



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

From the Team

YEAR A : Matthew

Volume9 Edition3: 2014

Dear Friends, Welcome to another edition of the Children's Ministry Update!

In this edition, we have focussed on Children's Liturgy of the Word and breaking open scripture for both the catechist and parent. We hope that you and your parish will be able to make good use of the materials prepared for you and to encourage you in inviting others to join you in this important ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be an important element to develop for the upcoming Sacraments of Initiation Policy and Framework for the Archdiocese. Therefore, we encourage you to make known its purpose and place for the good of the community as well as to encourage those interested in attending the 2 hour preparation session as outlined on page 2.

The Launch of the Sacraments of Initiation Policy and Framework by Archbishop Wilson is on the 11th September as outlined below. Here, copies of both documents will be distributed to parishes as well as dates for workshops relating to these working documents.

Archbishop Wilson has invited Fr Paul Turner, an international presenter, to be with us in looking at Christian Initiation of School-Aged Children. Please see the advertisement below also and we encourage you to consider attending.

We encourage you also to attend our Godly Play Kit Making Workshop as well as the Interact Ecumenical Seminar. In our next newsletter, we see it as opportunity to focus on the Sacraments of Initiation.

With every blessing and gratitude for your wonderful ministry to our children.

Sr Jenny Seal & Carmen Balales

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Diary Dates

- **PRIMA Conference**
4-5th August
- **Cathedral Tour & audience with the Archbishop**
Saturday 9th August
- **Christian Initiation with School Aged children**
Thurs 21st August
Friday 22nd August
- **Launch of Sacraments Policy & Framework**
Thurs 11th Sept
- **INTERACT 2014**
Thurs 18th Sept

Launch of Sacraments of Initiation Policy and Framework by Archbishop Phillip Wilson

Thursday 11th September 11:30am- 12:30pm

Catholic Education Conference Centre, Thebarton

RSVP 84168477 or worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au

Bookings essential All Welcome!

Christian Initiation of School-Aged Children Workshop International Presenter: Fr Paul Turner

Thursday 21 August 7:30pm-9:30pm @ Adelaide College of Divinity OR

Friday 22 August 10am-2pm @ Catholic Education Conference Centre

Enquire jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au or phone 8301 6195

Bookings essential All Welcome!

RSVP 84168477 or worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Throughout his ministry, Jesus had a special concern for children. When his disciples tried to prevent the people bringing children to Jesus for a blessing, he indignantly reminded them: "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:13)

IT'S ORIGINS: The Second Vatican Council was a time of rediscovery within the Catholic Church, and one of these rediscoveries was that of liturgical renewal. The Council set into motion a revision of all Catholic liturgy with special emphasis on the adaption of rites to the needs of children who were pre-adolescent. Thus, a concrete expression of how the participation of children in the liturgy could be adapted and hence, be more relevant for them was developed and published in the document *Directory for Masses with Children* in 1973, as a supplement for the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. This document outlined the principles and guidelines necessary for children to take part in as fully as they are able according to their level of understanding.

WHAT IS IT?: This is the practice of withdrawing children from the Sunday Eucharist during the adult celebration of Liturgy of the Word. They gather to celebrate their own specific Liturgy of the Word that maintains its liturgical character that is more appropriate to their level of understanding and concentration. This enables children to celebrate with full, conscious and active participation.

WHY HAVE IT?: Celebrating their own Liturgy of the Word offers children an opportunity to build a relationship with Jesus and to encounter God. They discover for themselves the riches found in the scriptures through various ways of interacting with the story and form the link between scripture and worship.

Providing children with a Liturgy of the Word tailored to their age and stage of development is a key way of assisting their growth in faith and its relevance for Christian living. By offering liturgy that is relevant and engaging, we are leading children into a genuine sense of celebration which they will enjoy and want to be part of. These positive experiences will over time, build up and nurture a healthy relationship between the liturgy and their daily living which will in time, instil a desire within them to become active members in an adult worshipping community.



KEY PRINCIPLES

- It must be liturgy, prayer focussed not an activity session or religious education
- All good principles of liturgy apply ie: active participation, symbols, appropriate gestures and responses, scripture
- It is an experience of prayer, of dialogue with God
- It is not a child minding session
- It is ritual centred on proclaiming and breaking open the scriptures from the New Testament to help grow the relationship with Jesus
- It is a parallel to what occurs in most of the adult's Liturgy of the Word, aimed at the children's level of understanding
- The children's lectionary is used and revered
- Only the adult leader carries the lectionary and reads the scripture, not the children
- The children re-join the adult congregation before the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins
- It caters for primary school aged children (5-12 years)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADER TRAINING SESSION

Our office offers a 2 hour training session that is required before anyone can lead a session in their parish. The session is divided into two distinct parts. The first part offers a basic theology by way of background as to why we offer children's Liturgy of the Word and then the group is taken through a practical session where they participate as the children would. The second part unpacks the method of using 'Godly Play' as another way of breaking open the Word of God for children. All who attend get the chance to learn by doing, have fun in the process and receive a certificate of completion. **Contact Carmen Balales for more details. ..Carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au or 83016110**



BREAKING OPEN THE PARABLES

"I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world." (Matthew 13:35) A parable is a comparison of two things, often done through a story that has two meanings. Parables stimulate the experience of unlikely thought. They encourage an irony that pushes language to its limits. They turn the world of the everyday upside down and ask us to begin again to make sense of life without the conventional cultural limits, making the meaning not so obvious. Jesus Christ did much of his teaching in parables deliberately to hold an audience's attention while illustrating an important moral point.

Parable of the Lost Sheep: Luke 15:1-7

Possible Teaching Points:

- * God cares for each person, so we should do the same
- * We all matter to God
- * No one is more or less important than the other
- * Jesus is the Good Shepherd and cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep
- Ask the children if they have ever been lost
- What did it feel like?
- What did it feel like to be found?
- Play Follow The Leader
- Draw Jesus the shepherd

Parable of the lost Son: Luke 15: 11-32

Possible Teaching Points:

- * God forgives us and we should forgive each other
- * God is like a loving Father and happy when we come to Him
- * God is approachable, caring and interested in each of us
- Ask the children if they like parties and what their favourite party food is
- Brainstorm what is good fun about being at a party
- Share a tasty treat. Compare this to eating eggshells. Discuss their response if they were very hungry
- Create a colourful poster about Forgiveness

Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 25-37

Possible Teaching points:

- * God is pleased when we show kindness to others
- * A neighbour does not just live next door, we should be kind to anyone we meet
- * The Spirit will help us do what is right
- Discuss with the children if they have ever asked an adult a cheeky question
- Describe a time when you have helped someone
- What did it feel like?
- Create a short drama about showing kindness
- Write a prayer about love

BIANNUAL PRIMA CONFERENCE

Monday 4th+ Tuesday 5th August @ The Monastery

Keynote presenter Anne Frawley- Mangan will engage our senses with the Arts together with well known co-presenters Michael Mangan, Andrew Chinn+ John Burland who will invigorate us with music! They will also entertain us with a concert at the BBQ dinner...THIS IS A MUST!!!!

Cost is at a greatly reduced rate for parish personnel: \$100 RSVP: Carmen or Jenny 29/7/14 All Welcome!

GODLY PLAY workshop: making a Parish Kit

Are keen to have your own kit to use in your ministry? This workshop is a must! In order for this workshop to go ahead, I require a definite number of those who are keen to take up this offer to make it viable, then details will follow.....

Please RSVP to carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au or 83016110 by 1st August

Tuesday 2nd September 10am-2pm @ Catholic Education Office



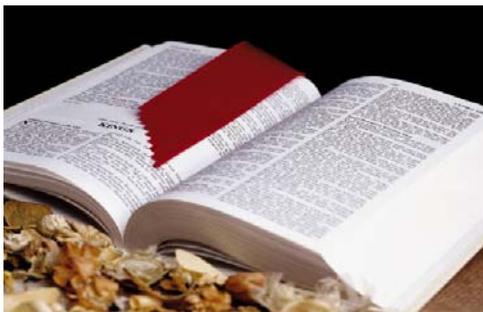
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connecting Families with Parish

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could use to assist families to connect with the Parish in order to enrich the faith-life of their children.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Advertise within the Parish and local schools what Children's Liturgy of the Word is and entails based on the information on page 2 of this newsletter.



Encourage parents to bring their children to these celebrations and encourage parishioners and other parents to be part of the 'come and see' training to be leaders or helpers or as enquirers of the process.



Share with parents at the local schools and with parishioners the Parish stories on page 8 of this newsletter about '*Experiencing Children's Liturgy of the Word Session*'.

What next — after Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Some ideas:

Invite the children to share (choose one)

- the message they heard today?
- how they felt about the gospel story?
- what they could do with their family to live out what they experienced?
- what Jesus is saying to them?

Resources

Suggest to Parents to borrow books, dvd,'s, big books etc to assist children in their faith story development and parent-child faith interaction.

Contact Mary or Susan at the Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS) at Thebarton on (08) 8301 6869 or email cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au.

Resources are catalogued on www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-faith/catholic-resource-and-information-service

It is free to borrow resources. Items can be posted free to country borrowers. It is the responsibility of the borrower for return postage or delivery to CRIS.

Some examples of resources are:

[Parables Jesus told \(Big Book\)](#) by Catherine Blythe

[Parables of the Kingdom \(Big Book\)](#) by Catherine Blythe

[The Prodigal Son: The animated stories from the New Testament \(DVD\)](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connecting Families with each other

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could insert within their bulletin weekly, or create a 'Family Connections' handout periodically with ideas from these pages. In this way, we can assist children

What next for families—after Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Some ideas:

- Listen to what your child/ren has/have experienced?
- Share: what message did you hear today? What would you like to do with what you heard today? Would you like to write, draw or pray?
- Pray together as a family
- Parent/s reflect on the scripture passage. Share or spend some quiet time together as a family
- Share what can be done as a family to live out what has been experienced



Short Digital Video Resources of the Parables for the Family

Go to www.max7.org for one to two minute videos

The Parable of the Lost Sheep: (Luke chapter 15 verses 11 to 32) This video illustrates Jesus' parable of the *Lost Sheep* without any language elements. The video explores the emotions of losing a prized possession and the joyous emotion when that possession is found.

The Parable of the Lost Son: (Matthew chapter 18 verses 10 to 14 and Luke chapter 15 verses 1 to 7) There are two parts to this parable. The Part 1 video follows the choices of the youngest son. Part 2 video follows the oldest son's response. There is a longer 7 minute version with animation only or a 2 minute version with narration.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: (Luke chapter 10 verses 25-30) This is a narrated version which lasts only a couple of minutes.

The Parable of the Sower: (Matthew chapter 13 verses 1 to 23; Mark chapter 4 verses 1 to 20 or Luke chapter 8 verses 1 to 15) In animation only, this video illustrates clearly the 4 instances of the seeds scattered on different ground. Experience the seeds growing and the challenges they face. How will you respond to Jesus' message?

On this website, there is also a **book of Scripture puzzles** for the family to do which can be downloaded as well as other 60 minute videos. Choose the appropriate ones.

CATECHIST PERSONAL PRAYER

Take some time to come to quiet and become aware of God's presence within you.

When you are ready, allow yourself to pray to Abba as Jesus did.

Our Father *Protector and sustainer of all people*
Who art in heaven *But also in our workplace and our homes*
Hallowed be thy name *Your names are many. May we call you
'giver of joy' this day?*
Thy kingdom come *May your peace and joy always dwell in
our hearts*
Thy will be done *We trust you and hand everything over to
you*

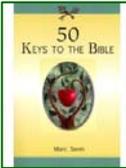
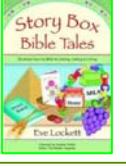


On earth as it is in Heaven *Here and now, during this lifetime*
Give us this day our daily bread *Provide us with the strength and resources we need*
And forgive us our trespasses *Transform our struggles, feelings of inadequacy and
insecurity*
As we forgive those who trespass against us *Increase our understanding and acceptance of the
people we serve*
And lead us not into temptation *Restrain our desire to judge, control and become
dismissive*
But deliver us from evil *Relieve our apathy, impatience and insensitivity*
For thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory *For only you can give us the hope that truly sustains us in life*
For ever and ever *Today and always*
Amen

LATEST RESOURCES

All of these resources are available from the Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS)

Kilmara site: 112 Kintore Street, Thebarton ph: 83016869

	<p><u>50 Keys to the Bible</u> By Marc Sevin (Catechist resource) Paulist Press, 2013</p>
	<p><u>Benjamin's Box : The story of the Resurrection eggs</u> By Melody Carlson Zonderkidz, 2008</p>
	<p><u>Creative ways to tell a Bible story : techniques and tools for exploring the Bible with children and families</u> By Payne, Martin Bible Reading Fellowship, 2013</p>
	<p><u>Let the children come to Me : interactive poster set on the life of Jesus, with guidebook</u> By Maria Pinto Paulist Press, 2003</p>
	<p><u>Messy celebration : make the most of your messy church celebration time</u> By Moore, Lucy Bible Reading Fellowship, 2013</p>
	<p><u>Story Box Bible Tales : 25 stories from the Bible for sharing, making and living</u> By Eve Lockett Bible Reading Fellowship, 2011</p>
	<p><u>Teaching Godly Play : how to mentor the spiritual development of children</u> By Jerome Berryman Morehouse, 2009</p>
	<p><u>The Gospels in playdough : A hands-on approach to teaching children about Jesus</u> By Anstey, Liz Barton, 2009</p>
	<p><u>Wow time : 52 engaging children's moments</u> By Mark Burrows</p>

Your Parish Story

Children's Ministry Update

Experiencing Children's Liturgy of the Word Session

Some of our leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word undertook an interactive workshop led by Carmen to learn about using 'Godly Play' with children as part of their Liturgy of the Word session to enhance their engagement with scripture. Since then we have been inspired and have borrowed the 'Godly play' kit from C.R.I.S. Using Godly Play enables us to give a visual reflection of the gospel whilst allowing the children to add their own perspective of what the gospel is telling them. They really enjoy being interactive, using their imaginations and voices to put themselves into the story. Since incorporating 'Godly Play' into our sessions, attendance has increased and feedback is very positive. With the help of the children, we are putting our own set together. The 2 hour training session is a must! It is very valuable as it reassures and builds our confidence whilst having fun too!
Judy Fernandez; Faith Family Coordinator: Lefevre Catholic Community

After a hectic day it was difficult to persuade myself to attend a "training session" on a cold wintery night. I could only imagine that those coming straight from work and a day of meetings would be thinking the same. Then, enter Carmen Balales! An energised and spirit filled woman who's enthusiasm and love of Children's Liturgy of the Word became instantly infectious.

Our training session was not the uninteresting evening I was expecting, it was educational, interactive and fun. During the course of the session we came to realise that Children's Liturgy of the Word is a precious opportunity for children to meet personally with God through the Gospel. It is not the job of the leader to speak and teach about God, but rather to allow God to do the speaking and the teaching through His word. There is no time for colouring in or gluing, it's all about allowing the wonder and the mystery of God to be explored through the imagination of each individual.

I really hope that when Children's Liturgy of the Word kicks off at St Luke's, it too can be interactive and fun for each individual. I pray that the idea of God being boring or non relational can be a transformed one. I hope the young people attending Children's Liturgy of the Word can begin a dialogue with God, a relationship with God like no other in the presence of each other. We hope to kick off Children's liturgy of the word at St Luke's parish in August. Thanks for blessing us with your time Carmen!
Ewa Starrs; Pastoral Worker: Noarlunga Parish

interact 2014: Ecumenical children's ministry seminar

CMN: Children's Ministry Network SA is comprised of children's ministry leaders from various Christian denominations and mission organisations and who work so that *all South Australia's children and their families have ongoing opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ; and belong to a faith community.* **INTERACT** is a great time when the different denominations come together ecumenically to build church!! Following a hugely successful evening last year, INTERACT 2014 will happen on **Thursday 18th September 6- 9:30pm @ The Parkside Baptist Church.** It will be a night where catechists share wonderful ideas, view the latest resources available and gain practical ways of engaging families in faith and learn about the diverse children's and family ministries happening across various Christian groups. It will be great to see you there!

Office for 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

Detailed Diary Dates 2014

- **PRIMA CONFERENCE: ENCOUNTER, ENGAGE, ENLIVEN; Michael Mangan, Andrew Chinn + John Burland**
WHEN: Monday 4th+ Tuesday 5th August
VENUE: The Monastery,
15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond
- **Cathedral Tour & Audience with the Archbishop**
WHEN: Saturday 9th August
VENUE: St Francis Xavier Cathedral
Wakefield Street, city
- **The Gospel in Animated Movies**
WHEN: Saturday 16th August
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre
116 George Street, Thebarton
- **Christian Initiation of School-Aged Children**
WHEN: Thursday 21st August;
VENUE: Adelaide College of Divinity
34 Lipsett Terrace, Brooklyn Park
OR WHEN: Friday 22nd August
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre
116 George Street, Thebarton
- **Launch of Sacraments Policy & Framework**
WHEN: Thursday 11th September
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre
116 George Street, Thebarton
- **INTERACT 2014: Ecumenical Children's Ministries seminar**
WHEN: Thursday 18th September
VENUE: Parkside Baptist Church
100 Young Street, Parkside