



# Children's Ministry Update

Holy Week/Easter

YEAR A:  
MATTHEW

Volume 2 Edition1: 2008

## From the Editor

Welcome to 2008! I hope that you are all in good health and feel renewed for the year ahead. The latest news is that Patricia has celebrated a milestone birthday and has recently returned from a trip to China. Please join me in wishing her every blessing!

Our aim this year is to support your ministry as best we can. Patricia and I have planned a calendar filled with a smorgasbord of events that will meet your needs, help resource and further enhance your work with children and their families. We also want to acknowledge the successes of your work within your local Parish community. I hope that this newsletter becomes a vehicle by which we get to hear your story and share new ideas. Thus, I am encouraging you to send in your parish story and a photo at anytime to my email address found on pg 4 of the newsletter or, by calling me direct on my new number which is 83016110 on Thursdays.

In this edition, you will notice new extras: 'Fuel for the Tank' - a verse for your personal reflection and nourishment Also you will find a section entitled 'World Youth Day Update' that will keep you informed with the latest happenings as we count down to August.

Please note that before Easter you will have the opportunity to update your volunteer lists of everyone involved in children's ministries. By then you should have a clearer idea of who your new volunteers are and who has not returned in 2008. The current lists will be returned to you for revision where necessary.

Our ministry with children is vital to the total ministry of the church which takes the Good News out to the world. Effective children's ministry is formed on the understanding that God is present and will continue to be present and active in the lives of children. Therefore, it is in our ministry that we encourage and nurture children in their relationship with God. To assist you in this, Liturgy of the Word leader training is again being offered in all deaneries over the coming months. Details of venues, dates and times can be found on our website.

## Farewell and Thanks!

Farewell and thanks to Libby Healy and Lara Goodier of Victor Harbor / Goolwa parish and to Jeanette Mirabito of Dulwich Burnside and Pennington parishes who will not be coordinating children's ministries in 2008.

Thanks too to Debbie Ripley who has left Elizabeth parish and has taken up the Pastoral Associate / children's ministry role in the Lower North Adelaide parish. Thanks also to Suzanne Shultz who has held the fort there in a voluntary capacity for a number of years.

## Welcome

Welcome to Rosemary Canavan, newly appointed Pastoral Associate in Colonel Light Gardens Parish. Welcome too to Pauline Crocker who has been appointed to the position of Children's Ministry Coordinator in the Glen Osmond / Parkside Parish. Also welcome to Carmen Balales who has been appointed Pastoral Associate at Flinders Park / Hindmarsh. Carmen will still be here in the office for one day each week.

If you are new to the role this year and have not been recognised, please let us know as soon as possible so we can officially welcome you!.

### Inside this edition

Holy Week: activities	2
Easter: activities	3
Resources	3
Detailed Diary Dates	4
Fuel for the tank	4
Your Parish Story	4

### Diary Dates

- \* **The Christian Journey with Children**  
Semester 1 – 17/18 May+ 14/15 June  
Semester 2 – 9/10 August+ 13/14 Sept
- \* **Days of Reflection**  
6 May+ 27 Nov
- \* **Expo Day**  
20 Aug
- \* **Catechists Thanksgiving Mass**  
15 Nov

# ABOUT THE SEASON

## LENT

We are now midway through the forty days of Lent, which means we are midway to Easter. The number '40' appears often in the Bible, each time as significant in proclaiming God's Word. Thus our 40 days should be a time of significant reflection and renewal, of quiet and thoughtful joy. As Christians we are turning to God, carrying the good news to others and many are preparing to be baptised at Easter.

## HOLY WEEK

At the end of Lent we celebrate Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday. During this week, the Church celebrates the three holiest days of the year known as the Paschal Triduum. 'Triduum' is a Latin word meaning 'three days' and the word 'Paschal' means Passover'. During Holy Week we follow Jesus and his disciples as they gather at the Passover meal before his death. The gospel stories help prepare us for the Easter Triduum.

## EASTER

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Light has overcome darkness! We share in rejoicing in the glory of Jesus and his gift of the resurrection. Easter is not just one day but a whole season of fifty days, which lasts until Pentecost. We rejoice that members of our Parish were baptised at the Easter Vigil and we rejoice that all of us are nourished by the life of God whenever we share in the Eucharist. The gospel readings are filled with good news and we hear the message that Jesus is the shepherd who cares for his

## FAMILY AND GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR HOLY WEEK

- Make a mural showing the entry into Jerusalem, with small groups working on different sections.
- Children make crowns to remind them of Christ's Kingship.
- Have the children pretend they are present as Jesus entered Jerusalem: write about the experience or decorate a postcard describing the scene.
- As a family, take turns in reading the gospel story and discuss how Jesus / the disciples would have felt.
- Display various types of bread and have unleavened bread to explain why it was used.
- Role play the events of the gathering at the Last Supper
- Tell the story of the meal shared by Jesus and his friends and construct a prayer card to remind the children that Jesus is with them.
- Using cellophane paper make a stained glass window of the crucifixion.
- Children find examples of various crosses used to recall Good Friday.
- As a family, decorate a large cardboard cross with symbols of the life of Jesus.
- Discuss the stations of the cross.



- Match the symbols of Holy Week to their meanings.
- Make Holy Week bookmarks to give to the community.
- Sequence the Easter story by folding paper into 3 parts: 1st part has 'Holy Thursday', the middle fold has 'Good Friday' and the 3rd part has 'Easter Sunday' written. Describe each event and illustrate.

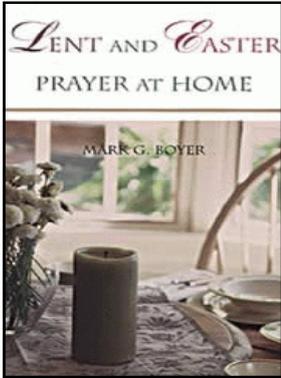


## FAMILY AND GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR EASTER

- Construct an Easter mobile with symbols of the Easter story.
- As a family, decorate Easter cards with symbols of new life to give to others.
- Make a banner on a long piece of art paper with the word 'Easter' in block writing. Find various indoor and outdoor materials to stick onto the word and decorate it as a collage.
- Make butterflies by squeezing tissues in half and twisting the centre with a pipe cleaner. Add these to your prayer space.
- Visit the church to experience how the environment changes over the weeks of Lent and Holy Week. Compare it to how the church looks after Easter Sunday. Discuss and brainstorm the changes.
- Have a living display of all of the symbols seen during the weeks leading up to Easter and keep adding to it until Pentecost.
- As a family, make an Easter garden: fill a tray with soil, decorate with flowers, add a large pebble for the 'tomb' and label it with various words of joy.



- Play 'over+under' by passing a ball around the circle. When the music stops that child passes it through their legs. Begin music and pass the ball until the music stops again and that child raises the ball over their head and shouts 'Alleluia'!



### Resources

**Lent and Easter Prayer at Home:** 0877939713 :BOYER, Mark G  
 20 ways to make Lent and Easter special simply by paying attention to ordinary things around us. The kitchen chair, the oil we cook with, and many other ordinary things bespeak the sacredness of our daily lives and find their places in the traditions and celebrations. Three sections cover Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, each contains a brief scripture, a prayerful reflection, meditation questions, and a prayer drawn from the psalms. A concluding section invites us to create a family heirloom journal of our home's Lent and Easter practices.  
**\$20.95 (available at [www.johngarratt.com.au/](http://www.johngarratt.com.au/) ph:1300650878)**

## World Youth Day Update



The excitement is building in the work of the Catholic Office for Youth & Young Adults as we journey towards World Youth Day 2008. Plans for the Days in the Diocese aspect are well underway. The 'Days in The Diocese' is being held in the Archdiocese of Adelaide from Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and will welcome thousands of international pilgrims to Adelaide to join in this significant journey of hope and faith. Through concerts, festivals and other special events, we will offer meaningful and spiritual experiences of faith and community and help pilgrims prepare for all they will encounter at World Youth Day. Our office is working with local coordinating groups from across the archdiocese of Adelaide who will help facilitate the hosting of international pilgrims. The outline of the whole of Archdiocese components of Days in the Diocese program for Local Coordinating Group planning will feature three key events: *The Cathedral Cafe and City Precinct Project, Pilgrim Peace Park, Entertainment Centre Final Liturgy and Concert.* .....**Joe Hicks, Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults**.....



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**We're on the web**

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

**'FUEL FOR THE TANK'**

“Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good; try to use ordinary situations”

Jean Paul Richter (German novelist)

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**Detailed Diary Dates 2008**

- The Christian Journey with Children (equipping people for ministry)***

2 weekend seminars per semester

Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Sat	9 <sup>th</sup> August
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> May	Sun	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Sat	13 <sup>th</sup> September
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> September

(for more details contact Patricia Brady: 83016873)

- Days of Reflection in 2008***  
Tuesday 6th May  
Thursday 27th November
- Annual Expo Day***  
Wednesday 20th August
- Catechists Thanksgiving Mass***  
Saturday 15th Nov  
Venue: St Francis Xavier Cathedral

**Your Parish Story**

Wednesday the 19th December was a hot day. The heat of the day was equally matched by the energy and enthusiasm of the 50 children and helpers at the Monastery for their Christmas Activity Day. It was a day well supported by parishioners. The children began their day enjoying home baked biscuits. Activities centred around looking at the celebration of Christmas in both the Christian and secular traditions. The children decorated calico Christmas stockings and then filled them with symbols of Christmas and activity sheets throughout the day. A sit-down lunch of chicken and chips was a big hit! The day was a great parish celebration of children, youth and adult helpers. We look forward to more opportunities to share our faith and time together in the coming year.



Pauline Crocker— Glenside / Parkside Parish