



# Children's Ministry Update

Year of Mark

YEAR B : Mark

Volume13 Edition 3 2018

## From the Team

Dear Fellow Catechists,

Welcome to the third edition of the 'Children's Ministry Update' for 2018.

We hope that this year has treated you well so far in both your ministries and personal lives.

In this edition we offer you some activities and resource material for working with children with a disability as well as some information on the website for preparing and celebrating the Sacraments for children with a disability. *'The Australian Catholic Disability Council has launched a new website to help ensure people with disability can prepare for and participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church'* (Bishop Brady).

In this edition, we offer, too, some insights into the 'Framework Paper: Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools' prepared by the National Catholic Education Commission. We offer some principles from this document which are relevant to our work and ministry with children.

*Wishing you every blessing as you engage with the children and families*

Sr Jenny Seal and Carmen Balales

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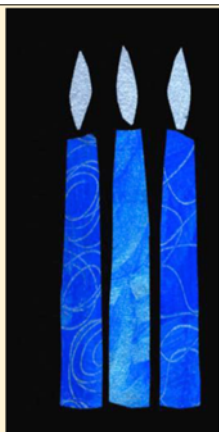


Dear God

Bless me and my family,  
My friends and all those  
I care about.

Help me to grow in love  
and kindness and to be  
more like Jesus each  
day.

Amen



### First Spiritual Exercises & The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation & Eucharist Retreat

**Date: Friday 19 Oct, 6.00pm - Sunday 21 Oct, 3.00pm**

**Venue: Sevenhill Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Sevenhill**

**Cost: \$290 Live-in Enquiries Ph: 8364 3834**

**Bookings to Loyola CIS: [loyola@cis.jesuit.org.au](mailto:loyola@cis.jesuit.org.au)**

# SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

## Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities

The Church affirms the dignity of every human being and grows in gathering knowledge and understanding of the gifts and needs of those who live with disabilities. Our parish communities include members with disabilities and want their active participation. All members of the Body of Christ are uniquely called by God by virtue of their Baptism and so, the Church seeks to support all in growing their faith and encouraging their vocations. Participating in and being nourished by the grace received through the sacraments, is crucial to this growth. Catholic adults and children with disabilities along with their families, desire full and meaningful participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops voted on revising the *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities* and thus, have made available a revised and expanded version of the guidelines. These guidelines were developed to address many of the concerns raised by persons with disabilities their families and advocates and clergy for greater reliability in pastoral practice in the celebration of the sacraments. With this objective in mind and with the desire to meet the spiritual, sacramental, and pastoral needs of persons with disabilities, the guidelines draw upon the Church's rituals, its canonical tradition and its experience in ministering to persons with disabilities in order to dismiss certain misunderstandings that may inhibit good, holistic pastoral practice in the celebration of the sacraments.

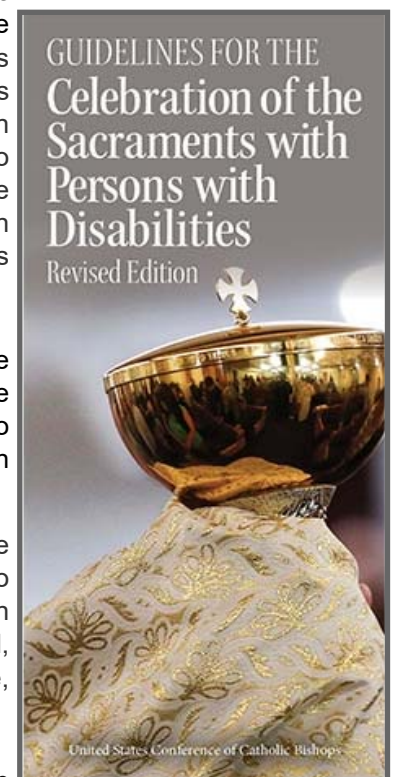
In Australia, the Australian Catholic Disability Council was established to advise the Bishops Commission on strategies and projects promoting the participation of people with disability in the life of the Australian Church. These guidelines favourably add to the efforts of the Catholic Church to advocate for ministry to and with people with disabilities.

The guidelines present a set of general principles to provide access to the sacraments for persons with disabilities. These guidelines are presented to all who are involved in liturgical, pastoral, and catechetical ministry. All persons with disabilities have gifts to contribute to the whole Church and when they are invited, embraced and welcomed to participate fully in all aspects of parish community life, the Body of Christ is more complete.

Bishop Terry Brady, Bishops' Delegate for Disability Issues, said the website is an extension of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's foundational document 'Celebrating the Sacramental Life from Birth to Death: Guidelines for the celebration of the Sacraments with People with Disability'. The website will help the Church better understand how it can support people with disability, he said. "Our Church is a Church that is called to be welcoming and inclusive to all. This website gives parishes, schools and families important and relevant information so they can answer that call," Bishop Brady said.

(ACBC Media Blog 23 March 2018)

The website can be visited at: [www.catholic.org.au/cslbd](http://www.catholic.org.au/cslbd)



### Qualities needed to work with a child with special needs are:

love and acceptance. ...

dedication and optimism. ...

organisational skills and intuition. ...

creativity and enthusiasm. ...

confidence and calmness ...

humour and being easy-going. ...



# FRAMING PAPER

The National Catholic Education Commission has published a new document entitled *Framing Paper: Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools*. The focus is primarily on Catholic schools with its purpose to build on and continue to support the formation of staff in schools. This framing paper is commended for use with parish personnel as well because both school and parish staffs share a vocation to continue and to promote the distinctive mission and identity centred on the person of Jesus in their work. There has been an increased focus on faith formation so that the mission of Catholic Education can continue to thrive. The framing paper is based on the Catholic understanding that all people are made in the image of God and the principles aim to further develop the Religious Education curriculum in dioceses and schools whilst inspiring and strengthening partnerships across both school and parish. This framing paper also addresses the issues facing the wider Catholic Church and responds positively to the changing contexts of cultures, people's experiences of faith and the rise in secularism. This paper acts as a guide for further exploration and development in formation. As Pope Francis says, we should seek new ways to express our message! Formation is Christ centred, scripturally rich and founded in the church and is intentional, reflective, ongoing and starts with people's lived experience.

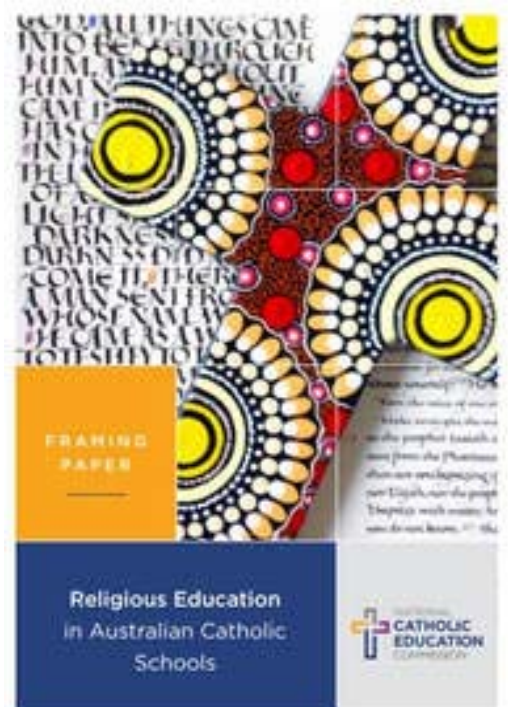
"The Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, acting on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, endorses fully this Framing Paper published by the National Catholic Education Commission. We commend it to all engaged in the religious education, catechetical and evangelisation ministries of the Church." *Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB*

"Children begin this journey enabled by the nurturing love of parents and families. The parish seeks to support families in this endeavour. Those whose parents or caregivers entrust them to the Catholic school have the opportunity to engage with a range of formative and educative experiences that support their overall development and growing religious self-understanding and spirituality." *page 5 Framing Paper*

"Religious Education and the religious life of the Catholic school are expressions of a wider partnership with parents — the primary educators of their children — and with the parish." *page 6 Framing Paper* The family is known as "the domestic Church" in that parents are the first educators of their children's faith. The Catholic school provides significant support to parents and caregivers in fulfilling this responsibility. Ideally, there is a partnership between families, parish and school and so, Religious Education complements the religious formation of children and their families that occurs in the parish. The parish is where sacramental initiation of children occurs and is the main place of worship, catechesis and service.

"Effective Religious Education engages with the actual situations of students, each of whom is a unique individual who shares in the familial, societal, ecclesial and educational contexts that typify the world and Australia today." *page 11 Framing Paper*

The framing paper is a resource to support the continuous improvement in the area of Religious Education in Catholic Schools and parishes. It celebrates and is building on good work and pointing to the future as a resource for evaluation and ongoing renewal of Religious Education in the various local contexts.





# Making Connections: Within the Family ...

*...because every family matters*

## Awareness of Children with a Disability

### To cater for children with a disability prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation:

- Adapt size of group, project or activity
- Adjust time allotted for activity or task
- Deliver the material to all learning styles:
  - 1) auditory, 2) visual and 3) kinesthetic.
- Simplify instructions, steps or change rules when necessary



### TIPS FOR MASS

<https://www.osv.com/.../Sacraments/.../Special-blessings-for-special-needs-children.asp...>

*Nancy Thompson, with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, offers suggestions for parents of children with disabilities:*

**1** Do not assume your child will simply learn Mass behaviors like your other children.

**2** Use strategies that fit the needs of your child to teach about Mass.

**4** Use an educational tool, such as the My Picture Missal (The Order of Mass in Pictures) from the Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit, Loyola Press. If you want to make your own picture missal, there are instructions at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org).

**5** Realize you might have to start slowly with your child by attending part of the Mass rather than the entire service.

**6** Bring your child to church when there is not Mass or other activity going on. With your priest's permission, take your child up to the altar for them to become familiar with the environment. Have them ask questions. Sit on the steps together and talk quietly about how much God loves them and wants to show them his love in a special way during Mass.

**10** Do your best to arrive at Mass in a calm state so you and your child can begin Mass calmly.



**9** Be mindful of the best location for you to sit with your child and try to get that spot.



**3** Make sure the environment is as compatible to your child's needs as possible. For example, if your child is allergic to incense, avoid those services; if they cannot tolerate music, find a quieter service for your family to attend.

**7** Because Mass is so central to our lives and faith, take as much time as is needed to acclimate your child to it. Do not be in a rush to have your child conform. It will take time.



**8** Publish an awareness article in your bulletin about teaching Mass skills to children who are learning them in your parish.

**My Picture Missal App** developed for children with special needs and for young children. With a choice of English or Spanish, all children can learn, understand, and fully experience the Mass. When used at Mass, 'it's a great tool to help children follow along step-by-step and join in'. Available for purchase at [itunes.com](https://itunes.com)

# Making Connections: Within the Family ...

*...because every family matters*

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Below are some questions used by Loyola Press in its adaptive sacramental preparation kit to help children with going to confession.

Do I love God first?  
Do I love my family?  
Do I love myself?  
Do I love my neighbor?

Do I listen to my parents?  
Do I listen to my teacher?  
Am I good at church?  
Do I share?

Do I help people?  
Do I take care of my things?  
Do I say nice things?  
Do I tell the truth?

Can I pray more?  
Am I like Jesus?  
Do I forgive others?  
Do I say I'm sorry?  
Do I want to do better?



A simple way to engage children with the seven sacraments and their symbols.

Create this simple booklet for children to colour

## THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS Accordion Book

**Reconciliation** (Leviticus 24: 22-23)  
What does Reconciliation free us from?

**Marriage** (Leviticus 24: 4-5)  
What do a man and woman promise to do when they get married?

**Holy Orders** (Leviticus 19: 20-21)  
Who can receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

**Baptism** (Leviticus 6: 1-4)  
Explain how Baptism makes us members of the Church.

**Eucharist** (Leviticus 23: 14-20)  
When did the first Eucharist take place?

**Confirmation** (Leviticus 14: 35-40)  
There are 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit given during Confirmation. Name one of them.

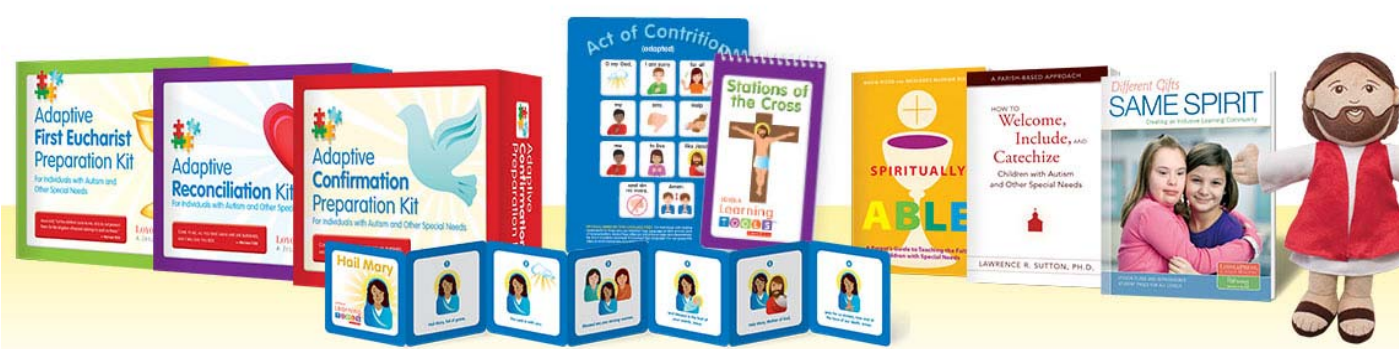
**ALL ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS**

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

(above) <https://www.osv.com/.../Sacraments/.../Special-blessings-for-special-needs-children.asp...>

(above) A visual display of the Sacraments with their symbols

<https://www.loyolapress.com/products/special-needs> This website takes us to products that are available for special needs children in the preparation of the Sacraments (below)





# CATECHIST PERSONAL PRAYER

## JESUS WELCOMES US ALL

### WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Jesus said,  
"Let the little children come to me,  
And do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven  
belongs to such as these."

(Matthew 19:14)



### WE REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

What words strike you? What can message can you hear in your heart?  
How do you take the children to Jesus through your ministry?  
We thank God for the opportunity and the privilege.

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

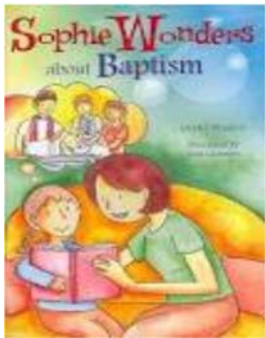
We pray for the needs of children we encounter in our ministries,  
in our families and throughout the world



Allow 15 minutes of silent prayer  
holding the children in the Heart of Jesus



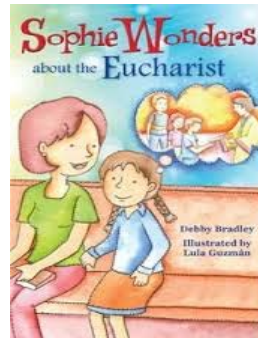
# RECOURCES



### Sophie Wonders about Baptism

by Debby Bradley

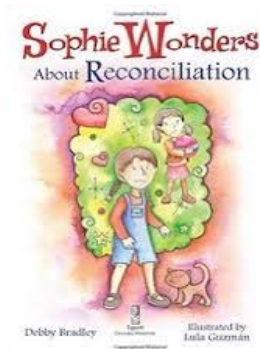
A little girl named Sophie sees a photo of a baby in church. She wonders what the baby is doing. Sophie's mother tells her about the sacrament of baptism.



### Sophie Wonders about Eucharist

by Debby Bradley

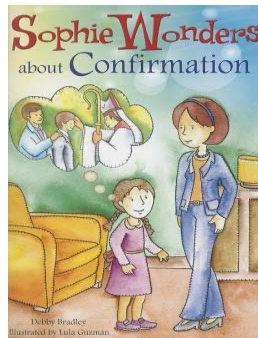
A little girl named Sophie goes to Mass with her family. She wonders what happens when people line up for Communion. Her mother explains the sacrament of the holy Eucharist



### Sophie Wonders about Reconciliation

by Debby Bradley

A little girl named Sophie feels sad because she had an argument with her friend. Sophie's mother explains that when we make a mistake, we should say we're sorry & ask forgiveness.



### Sophie Wonders about Confirmation

by Debby Bradley

Fresh, engaging, and delightfully illustrated... a perfect introduction to the sacraments

Teaches 4 to 8 year-old about the sacraments.



DVD 25 mins

### Br. Francis presents... Forgiven — The Blessings of Confession

In this lively presentation, Br.

Francis reminds old and young alike about the great gift of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

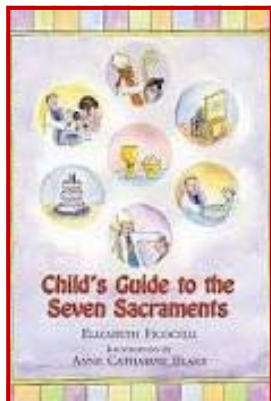


DVD 29 mins

### Br. Francis presents... The Bread of Life Celebrating the Eucharist

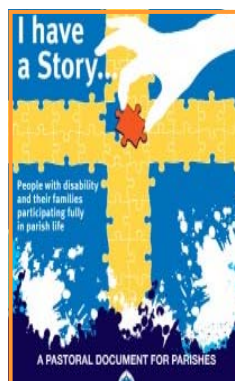
This is an exceptional way to prepare children for their first Holy Communion.

Contains: "The Last Supper" "The Story of Blessed Imelda Lambertini" "I am the Bread of Life," & "What More Can he Give". 2 visualized songs.



This very difficult concept is introduced here with bright, colourful pictures and an engaging, kid-friendly story. Each sacrament is referenced to its scriptural basis and is also explained in terms that apply to a child's everyday life.

Ages 5-9



### One Body in Christ: Welcoming people with disability. (Kit) 265 ONE

Contents: - Book—We have a story

Pamphlets: -People with disability and their families participating fully in Parish life. Words matter : Appropriate language when describing a person with disability.

CD: - One Body in Christ by Amanda McKenna

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

In our parish, we see the key to a successful Sacrament Program is an inclusive and flexible environment for children to learn about their faith and prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation, regardless of their ability or disability. Whether they have challenging behaviours, be on the spectrum (autism) or officially diagnosed with a mild intellectual disability it is important to be welcoming and supportive of all families.

At the start of our program our parish priest meets with families and asked to complete an enrolment form listing any specific health or learning concerns their child/ren may have. We then ask how we can best support each child on their spiritual journey and we continue to touch base throughout the program to discern the readiness of the child as they approach each sacrament they are preparing for. Catechists also play a role in this process, conversing with the children checking their understanding and seeing how prepared they are.

Parent attendance and involvement is also essential for successful faith formation of each child, as parents are the primary educators of the faith. Our program structure has the parents and children separate for a short time but we often ask specific parents to remain behind to help catechists support their children to complete activities. We regularly modify our lessons, vocabulary or teaching approach depending on the age, ability and needs of each child.

One child in our program required a separate group, quieter setting and simplified lessons. This was because he was on the autism spectrum and was initially overwhelmed with the idea of learning about the faith and also hesitant about receiving the sacraments. With a flexible approach and the support of his father, brother and a catechist, he was prepared and celebrated his Baptism with his family, and First Reconciliation and Confirmation with his peers this year. This was a great joy for all involved.

The program and home activities we offer are diverse and include writing and drawing, individual and group tasks, reflection and discussion, role play and Godly Play and online videos or links. This variety ensures that all children's abilities and interests are met and children are engaged while learning about their faith. We have received positive feedback from children and parents.

We understand that each person develops their faith and relationship with God in their own unique way. Essentially, our role as faith leaders and catechists is to simply plant the seed... and let it grow. **Amanda Whiffen**  
**Faith Formation Coordinator: Morphett Vale Parish**



## Children's Ministry Update

### Family & Parish Based Catechesis contact

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 2018

#### UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

**When:** Wednesday October 3rd: 9am-4pm

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

#### EXPLORING LECTIO DIVINA THROUGH THE ARTS + LIFE EXPERIENCE

**When:** Saturday October 20th: 9:00am- 3:30pm

**Where:** Mary MacKillop Centre, 4 High Street, Kensington

#### FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES + THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, EUCHARIST RETREAT SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION +

**When:** Friday 19th 6pm- Sunday 21st October 3pm

**Where:** Sevenhill Centre of Ignatian spirituality

#### AN INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSROOM

**When:** Monday October 29th: 9am-4pm

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

#### A WALK IN GOD'S PLAYGROUND

**When:** Saturday September 17th: 9:30am- 3pm

**Where:** Torrens River Linear Park

I Am Differently  
**ABLE!**