



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Mark

YEAR B : Mark

Volume 13 Edition 2 2018

From the Team

Dear Catechists, welcome to the second edition of the 'Children's Ministry Update' newsletter for 2018. I hope that you are all in good health and are coping with the busyness of life. Hard to believe that we have celebrated Easter and are now well and truly into preparing and celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation within our parishes.

The main work of this office so far this year has focussed on the Sacraments of Initiation review where we have met with the teams to discuss this whole area. More details about this can be found on page 8. A wonderful by-product of these visits has been the opportunity to provide support in the areas of catechist formation, training in leading Children's Liturgy of the Word, facilitating Godly Play workshops and assisting in the designing of new Sacraments of Initiation programs. We are only too happy to answer your call in wanting us to come out to do some work with the catechists. It is a delight to be with them and offer our services to the parishes.

In this newsletter, we unpack the GOSPEL of MARK and outline the unique leadership style of Jesus. We also offer some reflections and activities around the theme of THE MIGHTY WORKS OF JESUS IN MARK'S GOSPEL. We hope they can spark off some further ideas for you as a leader in your important ministry with children. We trust that the Holy Spirit continues to nourish you in your work!

With every blessing, Carmen Balales and Sr Jenny Seal

'Being Church Together' Workshop Summary

A new document has been developed as a collaboration between Catholic Education SA and the Office for Renewing Parishes focussing on parish-school relationships. A great opportunity was given to Pastoral Associates and APRIMs to meet together and unpack the draft document entitled '*Being Church Together: A Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles for the Parish-School relationship*'. It was a chance for people to share successes and acknowledge challenges experienced in their own context as well as looking at the principles of the vision and discussing examples of good practice occurring in our Archdiocese. This document is available for use and consultation with each local parish-school group to strengthen relationships through meaningful dialogue and reflecting on our shared mission in faith formation of children and families.

Inside this edition

Gospel of Mark	2
Mark's significance	2
Jesus in Mark's gospel	3
Jesus's leadership	3
Making Connections	4
Making Connections	5
Catechist prayer page	6
Resources	7
Our Parish story	8
Detailed Diary Dates	8



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The book of Mark is a Gospel that includes narrative history, sermons and parables. Mark's Gospel is brief (nearly half as long as Luke) and focuses more on the mighty works that Jesus performed rather than the content of Jesus' teaching. More than half of Mark's gospel is dedicated to giving an account of the extraordinary deeds that Jesus performed when healing the sick.

Mark's stories are not in chronological order but rather gives a quick, accurate view of Jesus.

This Gospel emphasises the miracles (27 total) considerably more than any of the other Gospels. The key word in Mark is "*immediately*" which is used to present a quick, urgent, direct message about who Jesus is and what he did.

Mark is the shortest of the synoptic gospels and was written about 64 A.D. The key personalities of this book are Jesus Christ, the disciples, Jewish religious leaders, Pilate and John the Baptist.

It was written by John Mark who was one of the missionaries who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their mission trips.

This Gospel emphasises two important characteristics of Jesus Christ:

His authority as the Son of God and

His compassionate service to people (particularly in miracles)

The purpose of the Gospel of Mark is to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God who was sent to suffer and to serve in order to rescue and restore humanity. It is an exciting account of the Son of God that could speak to the Jews and the gentiles of Mark's day.

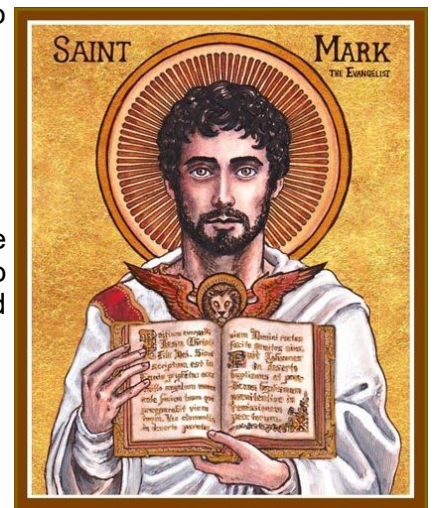
Quick outline of Mark:

Jesus' authority among the people (Mk 1:1–8:13)

Jesus' mission and nature revealed to the disciples (Mk 8:14–10:52)

Jesus is tested and crucified (Mk 11–15)

Jesus' resurrection and commission (Mk 16)



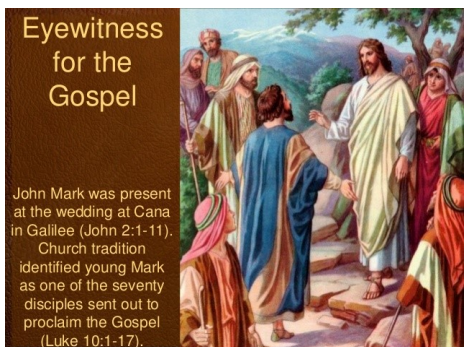
Mark opens with a quick overview of what the book is about: "the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mk 1:1). Every passage in Mark, every miracle, every conversation, every deed, points back to Jesus' authority as the Son of God. The 16 chapters of the Gospel of Mark can be divided into two parts, 8 chapters each. In the first 8 chapters Jesus is essentially traveling north and preaching until chapter 8. In Chapter 8, Jesus is in the city of Caesarea Philippi where He asks His disciples, "*Who do people say that I am?*" (vs. 27). Peter replies, "*You are the Christ*". Throughout the last 8 chapters, Jesus is travelling south, back to Jerusalem; all the way to Calvary's Cross.

Gospel of Mark: What is the Significance?

In this Gospel, Jesus gives people perfect instructions for how God desires us to live, respond through challenging circumstances and make choices regarding our future for eternity. A few examples of these include having faith (Mark 2:5), replacing fear with trust



(Mark 4:40), believing in the power of God (Mark 5:36), following Christ (Mark 8:35), understanding God's will (Mark 9:35), and sacrifices (Mark 10:21). Every word spoken and written in this Gospel can be applied to life in a practical manner.



JESUS IN MARK'S GOSPEL

The Gospel of Mark focuses on nine characteristics of Jesus. Primarily, Jesus is a leader who teaches and succeeds through surrenders to the will of God. In doing so, he suffers and perseveres. Importantly, his actions and words show that he does not fit the typical image of a religious teacher. He is independent and autonomous. Mark also chose particular stories about Jesus that show him to be patient and a man of action who holds authority. Mark shows us the human side of Jesus.

1. Jesus is not self-promoting. (Mark 1:11) In beginning his ministry, Jesus is clear that there is a greater power at work. The fact that he places himself under the care of John the Baptist for baptism shows that Jesus is going to teach his followers submission does not mean weakness. Jesus models what real service is all about by not promoting himself but allowing John to be in charge.

2. Jesus is obedient to the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:12-13) After Jesus' baptism, Mark writes that "at once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him." Jesus is tested in every temptation known to humanity but remains true to the Holy Spirit.

3. Jesus casts a vision, with clarity, simplicity, and directness. (Mark 1:15) One of the most powerful components of Jesus' ministry is his ability to be simple, clear and direct. Jesus shows this in his preaching and teaching. His ability to tell the truth through a simple parable is the foundation of all he does. These parables have a purpose that is greater than the story.

4. Jesus is a strategic team builder. (Mark 1:17) When Jesus calls the first four disciples, who are fishermen to follow him he says, "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." When Jesus begins the process of calling his disciples to follow him, he deliberately starts with men who have something in common.

5. Jesus is a relationship builder. (Mark 1:19) Jesus recruits his disciples by finding those who share common traits and values and shows the power of Jesus to merge diverse people. Jesus is all about building relationships.

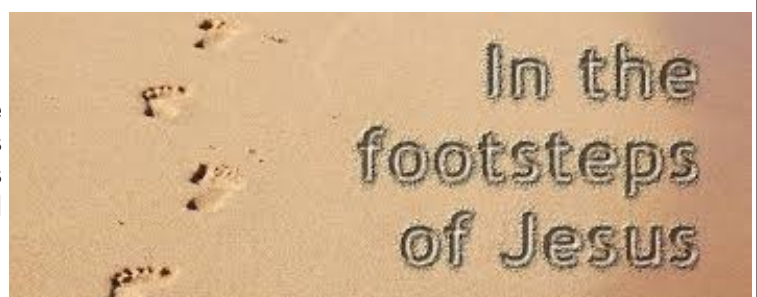
6. Jesus expresses control and authority as a leader when needed. (Mark 1:23-25) Never doubt that Jesus has the authority and expresses firm control when needed.

7. Jesus engages crisis head-on. (Mark 1:30-31) Often a crisis will cripple many people. However, Jesus takes a crisis head-on. Jesus is a strong leader who takes on what others fear.

8. Jesus practices daily prayer. (Mark 1:35) Jesus prays every day. The daily practice of prayer empowers us to be better people.

9. Jesus is all about empowering others. (Mark 1:40-45) Jesus' entire ministry focuses on the empowerment of others.

These 9 characteristics of Jesus show his style of leadership that is steeped in serving others and developing the gifts and skills of his disciples. Jesus Christ is the greatest of all leaders!



Making Connections: Within the Family ...

...because every family matters

Jesus Heals People



Mark 1:40-45 Jesus heals the leper

Leprosy is a painful skin disease. In Jesus time, the people thought that it was contagious so they sent the people away to a lonely place.

But Jesus touched the man with his hands and the leper was healed and cleansed.

Let us reflect:

- Do you push someone aside because you don't like them?
- Do you push someone aside because they are different to you?
- Who do you need to accept and be kind towards them?

Jesus says: **I am the light of the world.... I bring peace and healing to all..... Be compassionate as your Father in heaven is compassionate.....**



Mark 8:22-25 Jesus heals the blind man

Copy and paste the link and watch the video

<https://youtu.be/Uo9ILFTVdhQ>

Let us reflect:

- How can Jesus heal us when our hearts are hard and need to see again?
- How can we be a good example to others by the way we live a Christian life and help them to see the Jesus' message in action?



Mark 3:7-9 Jesus heals crowds by the sea

Let us spend some time with Jesus who wants to heal and bring peace to all people.

Let us pray for healing and peace in our world where people can accept each other and live in harmony.

Making Connections: Within the Family ...

...because every family matters

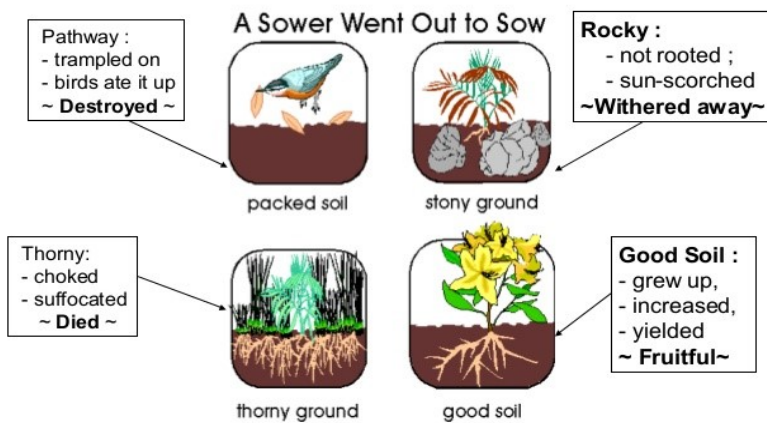
Jesus Teaches in Parables

Mark 4:1-20 The Parable of the Sower

In this story, Jesus uses the parable of the sower to help us to reflect upon the type of 'soil' we have where God's word (the seed) can grow in our heart.

This story tells us of the four types of soil that was found in the farms where people tried to grow their seeds into crops.

4 Types of Soil



- What type of soil are you?
- Is God growing in your heart?
- Can I see a difference in myself in the way I

The Parable Of The Mustard Seed

Copy and paste the link to see the video
<https://youtu.be/KKpxQjWV2RA> (6 minutes)

As told using the Godly play method of story – where we WONDER. Use this story as a prayer experience.

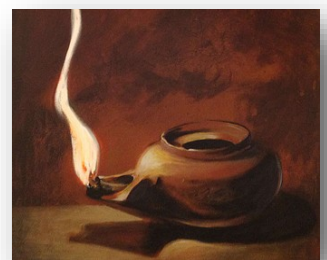


Mark 4:21-25 The Parable Of The Lamp

Cut and paste the link to see the video

<https://youtu.be/hQpZqGG0UzQ>

- How can you be light to others?
- How can you allow the light of Jesus to shine in your heart?
- How can you allow the light to shine in your actions towards others?



CATECHIST PERSONAL PRAYER

JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Mark 14.3-9)



WE REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

What words strike you? What message can you hear in your heart?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

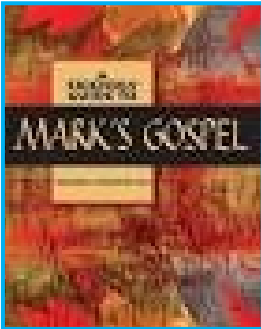
How are you called to action—in prayer or service?

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,

IN THE LOVE OF THE SON

AND UNDER THE INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

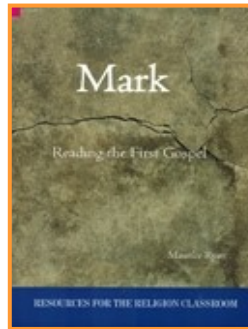
RESOURCES—MARK



A Friendly guide to MARK'S GOSPEL

by Francis J Moloney SDB

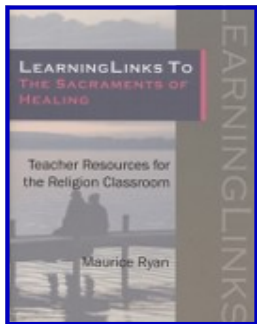
The earliest and shortest of the 4 Gospels, Mark is a challenging portrait of Jesus as a healer and miracle worker, and as he Christ, Son



MARK: Reading the First Gospel

By Maurice Ryan

You will be introduced to Mark, the author (at least what we can know about him), to Mark's version of Jesus' life and career.

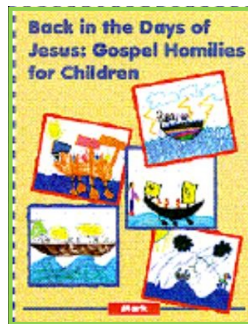


The Sacraments of Healing: Learning Links series

by Maurice Ryan

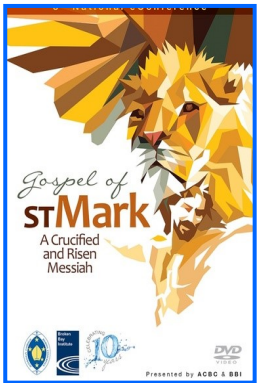
This book offers religion teachers & catechists a varied repertoire of teaching and learning activities—

Resources for studying the



Back in the Days of Jesus: Gospel Homilies for Children

Beloved gospel stories spring to life. It presents the best age-appropriate interaction with children and scripture. It invites children to share their own rich, inner journey with Jesus.

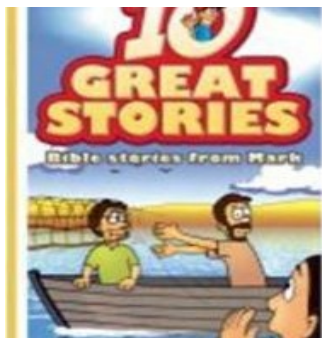


The Gospel of St Mark: DVD from A - A Crucified and Risen MARK

This is an excellent resource for Clergy, catechists & parishioners
1: MARK, The Gospels begin
2: Jesus, the Holy One of God

3: Where Heaven and Earth Meet

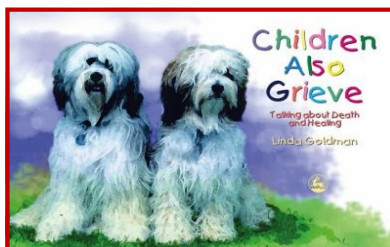
God & his kingdom
4: An Ending that is a Beginning



10 Great Stories: Bible stories from Mark

Mark wrote about the person Jesus. He told what he did, what he said and the stories he told. Each story will help you find out

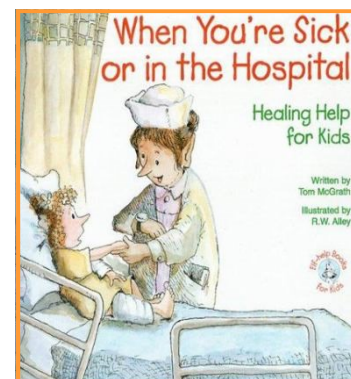
more about what Jesus said and did



by Linda Goldman

Talking about death and Healing

By Catherine Blythe



When you're sick or in the Hospital : Healing help for Kids

The little elves that populate the pages of this book present creative ways for sick kids to have fun, stay connected with family and friends, and help

themselves to heal.

Available from: Catholic Resource & Information Service (CRIS) (free borrowing)

**112 Kintore Street Thebarton SA 5031 T:83016869
E: cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au**

New Opening times:

**Monday- Wednesday: 9am- 5pm
Thursday: 9am- 12:00 noon
Friday: closed**



Your Parish Story

ARCHDIOCESAN REVIEW of the SACRAMENTS of INITIATION

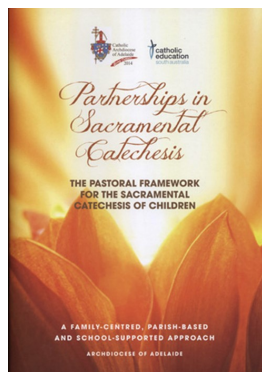
This Office team has been busy meeting with each Parish Sacrament Team to discuss various aspects of the Sacraments of Initiation process happening across the Archdiocese. We have been delighted at the opportunity to meet face to face with the team members from both parish and school and to personally thank you for the great and generous work you do in this vital area.

From the meetings has come a greater awareness of the needs and challenges faced within the process as well as the sharing of good news with many success stories. As a result of these meetings, our support in various areas have been requested and successfully delivered within the parish context. We are pleased to say that we have only a few parishes left to visit and so, we have begun drafting the report and analysing the data collected during the past 12 months. We thank you for meeting with us and for your generosity within this ministry.

Please contact us if you need support in this important ministry.

This quote by Archbishop Philip Wilson DD,JCL , taken from the endorsement of the Pastoral Framework, states: *“The place in which a child first comes to knowledge of Christ is the family, through the teaching and example of family members. Beyond the family, the local parish and Catholic school (if one is available) assist in the ongoing faith formation of the child. One of the key elements in that formation is the preparation for the SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.*

Whether in the home, the parish or the school, we are all called to holiness, to live our faith with courage and joy and to proclaim the good news that we are loved beyond measure by God who walks with us throughout our



Children's Ministry Update

Family & Parish Based Catechesis contact

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Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc Ph: 08 8301 6195
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Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis

Detailed Diary Dates 2018

THE KINGDOM in the 21st CENTURY

When: Tuesday July 10th: 9am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

CHOOSING SCRIPTURE FOR THE CLASSROOM

When: Tuesday July 17th: 9am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

JOURNEY WITH IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

When: Saturday July 21st: 9:30am– 3pm

Where: Loyola Centre of Ignatian Spirituality,
137 William Street Norwood

TASTE & SEE: ADVENTURING INTO PRAYER

When: Saturday August 18th: 9:30am– 3pm

Where: Loyola Centre of Ignatian Spirituality,
137 William Street Norwood

COME & BE WITH ME

When: Saturday September 1st: 9:30am– 3pm

Where: Loyola Centre of Ignatian Spirituality,
137 William Street Norwood