



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



**Upcoming Sacrament Workshop**  
see page 8

### From the Team

#### Dear Catechists and friends

Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter for 2021! We trust that all is going well for you as you reach out to children and families through your ministry.

In this Newsletter, you are invited to reflect upon the call to evangelise and in this light, an opportunity to discern your own ongoing faith formation and development of skills as children and families are accompanied.

We have also provided some information relating to sponsors for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We strongly suggest you share this with families as they register for the initial Parent Gathering for the Sacraments.

Please note the pages focussed on families and the workshops and gatherings offered to catechists. We are always interested in supporting your team including faith formation and assistance for parents.



Please contact us if there is anything specific that you would like us to offer or if you would like us to visit. With every blessing and thanks for all that you are and do in children and family ministry.

**Sr Jenny Seal and Amanda Razon**

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# THE CALL TO EVANGELISATION

## WE ARE ALL CALLED TO EVANGELISE

We hear this at the end of each Celebration of the Eucharist when the celebrant proclaims one of the following:

*Go forth, the Mass is ended.*

*Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.*

*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*

*Go in peace.*

And in response the people proclaim in one voice: *Thanks be to God.*

As a community, we are sent forth with a commission; and to this we respond with these sentiments:

*'Yes, we will go in God's name.*

*Thanks be to God we can and will do this!'*



## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO EVANGELISE

(From the Australian Bishops Commission for Evangelisation website)

"For the Church, evangelising means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new." [Rev. 21:5; cf. 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15.]

But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism [cf Rom 6:4] and by lives lived according to the Gospel. [Cf. Eph 4:24-25; Col 3:9-10.]

The purpose of evangelisation is therefore precisely this interior change, and if it had to be expressed in one sentence the best way of stating it would be to say that the Church evangelises when she seeks to convert, [Cf. Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18, 2:4.] solely through the divine power of the message she proclaims, both the personal and collective consciences of people, the activities in which they engage, and the lives and concrete milieu which are theirs."

(Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, n18)

## YOU ARE INVITED

- ◇ to reflect upon what this means for you personally
- ◇ to reflect upon this together as a parish...as a parish-school partnership
- ◇ to thank God for the gifts you bring to evangelisation
- ◇ to consider avenues of ongoing formation for yourself and your group or parish.

**We praise and thank God for all of us who, as Church gathered together,  
give so generously for the spread of God's love.**

**We pray and thank God for all who have journeyed with us in the faith  
and we pray for our ministry with children and their families.**

# LET US WONDER

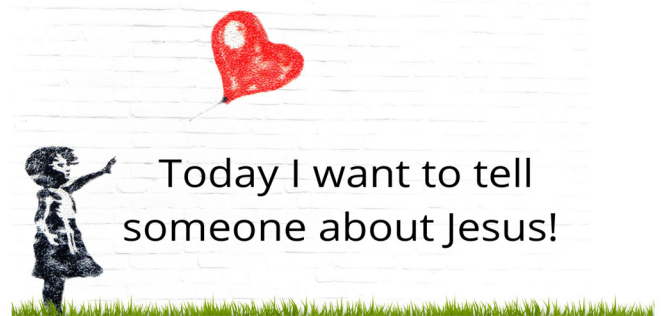
## I WONDER....

What you would like to see as an outcome of faith formation with children and families in any of the following areas:

- Formation in the Faith
- Sacramental Catechesis
- Liturgy of the Word with Children
- Family Catechesis
- Parent Formation

Take some time to reflect on this personally and as a catechist group or parish community.

*reflect, pray, journal and share*



Today I want to tell someone about Jesus!

**“The Church finds herself facing a “new stage of evangelisation” because even in this change of era the risen Lord continues to make all things new (cf Rev 21:5)**

**(Directory for Catechesis 2020)**

## SOME RESPONSES....

There may be many responses as to what we hope the outcome of faith formation may be. Let us reflect upon what some responses may be to our own ongoing faith formation. Our responses may vary at various times or stages of our lives:

- ◇ to recognise and grow in awareness of our value in God's eyes
- ◇ to live our faith and making a difference to others we encounter in our lives
- ◇ to live our faith and make a difference to others in our world on a local and/or global scale
- ◇ to bring and develop our spiritual connection to life's circumstances and situations
- ◇ to live our faith within the context of a faith community
- ◇ to grow in our relationship with God and others
- ◇ to live the gospels

Some questions we can continue to ask ourselves are:

- ◇ How does living a faith life make a difference to ourselves, our families, our neighbourhood, our parish community, our world?
- ◇ What role does the parish and Church community have in all of this?
- ◇ What does quality and life-giving faith education and formation look like?
- ◇ What does healthy and substantial catechesis look like?
- ◇ How can I make a difference?

**Reflecting upon our own ongoing faith formation, may assist us in fine-tuning....**

**how we can reach out, be invitational and provide a healthy and substantial catechesis to children and families in our parish, to those seen and unseen! This is our mission.**

For any assistance in mentoring, discussing, training and/or resourcing for children or family ministry in your parish or parish-school partnership, please contact us:  
 Family Faith Formation Team  
 Sr Jenny Seal [jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au)  
 Amanda Razon [amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

# SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

**At the beginning** of the Sacrament program, we recommend parishes present information to parents/ caregivers regarding the directives from the Archbishop regarding **Sponsors for Confirmation candidates**. Please do not assume that this is general knowledge.

'There is only to be one sponsor.

The minimum requirement for a sponsor is that he or she be over 16 and a Catholic who has been confirmed and received Holy Communion. Parish Priests and those who share in the ministry of preparation are to ensure that this is observed.

The role of the sponsor is two-fold:

- 1 to testify to the readiness of the candidate to receive the Sacrament; and
- 2 To help the newly confirmed lead a Christian life and fulfil the obligations connected with it. It is not simply an honour conferred by the candidates and their families, but an office undertaken on behalf of the Christian community. Canon Law (c.874) states that sponsors should "lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken".

The second requirement is more difficult to assess and implement, but it should be clearly communicated to all concerned. At the very least sponsors should try to participate, as far as possible, in preparation programmes.'

This information is contained in the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide 2021 Sacrament of Confirmation Guidelines for Ceremonies sent to parishes on behalf of the Archbishop.

These Guidelines contain other directives regarding Liturgy, Lectors (Readers) at Mass and the Running Outline for the Ceremony. Directives regarding Photographs and Certificates are found on the 2021 Sacrament of Confirmation Ceremony Summary Form also sent to parishes through the Archbishop's Office.

## PARISH STORY

### **Hallett Cove, Salisbury and Para Hills Modbury Parishes: *Sharing Sacrament Ideas***

These three parishes hosted the opportunity for an hour of *Sharing Sacrament Ideas* facilitated by the Family Faith Formation Team.

These gatherings were a great opportunity to share ideas, the load and to build our catechist community.

The catechists in these parishes expressed their gratitude of the chance to connect in this way.

Please see page 8 for details of the next Gathering at the Catholic Education Office, Thebarton.

### **Greenacres Walkerville: *Liturgy of the Word with Children Training Workshop***

During this term we held a training workshop for Liturgy of the Word. It was held at the Greenacres Walkerville parish. It was a wonderful morning and inspiring to listen to the participants' enthusiasm and eagerness to be part of this ministry. Those who participated gave positive feedback for the session:

*What did you find helpful?*

"The sources and activities we could do to make this liturgy enjoyable yet impactful."

"Focus on the WORD & parallel to Mass."

"There is support if needed."

*How will this enhance your ministry?*

"This will surely help to guide and shape our children to know God better through His word."

If you have any news or are holding an event for children and/or families that you would like to share with others for inclusion in our communications, please contact Amanda or Sr Jenny via email.

Permission will need to be sought for any photos and be aware of child protection and safety processes.

**We extend our admiration for parishes, in all their work and dedication to the ministry of children and families. We pray that your ministry continues to grow and thrive!**

***Do you have any children/ family initiatives that you would like to share?***

***Please let us know!***

# MAKING CONNECTIONS: WITHIN THE FAMILY

## ...because every family matters

### LET US PONDER : SOME REFLECTIONS FOR PARENTS

As parents who are the first nurturers and educators in all areas of your child's life, you are invited to take some time to reflect, discuss and share with family, school and parish partners.

In this way, we listen to our own heart and mind to what is important to us in relation to your child, to share this with our support networks and to enable needs to be addressed.

So, let us take some quiet time to reflect:

**I WONDER.....**what do you hope and desire for your child now and into the future?

how do you already journey with your child in their faith life?

what or who are your supports in this?



- ◇ As a family, you are encouraged to use *Family Liturgies* each week based on the Sunday Gospel from the following link: <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/prayer-services>
- ◇ On the next page, you are invite to explore a couple of ways you can discuss scripture and people who inspire your child or family.

### FAITH FACTS

ENJOY THIS FAITH FACT WITH YOUR FAMILY!

HAVE OTHER WONDERINGS ABOUT OUR FAITH?

EMAIL AMANDA

[amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

[catholic.edu.au](http://catholic.edu.au)

# FAITH FACTS

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY...**

Images and statues of Saints are displayed in a Catholic church?

Family Faith Formation Team

# FAITH FACTS

Saints are people who lived out their call to be disciples of God. Having images and statues of them help people to remember and honour them as inspirational models of faith.

Family Faith Formation Team

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matt 19:14

## MAKING CONNECTIONS: WITHIN THE FAMILY ...because every family matters

As first nurturers and educators of the faith of our children, parents/caregivers are invited to explore ways which may assist.

### LIVING THE GOSPELS IN DAILY LIFE

Jesus told the story of a father who longed for the return of his son.

You can find this story in the gospel of Luke (Luke 15:1-32) or on Youtube

This story is often called the story of the Prodigal Son.

It can have other names such as: the Two Lost Sons, The Forgiving Father, The Loving Father.



***I see...***

What can you see or visualise in the picture or story?

***I think...***

What do you think is happening? It could be from the characters' perspectives.

***I wonder...***

What happened next? Where the other people were? What they were thinking?

What are the times that you feel loved? When are you forgiven? When and how do you feel loved or forgiven by God?

**Suggested Activity**

- ◇ Explore [freebibleimages.com](http://freebibleimages.com)
- ◇ Find other pictures which make up this story
- ◇ Create a story board.

### EXPLORING HOW OTHER PEOPLE HAVE LIVED THE GOSPELS IN THEIR DAILY LIFE

Suggestions to help us explore:

I wonder.....

- ◇ with what qualities have you / your child been gifted?
- ◇ what qualities do you admire in other people? Why?
- ◇ what qualities would you like to develop in your life to live more as a follower of Jesus?

Explore how people before us have chosen to live and spread God's message of love to other people [https://www.catholic.org/saints/fun\\_facts\\_arch.php](https://www.catholic.org/saints/fun_facts_arch.php)

# UPDATES AND NEWS

## CATECHIST FORMATION, TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

### AS WE BEGIN TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT PROGRAM

Following on from the workshop, *Sacraments of Initiation: Where to Next?*, you are invited to the follow-up forum, *Sharing Sacrament Session*.

<https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-4481780>

## SACRAMENT SHARING SESSION

An opportunity to reconnect with each other since the last Sacrament workshop. Bring along and share ideas which worked for your catechesis program as we begin to look anew at our next program.

**Where:** Catholic Education Office George St Thebarton, Conference Centre, Room 6

**When:** Monday, 25 October from 9.30-11:30pm.

We look forward to your registration by *Wednesday, 20 October* at the following link:  
<https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-4481780>

## BREAKING OPEN SCRIPTURE WITH CHILDREN

**Audience:** Catechists and Parents

### Workshop:

- ◇ stand-alone or a follow-up to *Liturgy of the Word with Children* training,
- ◇ practical hands-on workshop with many ways to break open scripture with children.
- ◇ register your interest with the Family Faith Formation Team for a gathering at your parish, school or at the Catholic Education Office in Thebarton.



# UPDATES AND NEWS

## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

- ◇ a prayerful, reflective Liturgy of the Word designed for children
- ◇ usually held during Sunday Liturgy of Word time.
- ◇ can be used with children in other settings and is an opportunity for liturgical catechesis.



Contact Family Faith Formation Team (pg12)

- ◇ for the 3-hour training
- ◇ to develop this ministry in your parish.

This may also be an occasion for new recruits or for those interested in this ministry on a 'come and see' basis.

*Please contact Sr Jenny or Amanda to register your interest.*

## INTERESTED IN A NEW PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM?

**Audience:** for children from Pre-Primary to Year Six and catering for children who attend a non-Catholic school.

**Program:**

- ◇ **Gathered In My Name** (2021) prepared by the Western Australian Catholic Education Office Catechist Team.
- ◇ a boxed set for each year level
- ◇ includes supplements for each of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist which can complement Parish Sacramental Catechesis.
- ◇ For your perusal, brochure can be found at:



[https://www.cewa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2155-brochure\\_proof2406.pdf](https://www.cewa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2155-brochure_proof2406.pdf)

**Contact our Team (see page 12):** Register your interest to peruse, discuss or adapting this program or elements to suit your community's needs.

# CATECHIST REFLECTION

Taking inspiration from the prayer style of Visio Divina, take time to pray with the beautiful painting by Rembrandt on The Return of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).



## 1. PREPARE

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. You may like to begin by using a simple breath prayer or read through the relevant scripture.

## 2. GAZE

Take time to look deeply at the image. What do you notice? What do you wonder?

## 3. PONDER

What stood out as you gazed upon the image? What do you feel that God is stirring in you or communicating to you?

## 4. PRAY & CLOSE

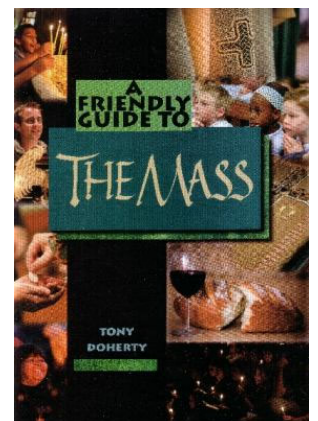
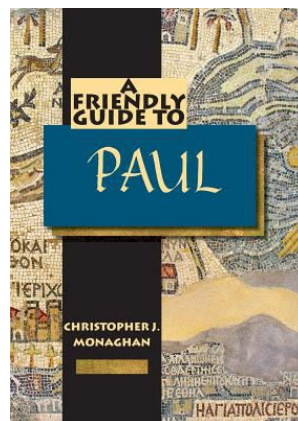
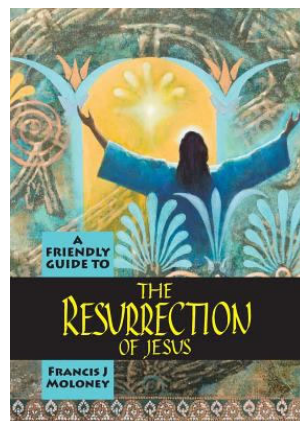
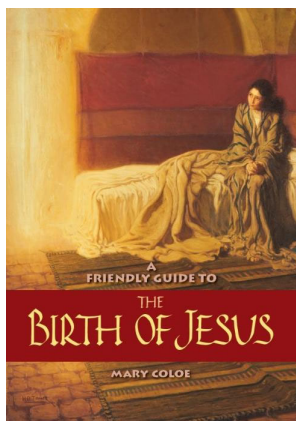
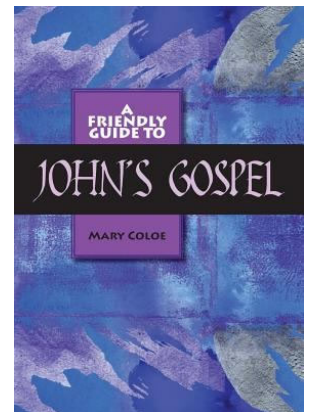
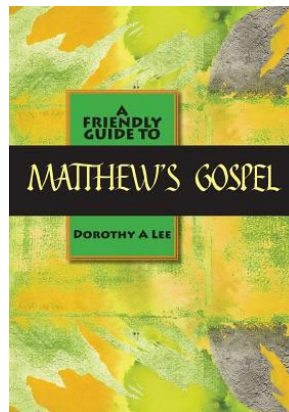
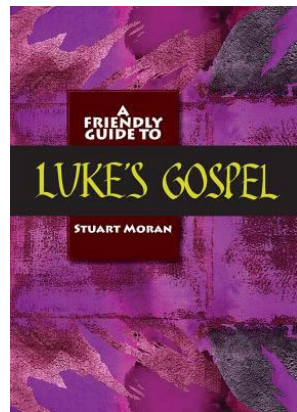
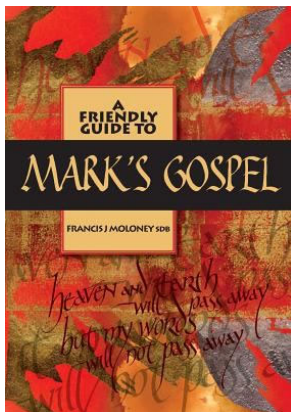
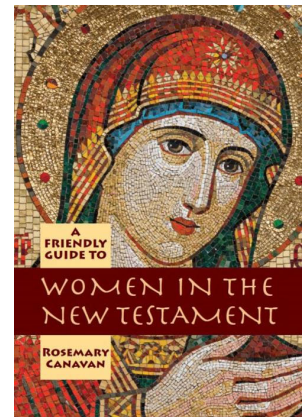
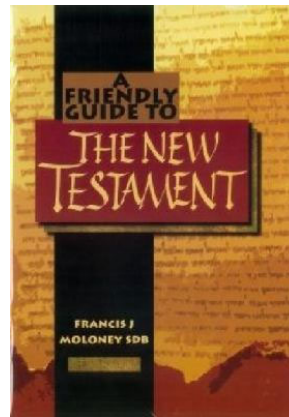
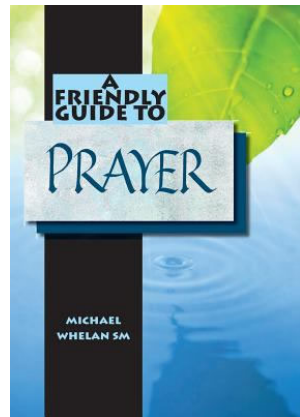
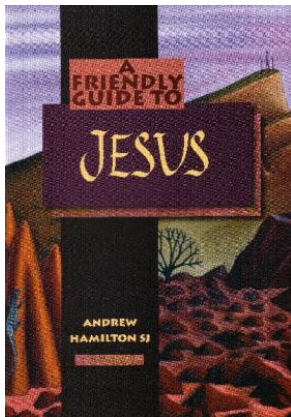
Bring your thoughts and feelings to prayer. You may like to record these things into your journal, or offer up what came up as you pondered. You may like to end your prayer with the Glory Be.

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/53/Rembrandt-The\\_return\\_of\\_the\\_prodigal\\_son.jpg/356px-Rembrandt-The\\_return\\_of\\_the\\_prodigal\\_son.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/53/Rembrandt-The_return_of_the_prodigal_son.jpg/356px-Rembrandt-The_return_of_the_prodigal_son.jpg)

# RESOURCES

Resources recommended for Catechist Gatherings within parishes or a group of parishes or for personal ongoing formation in catechesis with children and families.

## THE FRIENDLY GUIDE SERIES



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

112 Kintore Street Thebarton SA 5031 T:83016869  
E: [cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

**Opening times:**

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



## OUR TEAM

The **Family Faith Formation Team** is a ministry of the Archdiocese and is located within the structure of Catholic Education, South Australia.

The team consists of Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc and Amanda Razon who both work part time. The Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, alternate Wednesdays and Fridays. However, the team can be contacted via email anytime. We are available at times other than this on weeknights or weekends for workshops or training at a mutually convenient time.

The Team supports those engaged in the Religious Education and Catechesis of Catholic children and their families within the parishes and Catholic schools in the Adelaide Archdiocese.

We promote the partnerships between family, parish and Catholic school. Also, we support the ministry to families and children who attend non-Catholic schools.

We provide resources, consultation, workshops, mentoring and ongoing formation that support parish and school communities in the main areas of Family Catechesis, Sacramental Catechesis, Children's Liturgy of the Word and Parents' Faith Formation.

Please know that the team are here to support you in the best way forward for yourself, your ministry with the children and your parish community.



<https://www.pexels.com/>

### Family Faith Formation Team

Catholic Education Office  
116 George Street Thebarton

PO Box 179  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

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08 8301 6110

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

### Opportunities

#### Sacrament Sharing Ideas Gathering

**Purpose:** to network and enhance our programs

**When:** Monday 25 October

**Where:** Catholic Education Office Thebarton

**Register:** by Wednesday 20 October

<https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-4481780>

**Facilitated by:** Family Faith Formation Team

#### Register of Interest for Workshops

◇ Liturgy of the Word with Children (3hrs)

◇ Breaking Open Scripture (3hrs)

Email: [jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

[Amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

#### Multicultural Mass

Sunday, September 26 at 2.30pm

Migrant & Refugee Sunday

Celebrant: Archbishop O'Regan DD

<https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/news-and-events/events-1?event=70733>