Sacredness of Life

'For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb'



Take some time to quietly reflect on the wonderful being God has made you. Allow any phrase or word to stay with you. Thank God for his wonderful creation!

### Psalm 139

You have looked deep into my heart, LORD, and you know all about me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I am resting or when I am working, and from heaven you discover my thoughts.

<sup>3</sup> You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.

<sup>4</sup> Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say,

<sup>5</sup> and with your powerful arm you protect me from every side.

<sup>6</sup> I can't understand all of this! Such wonderful knowledge is far above me.

<sup>7</sup> Where could I go to escape from your Spirit or from your sight?

<sup>8</sup> If I were to climb up to the highest heavens, you would be there.

If I were to dig down to the world of the dead you would also be there.

<sup>9</sup> Suppose I had wings like the dawning day and flew across the ocean.

<sup>10</sup> Even then your powerful arm would guide and protect me.

<sup>11</sup> Or suppose I said, "I'll hide in the dark until night comes to cover me over."

<sup>12</sup> But you see in the dark because daylight and dark are all the same to you.

<sup>13</sup> You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body,

<sup>14</sup> and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me.

Everything you do is marvelous! Of this I have no doubt.

<sup>15</sup> Nothing about me is hidden from you! I was secretly woven together deep in the earth below,

<sup>16</sup> but with your own eyes you saw my body being formed. Even before I was born, you had written in your book everything I would do.

<sup>17</sup> Your thoughts are far beyond my understanding, much more than I could ever imagine.

<sup>18</sup> I try to count your thoughts, but they outnumber the grains of sand on the beach.

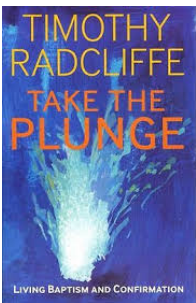
And when I awake, I will find you nearby.

<sup>23</sup> Look deep into my heart, God, and find out everything I am thinking.

<sup>24</sup> Don't let me follow evil ways, but lead me in the way that time has proven true.

# RESOURCES

The following resources are available for borrowing from the Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS). CRIS is located at 112 Kintore St Thebarton ph 8301 6869. Other details and catalogue can be found on [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-faith/catholic-resource-and-information-service](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-faith/catholic-resource-and-information-service). Borrowing is free to all.



## [Take the Plunge: Living Baptism and Confirmation](#)

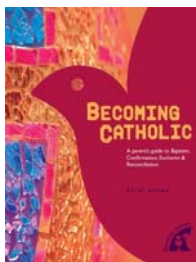
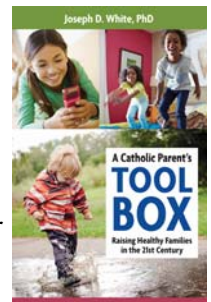
By Timothy Radcliffe OP

Timothy Radcliffe, OP is a Roman Catholic priest and Dominican friar of the English Province, and former Master of the Order of Preachers from 1992-2001

## [A Catholic Parent's Toolbox: Raising Healthy Families in the 21st Century](#)

By Joseph D White, PhD, 2014 USA: *Our Sunday Visitor*

Joseph D White is nationally recognised clinical psychologist. He serves as the national catechetical consultant for *Our Sunday Visitor* and is a member of the panel of experts at [OSVParish.com](http://OSVParish.com)



## [Becoming Catholic: A Parent's Guide to Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation](#)

By Kathy Horan 2014, Victoria: Garrett Publishing

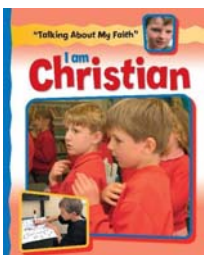
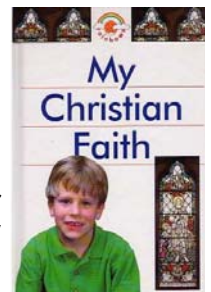
'I am happy to endorse these revised editions of the Becoming Catholic sacramental series of books authored by Kathy Horan, who works in the Catholic Education system in Adelaide and is a member of the Archdiocese of Adelaide Liturgical Commission. I am sure that everyone who uses these resources will find them to be a great help and source of information.' Most Rev Philip Wilson DD JCL

## [My Christian Faith](#)

By Alison Seamon and Alan Brown,

2006 London: Evan Brothers Ltd

Whilst the approach and the language level are appropriate for young readers, the key concepts will need to be supported by sensitive clarification of adults.



## [Talking about my Faith: I am Christian](#)

By Cath Senker and Jenny Matthews 2010 Sydney: Franklin Watts

*I am Christian* follows William as he talks about his faith. He tells us about his: worship, beliefs, food, family, books, priest and school.

# Your Parish Story

Children's Ministry Update

## A DAY WITH Fr TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

The meeting of catechists and APRIMS with Fr Timothy Radcliffe was both humbling and illuminating. Here we were in the presence of this gifted priest and speaker who spoke to us as if he knew us by name and shared in our joys and frustrations. He reminded us to cherish our lives, given to us to be given away to others in generosity, vulnerability and gratitude. He suggested we serve others through our senses; listening carefully without favour, looking deeply to see the emotions of others and to reach out to all in need. He finished with these thoughts: to be bodily is to be dependent; God blesses our mutual dependency. It's OK to need each other.

*Pauline Crocker Pastoral Associate, The Monastery*

## WORKSHOP IN THE SOUTH EAST DEANERY

As a continuation of implementing both documents 'Sacraments of Initiation for Children and Infants in the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Adelaide' and 'Partnerships in Sacramental Catechesis: The Pastoral Framework for the Sacramental Catechesis of Children', both the Office for Worship and this office, Family and Parish Based Catechesis Office, facilitated a workshop in the South East deanery. It was a wonderful opportunity for the rural communities to come together to discuss their concerns, issues and celebrate their sacraments of initiation preparation process. It was a chance for the 3 priests and the pastoral director of the area to be part of the conversations along with the principals, APRIMS, catechists, Pastoral Associate and Coordinator to unpack both documents as an anchor to future planning. There was a real sense of building partnerships between parish and school. The feedback was positive and there is much good work being done in the area!!

Well done to everyone!!

## LITURGYHELP workshop

Monday 29th June

11:30am – 1pm

Catholic Education Conference centre

116 George street, Thebarton

ALL WELCOME!!

RSVP: Clair 0362347917

clairs@ministryresources.com

## Family & Parish Based Catechesis

Catholic Education Office  
112 Kintore Street Thebarton

PO Box 179  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Carmen Balales Ph: 08 8301 6110  
carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc Ph: 08 8301 6195  
jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis)

## Detailed Diary Dates 2015

- **GODLY PLAY TRAINING**  
WHEN: July 4/5/6  
VENUE: Bethany Lutheran Church, Bethany
- **FROM POPE JOHN XXIII TO FRANCIS**  
WHEN: Monday July 13th  
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **MARY, MOTHER OF GOD THROUGH VISUAL ARTISTS**  
WHEN: Tuesday July 14th  
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **CATECHISTS THANKSGIVING LUNCH**  
WHEN: Friday August 7th  
12noon – 2:00pm  
VENUE: Catholic Education Office: CRIS  
112 Kintore Street, Thebarton
- **WORD + SACRAMENT**  
WHEN: Tuesday September 15th  
WHERE: Bethany Centre, 5 High St, Kensington
- **PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM OF CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE**  
WHEN: Thursday 29th October  
VENUE: ACD S1,  
34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park