

Spreading the Good News



***Christ has no body but yours now. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
You are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours. (St Therese of Lisieux)***



Welcome!

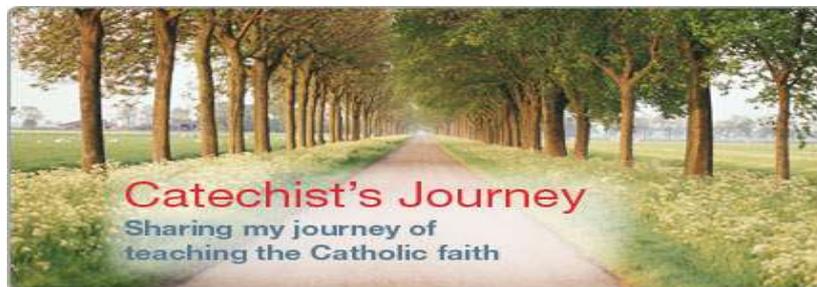
The more we do the faster the term goes. Yes, the term has come and gone and I must say to each of you, thank you for a great terms lessons you prepared and presented. You always give us a warm welcome. It is a great privilege to have access to the Public schools in our Diocese, to be able to share the love of God. Each class Vicki and I have visited has been a positive experience.

We were both fortunate to attend some of the schools where some part of the Easter story was presented at assemblies. The involvement of the SRE Teachers and Assistants to prepare the students in their classes for these assemblies is to be commended. The presentation was attended by parents and family members as well.

Vicki and I welcome the new folk who have come forward this year to help in this ministry. Ten new people have come forward and offered to help in the schools. Some as Teachers and a couple as Assistants. Your generosity is appreciated and valued as is all the SRE personnel. Each of you has shown dedication to the students and your proclaiming the gospel stories to them in a confident and concise way gives witness of yourself and your love of God. Never forget that the Holy Spirit is with you as you prepare your lesson and as you walk through the gate at the school say a little prayer for guidance. What you do each week, as a representative of the Christian community is to be a sign of God's presence in the community.

CATECHIST SUNDAY

This day was celebrated back in February. There has been a good result for some parishes where people have come forward to help both as teachers and assistants. I know some parishes will have their Catechist Sunday later in the year. Thank you to all involved and especially those who spoke at the Masses. Your stories from the altar and conversations after the Masses bring people to realise that they could participate in this ministry.



DIRECTOR

I stated in the last Spreading the Good News that I would be retiring at the end of second term, 30th June. I have been working with you for eleven years and what a rewarding and fulfilling ministry. Prior to taking on this role I worked in Catholic Education for many years in primary education both in our Diocese and the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Throughout these eleven years I have been working with many Catechists, some of you have been working with me the whole time and some have left to do other things. Working alongside each of you I have learnt a lot from you and gained experience in how different this ministry is to working full time in Catholic Education. We have a valuable half an hour each week, sometimes less, to put a message across to the students. This involves being aware of the age appropriate material, variety in material used and the active participation of the students in your classes. I thank you for this and as I have driven throughout the Diocese I have had much time to pray for you all.

I would like to thank Vicki Mair, the Regional Coordinator, for the Eastern Area of the Diocese for her dedication to all the SRE people she works with and supports. The workshops we have presented for you have been delivered in a cooperative and good natured format, which I am sure allowed for good learning.

I would like to acknowledge the Chancery/CDF Office Staff, especially Roseanne and Judy. Your shared talents proved fruitful on many occasions. Without continued support and help I am sure we would not have achieved all we have. To Genevieve Inatey, who through her patience taught me much while I have been working with her on the many documents, certificates and forms, thank you. To Tony I much appreciate your time.

Jenny Allen and Angelo Belmonte from the Catholic Education Office, I would like to acknowledge their support and encouragement over the years with the Catholic Catechist Student Helper Program. To have been able to work in the Catholic High schools and to have their support and the support of the Principals and RECs in those schools gave both Vicki and me encouragement to promote the program. I would like to acknowledge the Catholic Primary school Teachers, whom I have worked with and who continued to support me.

To all the Priests of the Diocese, thank you. You have been supportive and generously lent an ear when needed to work through some minor challenges. To the generous assistance given by the Parish Secretaries thank you, you were always willing to lend a hand when I needed your help or something needed to be printed.

To all my Diocesan colleagues, thank you. Each of you have shared generously your knowledge and expertise with me as I have journeyed this path..

To each of my family, who prayed for me and with me, who provided accommodation and meals when needed and continually supported me, thank you for your encouragement.

We are told that it takes a village of people to raise a child. In this ministry it takes the whole Diocese, Bishop, Priests and Parishioners to proclaim, by the witness of our lives and the words of the Gospel, to evangelise. This can be accomplished and something to be continually worked at in our ordinary and every day lives.

The Special Religious Education Teachers and Assistants, parishioners of the parishes, are continually working in this ministry to give witness and to spread the words of the Gospel by continually going into the public schools, to reach students who may not otherwise hear the Good News.

TERM TWO OVERVIEW OF CURRICULUMS

CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE, COLAL (Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney 2010)

The first week's lessons will be about refreshing the Easter Story. The focus for this term will be on the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, the Holy Trinity: One God. Then follows the stories of Jesus beginning his ministry and the first Christians.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES ALIVE (CEO Christchurch NZ)

Readings for the Sundays after Easter are from John's Gospel, except the third Sunday that is from Luke's Gospel. The Ascension of the Lord is from Matthew 28:16-20. The readings for Pentecost Sunday are from John 7:37-39, 20:19-23. The last couple of Sundays for the term the readings are from John's and Matthew's Gospels.



CONNECT (CEP YouthWorks, Cycle A1 Green)

The focus for this term is on Trusting God as has been shown through the Old Testament. Stories about people who wrestled with their belief in God. "Like Abraham, who at times questioned God, those who trusted in God also displayed human weaknesses and doubts. But it was their response in faith, however weak or faltering, that pleased God." (CONNECT Lower Primary A1 page 104)

GODSPACE (NSW ACT Baptist Resources, 2011 Purple One)

Unit 3 – Main Theme – Followers of Jesus

How Jesus Changes Lives using John 4:3-30, 39-42, Luke 19:1-10, Luke 10:38-42, John 21:1-19, and 2 Peter 3:18. Unit 3 – Main Theme – Followers of Jesus

Unit 4 – Main Theme – God’s People

Leaders for God using 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Samuel 24:1-22, 1 Chronicles 29:23-25;

2 Chronicles 1:1-17, Proverbs 9:10, 1 Kings 4:29-34, 2 Chronicles 2-4,9. Jesus, a Challenging Leader.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

A special procession has been organised for the 13th May, in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, to mark 100 years since Our Lady first appeared to the children at Fatima. The children, brother and sister, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, aged nine and seven respectively, and their cousin Lucia Santos, ten. The official Fatima Pilgrim Statue of Australia will be carried in procession. Pope Francis will be at Fatima for the celebrations on the 12th and 13th May where he is expected to canonise Blessed Francisco and Jacinta after last month approving a second miracle. The basics of the Fatima message are ... pray the rosary for peace; make reparation for sinners; and to “consecrate yourselves”, as Mary told the children, “to my Immaculate Heart.”



CATHOLIC RESOURCE CENTRE

Jesus used parables to teach his disciples and followers. Jesus’s parables are timeless teaching tools. Catechists share the stories of the parables in many ways and there are a range of aids to assist available from the Centre’s lending collection like those named below.

‘Bob the Wandering Lamb’ (based on the Parable of the Lost Sheep) and ‘Busy Bees’ (the Vineyard Workers) are two VHS videos from set of twelve in the ‘Parables for Children’ series. The video, ‘Parables for Kids, Volume 1’ is an animated presentation of the stories ‘The Sower’, ‘Good Samaritan’, ‘Lost Sheep’, ‘Prodigal Son’ and ‘Pharisee and the Tax Collector’.

‘The Stray’ on DVD is a modern parable based on the story of the Lost Sheep.

Large size storybooks receive very positive feedback from teachers and catechists who use them. Two of the books held that relate to parables are “Parables Jesus Told’ and ‘Parables of the Kingdom’.

The flipchart picture set ‘Jesus: Teacher & Healer’ is a spiral bound flipchart format of 24 pictures on 12 large pages. Many of the parables and miracles are depicted colourfully with unique details.

‘More stories and songs of Jesus’ has a great selection of New Testament stories to teach about Jesus with songs written by Paule Freeburg and Christopher Walker. Use either the cassette or CD in the kit. There is a song related to each story narrated.

Other music is available such as the ‘Mischiefs and Miracles’ kit by Jennie Flack with the song ‘Parable of the Two Sons’

CATHOLIC RESOURCE CENTRE

A multi-media lending library operated by the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Bathurst
PO BOX 725 BATHURST NSW 2795 GILMOUR STREET KELSO NSW 2795
Telephone: 02 6338 3022 Email: recentre@bth.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL CALANDAR DATES 2017

TERM TWO 24th April – 30th June
ANZAC DAY 25th April
TERM THREE 17th July – 22nd September
TERM FOUR 9th October – 19th December

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

1st St Joseph the Worker
7th 4th Sunday of Easter
14th 5th Sunday of Easter
21st 6th Sunday of Easter
24th Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron of Australia
28th The Ascension of the Lord

JUNE

1st St Justin
4th Pentecost Sunday
11th The Most Holy Trinity
18th The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
23rd The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
24th The Nativity of St John the Baptist
25th 12 Sunday in Ordinary Time
29th Sts Peter and Paul

JULY

2nd 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
3rd St Thomas, Apostle
6th St Maria Goretti
9th 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11th St Benedict
16th 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
22nd St Mary Magdalene
23rd 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25th St James, Apostle
30th 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
31st St Ignatius of Loyola



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