



# Children's Ministry Update

Catechists Ministry

YEAR A : MARK

Volume6 Edition3: 2012

## From the Editor

Warm greetings everyone and welcome to this edition of the 'Children's Ministry Update' newsletter. I hope all is going well in your ministry and you are smiling through the busyness. The theme of this edition focuses on the wonderful ministry of the catechist, your work. I saw this as an opportunity to acknowledge all you do, be it your challenges and your successes. At times it can be a lonely role and thought it was a good time to host a free lunch to say thank you..you do make a difference! Please mark the 23rd of October in your diaries and take note to RSVP for catering purposes. We are looking forward to sharing a meal with you all. For us in the office, It has been a busy time for both Val and myself with the overseeing of the partnerships in sacramental catechesis project, visiting parishes and facilitating training sessions in various parishes amongst other work. I worked extra time whilst Val went away on a 30 day guided silent retreat and I found the months of June and July just disappeared so quickly!

The project is becoming more detailed and more involved than expected. It is an important area and it deserves time and energy to honour its importance. We have convened a committee of 16 people representative of all the stakeholders, a very passionate group who are keen to see positive changes for the future of sacramental preparation within our Archdiocese. I have been collating the data and I urge you to fill in the parent survey and return it to me ASAP, because I want the parent voices represented on this project, they are crucial stakeholders. We have also recently been invited out to several parishes to facilitate training of leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word. 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. I also have been visiting parishes just to touch base in an endeavour to know what is happening in parish life. Please know that I am more than happy to come and have a chat over a cuppa with you. I am keen to know how this office can best support you in your ministry with children.

I draw your attention to read about our new look Archdiocese website and in particular where the Office for Family and Parish Based Catechesis is located for you to access further resources. Additionally, there is information regarding the Archbishop's podcast on Confirmation, notably a useful resource. Hope you find this edition enjoyable as well as informative.

*Wishing you well in your continued ministry.. blessings, Carmen*

### CATECHISTS FREE LUNCH

**When: Tuesday 23rd October**

**Time: 12- 2pm**

**Where: CRIS 112 Kintore St, Thebarton**

**Why: to thank you for your wonderful work!**

**come share a meal & a chat!!**

**RSVP essential by 13th Oct**

**Ph: 83016110**

#### Inside this edition

Catechist' role	2
What is catechesis	2
Diocesan News	3
Resources	3
Detailed Diary dates	4
Your Parish Story	4
Catechists' prayer page	

#### Diary Dates

- [E-CONFERENCE](#)  
10th October
- [CATECHISTS LUNCH](#)  
23rd October
- [REVIEW&PLANNING AHEAD DAY](#)  
2nd November
- [REFLECTION DAY](#)  
5th November
- [BLESSING of the CRIBS mass](#)  
2nd December



# THE CATECHIST'S ROLE

We have responded to the needs of your parish in taking on this important ministry. Our role as a catechist sees us called to be an 'echoer of Christ.' Jesus gathered a diverse group of his followers around him. He also gave them a commission and a promise that extends to each of us today. Jesus has commissioned each of us to go forth and teach in his name and has given each of us the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, sealed us with the gifts at Confirmation and nourishes us in the Eucharist. Jesus has called us to be his witness to the children and their families with whom we work with. Therefore, as catechists we have acted on Jesus' calling because we show these qualities and skills:

- A personal commitment to Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of the message
- A commitment to the Church's liturgical and sacramental life and moral teachings
- A strong awareness of God's presence and a growing faith in response to that grace
- Be in a love story with God
- An openness to grow in our own awareness to better meet the needs of the children in our work
- Effective communication and teaching techniques
- An ability to appreciate different types and stages of individual growth and development in children
- Have a generosity of spirit, a respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion of all
- A willingness and openness to continue their own religious formation
- To be prepared to invite children and their families to a way of living
- An acceptance that there is room to learn how to be better able to 'echo Christ'
- An active prayer life

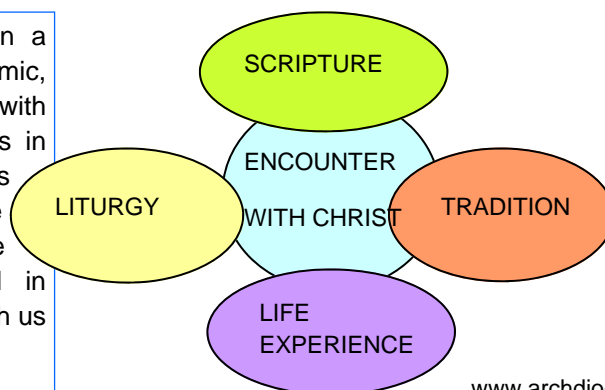
## WHAT IS CATECHESIS?

'Catechesis' comes from the Greek *'katechein'* which means 'sounding down', a 're-sounding', a 're-echoing down to one another'. So, in catechesis we echo 2,000 years of lived experience of Christ among us in the Church. It is the process of nurturing and maturing faith. It is ongoing, formative and outreaching.

The goal of catechesis is to put people in touch, in communion and in an intimate relationship with Christ. The object of catechesis is to lead people to profess their faith in Christ. Catechesis means that we are on a continuous journey of faith and a wanting to deepen our relationship with Christ through our experiences and encounters.

At times catechists become anxious about the content they should be presenting. The main point to know is that the key living source for any catechesis is the Word of God found in scripture. Catechists enable an encounter to occur between those who hear the Word and God and guide them to respond to the action of God.

All of these elements in a session lead to a dynamic, interactive encounter with Christ who speaks to us in the scriptures, brings us wisdom from the tradition, whose presence is celebrated in liturgy and who walks with us in our human experience.



[www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com)

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## SATURDAY CATHEDRAL TOUR

It was an initiative of our office this year to offer an invite to those children taking part in sacramental preparation, the opportunity to experience a Cathedral tour and then have an audience with the Archbishop on a Saturday morning, in the hope of opening this up to parish children and their families. I was thrilled that families from the Henley Beach parish and the parish school communities took up the invitation. Many thanks to Linda Low for coordinating this. The tour guides were fabulous in their eagerness, their level of knowledge and their interactions with the families. Following the very informative 45 minute tour, they all met with the Archbishop who told them stories about his childhood, shared



his own faith journey and answered all questions asked by the children and some parents. The joy was obvious throughout this experience for both the children and their families. It was a huge success!!

## ARCHBISHOP'S PODCAST

As a follow up from the confirmation seminar that was called by the Archbishop held earlier in March, there is a 4 minute podcast of the Archbishop outlining important points about this sacrament. This is a useful resource for those involved in sacramental preparation.....

<https://vimeo.com/benjaminfleming/review/42786436/02d2aef95d>

## NEW ARCHDIOCESE WEBSITE

This new look website was launched last month. Please note to source information about this office, we are located under the 'our works and community' heading. Have a look!

## Social Justice Sunday - The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: Sunday 30 September 2012

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) is preparing for the launch in September of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2012–2013, which is entitled, 'The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today'.

In this year's Statement, the Catholic Bishops of Australia highlight how families, the basis of our community of faith and the very foundation of society, can be beacons for a more compassionate and just society. Many families in Australia find themselves under financial pressure or robbed of time to nurture children and family relationships. And in the broader context of our nation's prosperity, there are families who have been pushed to the margins. The Bishops express particular concern for vulnerable Indigenous families, refugees, those on welfare support or struggling on minimum wages, the homeless, and those with special needs. The Statement highlights the social and economic pressures faced by families today and calls for policies which are supportive of all families, especially those who are most vulnerable. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Social Justice Statement. *For resources visit: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>*

## Resources

### CATHOLIC RESOURCE & INFORMATION SERVICE

This is an invitation to use the professional services offered at CRIS. CRIS supports the mission of parishes, schools and other church agencies in their pastoral outreach as communities of faith. Membership is **open to all** and is **free** for all individual Catholics, Catholic schools and parishes. Resources available include books, journals, DVD's, CDs, reference material, picture books, big books, posters, and on-line information. Resources are available in the areas of: contemporary religious education, liturgical and sacramental practice, scripture and theology, adult faith formation, pastoral care, contemporary issues and the needs of the Catholic community and wider community. Loan periods for audio visual material is 2 weeks, and for print material 4 weeks. Metropolitan borrowers are responsible for the collection and return of their loans and those requiring a courier are financially responsible. For country borrowers CRIS will pay for postage to borrowers but then borrowers are responsible for the return postage. **Opening hours are Monday–Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. located at 112 Kintore Street, Thebarton. Phone number is 83016869. All very welcome!!** *I have attached their latest brochure*

### **3 Ways to Pray Calendar** <http://waystopray.weebly.com/>

This new resource has been produced by the Brisbane Catholic Education RE Team to be used with children. This digital prayer calendar is designed to provide teachers and catechists with prayer ideas that respond to the Church's liturgical calendar and everyday events.

## Office for Family & Parish Based Catechesis

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112 Kintore Street  
Thebarton

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Torrensville Plaza  
SA 5031

Ph: 08 8301 6873/ 6110  
Fax: 08 8301 6870



We're on the web

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

*"you don't have to be a bible expert to be an effective catechist. You simply need to be dedicated to learning more about God as revealed in the bible"*

*J. Paprocki*

## Your Parish Story

On the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 a Catechist meeting was held at the Para Hills/Modbury Parish at the Holy Trinity church. I sent out invitations and also placed an advertisement in the parish Bulletin but due to the cold, wet, dramatic weather only three catechists and I were able to make it. Never the less, both our workshop leaders Carmen Balales and Val DeBrenni from the Office for Family and Parish Based Catechesis were courageous enough to front the stormy weather and gave us an excellent overview of the topic of Leading Sunday Liturgy of the Word with children. This session was very important as it allowed for our volunteer ministers to have an understanding of how to lead a session of Liturgy for children. Carmen walked us through the process and gave us a work booklet that included the power point presentation, the current diocesan Liturgy of the Word with Children at Sunday Mass principles plus a list of suggested resources available. A very useful resource for us to have! Val showed us how to present the Gospel to children by using the method of Godly play. Useful tips and the steps of the process were also in the booklet given to us. We had a demonstration and then we were able to have a go ourselves. Positive response was received from those present and it provided us with an opportunity that evening to talk about our experiences as well as look at various resources available from CRIS over a cup of tea or coffee.

Grace Healey  
Pastoral Associate, Para Hills/Modbury Parish



### Detailed Diary Dates 2012

- **E-CONFERENCE: 'An Event of Grace'**  
Wednesday 10th October  
CRIS: 112 Kintore St, Thebarton
- **CATECHISTS LUNCH**  
Tuesday 23rd October  
CRIS: 112 Kintore St, Thebarton
- **REVIEW & PLANNING AHEAD DAY**  
Friday 2nd November  
CRIS: 112 Kintore St, Thebarton
- **PRAYER REFLECTION DAY**  
A DAY WITH MEDIEVAL MYSTICS  
Monday 5th November  
SOPHIA: 225 Cross Rd,  
Cumberland Park
- **BLESSING OF THE CRIBS MASS**  
Sunday 2nd December  
St Francis Xavier Cathedral,  
Wakefield St, city

# Catechist Personal Prayer Page

*O Jesus, Great and Beloved Teacher,  
thank You for inviting us to share  
Your teaching mission as a catechist.*

*Thank You for calling us to proclaim God's presence  
and to announce the Good News of the Gospel  
to those we meet.*

*Guided by Your Holy Spirit may we always be faith-filled and  
courageous.*

*May love and concern for the young people in our care  
always be our guiding motivation.*

*May our hearts be on fire  
as we share God's incredible love with others*



*Thank You for calling us.*

*Thank You for Your love. Amen.*