Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

Connections

Seek Unity • Educate • Proclaim • Celebrate • Serve • Respond Personally • Love Each Other

CCD Newsletter Term 3, 2016 Vol 21 Issue 3

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To Grow as Missionary Disciples

In June I was privileged to attend the Divine Renovation 2016 Conference in Halifax, Canada, which provided an opportunity to learn from and be immersed in the experience behind the book of the same name. For those who may not be familiar with this book, Divine Renovation tells the story of St Benedict's Parish, a parish led by Fr James Mallon in collaboration with his senior leadership team, parish team, pastoral council and an army of lay leaders, that has become a genuinely evangelising community that brings people into encounter with Jesus through a well-developed discipleship process. The book is highly recommended and will be of great interest to CCD coordinators, parish catechists and anyone involved in parish life and ministry seeking to build a team and the momentum of their mission (you can learn more by visiting http://www.divinerenovation.net).

In casting a vision for its future, St Benedict's Parish describes the missionary disciple in the following terms: a disciple is one who has a personal relationship with Jesus, can and does share faith with others, is open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, has knowledge and love of the Scriptures, knows basic Catholic theology, has a daily prayer life, experiences real Christian community, has a commitment to Sunday Eucharist, celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation, can pray spontaneously out loud when asked, serves in ministry, and sees his or her life as a mission field.

It is quite a list (!) and reminds us that the disciple is one who constantly grows, learns and deepens in their personal relationship to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit, in their belonging and service within the community of faith, and in their dedication to their neighbour for whom they bear witness of a life transformed by grace.

As evident from this bold vision of discipleship, missionary communities value excellence. 'Mission' reminds us that we do not exist for ourselves but for others, and it is our love for others that drives our desire to grow and mature in our own faith and practices of evangelisation. It is our love for others that drives our desire to grow and mature in our own faith and practices of evangelisation.

In this issue of Connections we reflect on the life and mission of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, an icon of grace and holiness in our own Australian context, profile contemporary 'saints in the making' in the form of coordinators serving in our own diocese, and revisit best practices and prerequisites for service in our Church as catechists, again in light of our dedication to the children and families whom we serve, not for ourselves but for the sake of the Gospel and in the name of the Church, the living and serving body of Christ.

As we enter a new school term, may your vocation and mission as a catechist continue to grow in grace, holiness and excellence. May the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that animates the saints of the Church both past and present, lead you into a deeper encounter with Christ, the Teacher and Lord at whose feet we learn to be most truly ourselves and to be for others as witness and bearer of Good News.

With every good wish,

Daniel Ang
Director, Office for Evangelisation
Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay
Email: evangelisation@dbb.org.au

Bible Conference

BROKEN BAY BIBLE CONFERENCE 2016

14 & 15 October, 2016

Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills

"The Acts of the Apostles: Taking the Gospel to a Wider World"

Presented by **Dr Michele A Connolly rsj** and **Dr Laurie Woods**

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO A WIDER WORLD

www.trybooking.com/LLLJ

Contact: registrations@dbb.org.au or Colleen on 9847 0448 / 4332 9825

Safeguarding Children
Creating a safe working environment in the SRE classroom

Winter school holiday break provides a good opportunity to reflect on the year to date. Hopefully by now you have created a happy learning environment for yourself and the children. A safe and happy space is important if we want children to experience a loving God who is always there for them.

Our public schools are an important part of the life of our parishes. Special Religious Education is a subject like no other subject in public schools. Each time you, the catechists, go into that space you bring the face of Christ to the children. It is vital that you embody what you teach. It is important that words and mannerisms match our desire to spread the Good News. Your witness to your faith and the way you model this to the children may well impact on them for the rest of their lives. This very day, I received a message in my private inbox from a former student who had tracked me down to enquire about Mass times in my local parish. Now in his mid-thirties, he told me that he needs a change in his life and has been praying for guidance. He said he wants to go Mass to listen..... Not to tell God what he wants in life, but just to listen. We may never know the impact our faith has on children and young people, but we do know that we need a safe learning space for children to be open to an encounter with God.

Safeguarding children is an important part of our role as catechists in the 21st Century. Thankfully, there is now a strong focus on the protection of children and young people in the Church and in society generally and we all share in this safeguarding responsibility. Legal regulations of working in the SRE ministry in schools now require us to obtain a Working with Children Check before we go into public schools and to renew this every five years. In addition, we are required to undertake initial and ongoing training in the areas of Safeguarding (Child Protection) and Classroom Management. Undertaking this training assists us in creating safe, happy and productive working environments for our lessons. Further, we must teach an SRE curriculum that is authorised by the SRE Provider – the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

Safe working environments are much more than just a physical space. The children may not remember where you taught them – in a classroom, a wet room, the library, an AV room, or a utility room. They may not remember whether you had access to a SmartBoard or other technical equipment. They may not remember the individual topics that you were teaching, or the particular resources that you used. They will remember how you made them feel. They will remember the experience of feeling safe as you prayed with them. They will remember that for 30 minutes every week they were immersed in a sacred space. Have you ever thought that children may encounter God for the first time in their lives in the space that you create? It's one thing to learn about God; it's another experience altogether to encounter God.

The Walking with Jesus SRE curriculum has been developed with all these elements in mind.Therefore, it is not just the legal requirements of working with children that we ask you to focus on, though these,of course are extremely important. We also have a moral and a spiritual obligation to protect children and young people, to ensure their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being are at the top of our list and to make their learning environment and their world as safe as possible - the village mentality, if you like, of raising the young. Children are our most precious resource and a gift from God.

"Children are our most precious resource and a gift from God"

Sometimes, following a challenging lesson in SRE, we might be wondering 'where is God in this classroom', but please be assured that if you prepare your lesson well using the authorised curriculum material, be punctual and pray with and for the children, you will till the fertile ground to allow God to enter the lives of the children. This is your role as a catechist. Sometimes, we wish we could do more; however we are not the Master Builder, we are the labourers. It is important that we understand and comply with the requirements of our role as an SRE teacher or helper. These requirements have been put in place to safeguard our most precious resource – the children and young people we teach. I urge you to trust in your own faith, trust the authorised curriculum and teach it in an age apporpriate manner, trust our authorisation and training process and trust that God will do the rest. And always..... underpin all this with prayer.

I wish you all a happy term, sharing your faith with the children in a safe a joyful environment. As always you are in my thoughts and prayers as you carry out your mission to teach the Good News to Catholic children in our public school system.

Alison

Mary Mackillop "A Woman of Mercy"

Mary Mackillop was a young woman with a desire to follow God's will and in doing so, help make the world a better place. She could see that helping to find solutions to the needs of the poorer people, whom otherwise would have been neglected. Mary Mackillop and her sisters, brought practical help to the families in need.

Mary felt very strongly the widespread ignorance of the whole of the spiritual dimension of life and dedicated her life to bringing the message of God's love to all whom she encountered.

Mary began teaching the Cameron children, her cousins, on the family estate at Penola and soon the poorer children of the area were invited to join the classes. It was at Penola that Mary met Fr Julian Tenison Woods who became her spiritual director. He also shared a similar desire to help the poor through education and meet their spiritual needs.

In the Rules of the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Fr Julian Tenison Woods instructed the sisters to "do all the good you can and never see an evil without trying to remedy it. ... This is their mission, for though the Institute has its peculiar (particular) duties, the religious must do any good that they can, and make their charity all-embracing."

In Brisbane, Mary established a refuge for women who had either just been released from gaol or were living on the streets. For the elderly, the incurably ill and those with habits such as drinking who found it very difficult to live in society, she established accommodation facilities.

As Mary's ministry and calling developed, she travelled extensively and spent nearly three years in New Zealand founding new communities of sisters, building orphanages and establishing shelters for the neglected and unwanted. During this time, Mary had the happiest years of her life, and she was often to say after: "I like New Zealand so much and have been very well here."

Mother Mary Mackillop died on August 8, 1909 and her last words to her sisters were, "Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life."

Mary Mackillop was beatified January 19, 1995 by Pope John Paul II. During the ceremony he spoke of Mary's mission in Australia and New Zealand,

"The beatification of Mary Mackillop reminds us that all efforts to renew the face of the earth (cf. Ps. 104:30) are sterile if they are not grounded in the gift of new and abundant life by which a person 'is brought into the supernatural reality of the divine life itself and becomes a 'dwelling place of the Holy Spirit,' 'a living temple of God' (Dominum et Vivificantem, 58). Mary was canonized on the 17th of October 2010 and her feast day is celebrated on the 8th of August.

Mary Mackillop's life was a wonderful example of the good works filled with love cited in Matthew's Gospel on which we will be judged.

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me into your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me; ... I tell you whenever you do this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me." The righteous will answer him, "When Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and comfort you and welcome you into our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!" (Matt 25:35 – 40)

Another of Mary's sayings was "Find happiness in making others happy." This truly was how she lived her life and is a true example for us during this Year of Mercy, of practical ways we can bring about change to that part of the world in which we live.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts by which we help our neighbours with their material and physical needs – feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead.

"Whenever you do this for the least of my bothers, you do this for me."

Using a pen draw a line to match the person who needs help with the answer to that person's need:

Need	Kind Act
I am thristy	I will visit you in hospital
I am hungry	I can give you some money
I do not have a home	Here are more clothes
I have no money	Share my drink
My clothes are old and worn out	Share my meal
I am sick and in hospital	Come and live here

**Year of Mercy Lessons such as these will be available across all stages, in both Primary and High school. They will be available from your Parish Coordinator in Term 3, 2016*

CCD Ministry Course Level 3 Study of the Gospel According to John- Combined NSH & NB Regions
The Sunroom Holy Name Catholic Faith Community, Wahroonga

Friday 29/7/2016	9:30am-12:00pm	The Development of the Child and Adolescent III
	12:30pm-2:30pm	A Method of Theological Reflection
Friday 05/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	Introduction to John
Friday 12/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	Prologue
Friday 19/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Signs (A)
Friday 26/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Signs (B)
Friday 09/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Glory (A)
Friday 16/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Glory (B)
Friday 23/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Passion Narrative
Friday 30/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Resurrection Appearance in Galilee
Friday 07/10/2016	9:30am-12:00pm	Spirituality of Leadership
	12:30pm-2:30pm	Identity and Integrity in Ministry

CCD Ministry Course Level 3 Study of the Gospel According to John- Central Coast Region
Leo Mahon Room St John the Baptist, Woy Woy

Friday 22/7/2016	9:30am-12:00pm	A Method of Theological Reflection
	12:30pm-2:30pm	The Development of the Child and Adolescent III
Friday 29/7/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	Introduction to John
Friday 05/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	Prologue
Friday 12/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Signs (A)
Friday 19/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Signs (B)
Friday 26/8/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Glory (A)
Friday 09/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Book of Glory (B)
Friday 16/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Passion Narrative
Friday 23/9/2016	10:00 am-12:30pm	The Resurrection Appearance in Galilee
Friday 30/9/2016	9:30am-12:00pm	Spirituality of Leadership
	12:30pm-2:30pm	Identity and Integrity in Ministry

CCD Ministry Course CCDMI - Central Coast Region
CCD Regional Office, East Gosford 7:00pm - 9:00pm (One Session Per Date)

Wednesday 12/10/2016	Mission and Ministry of the Catechist
Wednesday 19/10/2016	SRE Teacher in the Parish and School
Wednesday 26/10/2016	Safeguarding Children/ Child Protection
Wednesday 09/11/2016	Lesson Planning:Teaching the Authorised Curriculum
Wednesday 16/11/2016	The Development of the Child and Adolescent I
Wednesday 23/11/2016	Classroom Management: Positive Discipline
Wednesday 30/11/2016	Introduction to the Bible

CCD Ministry Induction courses will be held in Term 4 in both the North Shore/Hornsby and the Peninsula Deaneries, beginning at the end of October. See the next edition of Connections for more information or ring Colleen Smith on 9847.0448.

Registration is essential to ensure adequate resources and seating are available. Please assist us in our planning by registering no later than 4 working days prior to the advertised training date:
Colleen Smith or Leanne McGill:
ph: 02 9847 0448 ph: 02 4332 9825
or email: registrations@dbb.org.au

'Working with Children with Special Needs' : Presented by Jo Karaolis

Monday 29/8/2016	9:30am - 2:30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, The Entrance

Secondary Catechists' Workshop #2

Tuesday 09/8/2016	9:30am - 2:30pm	Frenches Forest Parish, Forestville
Wednesday 10/8/2016	9:30am - 2:30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, The Entrance
Monday 15/8/2016	9:30am - 2:30pm	Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills

All Training is offered at no cost to the participant.
Please contact your regional office for any training enquires

Epping & Carlingford Parish

The Parish of Epping & Carlingford sits on the border of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dioceses of Broken Bay and Parramatta. There are 54 catechists who are authorised to teach Special Religious Education in the Parish. These catechists serve both the 6 State primary schools and the 3 State high schools of the parish. There are 988 Catholic students attending these 9 State schools in the Parish.

The SRE Ministry in the parish receives wonderful support from the Parish Priest, Fr Peter Dowd. There are two Parish Coordinators - Ana Covacha is the Coordinator for Primary SRE and Mary O'Byrne coordinates the Secondary SRE Ministry. Both Ana and Mary are committed to the mission of reaching out to the children and young people in State schools of the parish by providing quality religious education.

The SRE Ministry is alive and vibrant in the parish and constantly growing. A large number of catechists, both those new to the ministry and those teaching for many years, have taken up training and formation opportunities over the past two years with both new and existing catechists participating in Levels 1, 2 and 3 training offerings. The Parish Priest, the Coordinators and the catechists all understand the value of ongoing training and formation and the benefits that can be derived from catechists being formed together as they journey in faith.

The Parish of Epping & Carlingford is a perfect model of a strong and healthy parish SRE ministry. Congratulations on the commitment and dedication of the two Parish Coordinators and the wonderful team of catechists who live out their Baptismal call to holiness through their constant missionary outreach to Catholic students in the State schools of the parish.

CCD Training Gets the Tick of Approval

Having had Victorian grandchildren staying with us for the last two weeks, I was rather looking forward to the school holidays. So it was with reluctance that I sacrificed one of my days off from CCD to attend a training session.

How wrong was I in my hesitation? There I heard the best explanation that I have heard in the last ten years of how to set up the sacred space and its relevance to my 'Kindy kids'. We revisited the history of CCD and the changes that have occurred in religious education and we were warmly encouraged to use our teachers' manuals more fruitfully.

Yvonne van den Berg's enthusiasm and ability to impart knowledge is God's gift to us. Praise God and thank you Yvonne for using those talents. May I encourage everyone to attend the CCD workshop sessions that are offered.

Carole O'Donnell, Manly Freshwater Parish

Editor's Note: Many thanks Carole for your feedback about the curriculum training session that Yvonne presented at Manly Vale during the last school holidays. **Experienced catechists are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of ongoing training and formation opportunities that are offered by both the CCD and Catholic Life and Faith Formation (CLFF) teams. (Check out the list in this edition of connections for details of upcoming courses that are open to all Catechists and their friends.)**

Encounter Short Course

ENCOUNTER SHORT COURSE:

The Christian Life: Morality, Relationships & Faith

Presenters:
Dr Dan Fleming & Dr Nigel Zimmermann

This ENCOUNTER course explores: What is Christian morality? What is an informed conscience? What is the relationship between divine, natural, and positive law?
Topics include: right relationships; the nature of sin, virtue and holiness; issues of medical ethics; the innate dignity of the human person.

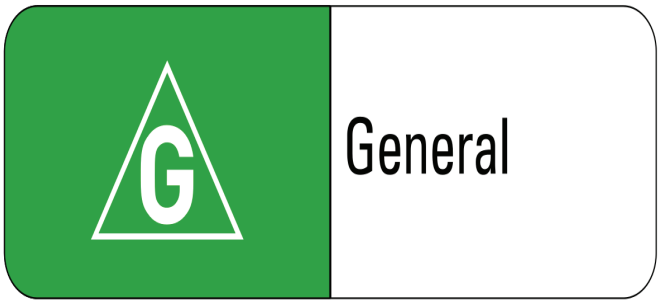
Course duration: 1 x 2.5 hours

DATE:	DATE:
WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2016	**WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 2016**
TIME	TIME
10:00AM – 12:30PM	**7:00PM – 9:30PM**
VENUE:	VENUE:
THE ENTRANCE PARISH CENTRE THE ENTRANCE	**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL LIBRARY,** WAITARA

Contact: registrations@dbb.org.au or Colleen on 9847 0448 / 4332 9825

Office for Evangelisation

Using Age Appropriate Material In the Classroom



Age appropriate material consists of a combination of tasks that the students are asked to complete combined with directions that they are able to understand. If students in Kindergarten were told a story about *The Annunciation* in terms of an angel visiting a young woman, whose name was Mary and that God was very happy with her and has chosen her to have a baby boy, they will understand this. (Lesson K.9.1) If as the teacher you were to quote directly from the New Revised Standard Version Bible the words of Luke's Gospel, they would have difficulty understanding the story.

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph of the House of David, The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. ..."
(Luke26 – 28)

A student in Year 5 or 6 would have a much better understanding of this passage but would still have questions that would need to be answered. So a less adult oriented translation would be better used, for example the translation of the CEV Bible. This is part of what using age appropriate material is about – understandable language.

The second part is about the tasks the children are required to do in their work books. In the Kindergarten work book, the students are asked to trace over the key words – 'young lady' and 'God's messenger'. If they were asked to write these words, they would have difficulty as their ability to form the letters and to spell have not been developed enough. Students in Stage 3 would be able to answer a series of question on this passage and even explain how they would feel if they were asked by God to undertake an important task. This is the second part of the question about age appropriate material – the way the students are asked to process or use the material they have just listened to.

The layout of the book the students are expected to use is also important. Pictures and simple puzzles are most appropriate for younger students, while more complex comprehension questions and role plays will stimulate the thinking and creativity of older students in Stage 3.

The information presented and the activities that are used to engage the students in both "Walking With Jesus" for primary students and the "Pathways of Discipleship' for secondary students have been designed with the students' capabilities in mind.

So too are the resources that are suggested in the teachers' manuals of both programmes and the multimedia resources that have been developed for use with these programmes.

The spiritual development of the children we teach is very important but this too has to be considered in a way that is age appropriate. Spiritual development is defined as a developmental process for making meaning of one's life (Lingley, 2013). Consequently we would not expect the children in the primary school to gain much from your reading to them, the life of St Therese of Lisieux or teaching them about Ignatian Spirituality.

Rather, it would be more beneficial to lead the students in a prayer of thanksgiving and a suitable hymn which would complement the prayer. With the students in high school, the Ignatian Examen or breaking open a passage of Scripture with them and then leading them in a meditation based on that passage would be most appropriate. From this meditation they could share their reflections and pray in a way that is suited to their own spiritual development.

Once again, the prayers and rituals in the primary and secondary programmes are age appropriate.

We must be careful when we want to introduce things which are not contained in the authorised SRE programmes. As Catholic SRE Teachers, we have agreed to teach the authorised programme. If you wish to use a DVD, make sure that it is G rated. If there is no rating on the cover of the DVD and check with your Parish Co-ordinator or your Regional Co-ordinator as to the appropriateness of the film. A general rule of thumb is that animated films with a G rating are suitable for use in the classroom. These may not be appropriate for secondary students so care needs to be taken when selecting a DVD to use in the Secondary SRE lesson. Use your Regional Co-ordinator as a reference person to check the suitability of the resource you wish to use.

If you are tempted to use a film clip from You Tube, just remember that this material is not rated and therefore it is possible that it may not be age appropriate.

Be assured that if you stick to the programme that has been designed by the Diocese of Broken Bay, developed from the Religious Education from the Catholic Schools Office, you will not go wrong and your lessons thoughtfully prepared accompanied with prayer and reflection on the main message of the lesson, will speak to the hearts of your students.

Pittwater Parish

This is a parish with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. There is also an abundance of eating places along the beach shores, not to mention the aroma of coffee mixed with the sea salt in the air. Pittwater parish has two churches, one at Mona Vale and Avalon. There are two Catholic Primary Schools and Mater Maria High School in the parish area. There are four State Government Primary schools with approx. 750 Catholic students. There are also two State Government High Schools with approx.200 Catholic students attending weekly classes. These High Schools are courageously attended weekly on Thursdays for two periods by both David West and Veronica Thomas as a great CCD team. On Fridays David faces the challenges at Pittwater High often doing more than two or three 60mins classes at Pittwater High. The Parish Priest Father George Kolodziej SDS, has always been very supportive of CCD ministry. He attends CCD masses and constantly recruits for more catechists to supply the local schools. A highlight of the Pittwater Parish CCD ministry has always been the end of year Thank You to Catechists Luncheon. It is a special affair to show the parish appreciation of the work of the volunteer catechists. Father George has been seen with his Barista hat on, making the catechists a real coffee from the coffee machine in the parish centre meeting room. During 2015/16 the team of SRE teachers has been led by two wonderful coordinators, Maureen Wooldridge and Angela Smit. Angela has the dual role of Sacramental Coordinator for the parish and being new to both ministries she has been lovingly nurtured by the experience of Maureen. Through Angela, CCD continues to be closely linked to the parish Sacramental Programme which is inclusive of the State School students. In 2013 Maureen received a 25 year service award. Her proud photo with Bishop David took up the entire front cover of the parish bulletin for the entire parish to celebrate. Over many years I have been privileged to know Maureen, she is passionate about CCD ministry, she works willingly, with a smile, helping all not only in her own parish but she is now teaching in a school of the neighbouring parish also. As one of the faces in the parish office, Suzy Caruso also worked as a Sacramental and CCD coordinator in the parish. Having knowledge of the catechists and the CCD ministry, Suzy willingly helps the catechists with their concerns and needs. Together Maureen, Angela and Suzy are a welcoming and friendly CCD team helping Pittwater Parish to thrive and flourish.

Teaching Tips for the Classroom - Alison Newell

- Believe in your students and remember.... praise bears more fruit than criticism!
- Build a good rapport with the classroom teacher.... let the children see you talking with each other.
- Don't re-invent the wheel with class rules – use the ones already in place in the classroom.
- Remain calm at all times – how you respond to difficult behaviour is often the key to diffusing it.
- 'Catch' children being good.
- Allow the classroom teacher to support you with classroom management strategies.
- Make good use of your lesson time by ensuring your instructions to the children are age-appropriate and clear.
- If you have children with special needs in your classroom, write the instructions on the white board or a flash card as you move from one part of the lesson to another, e.g Pencils down, prayer time.
- Children with special needs may take a little longer to process instructions and this could be reflected in the time it takes for them to respond to a new instruction – allow take-up time.
- Use music in the classroom and sing with the children.
- Pray with the children.

Central Coast Region - Rebecca Bishop

Toukley/Lake Munmorah Parish

The Catholic Community of Toukley/Lake Munmorah is our northern reaching parish community of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. The parish priest Reverend Father Stephen Wayoyi Omwanda along with his CCD team lead by Amanda Carrigan and Carmen Chetcuti coordinate the CCD Ministry in the parish communities of Toukley/Lake Munmorah. St Mary's, St Brendan's and St Brigid's are the Catholic schools in the community with 10 State schools (8 primary and 2 high schools in the area).

The CCD team of the Toukley/Lake Munmorah parish is outreaching to the lives of people in their local community of Norah Head, Noraville, Toukley, Gorokan, Lake Haven, Charmhaven, Blue Haven, Doyalson, San Remo, Buff Point, Budgewoi, Mannering Park, Chain Valley Bay, Lake Munmorah, Summerland Point and Gwandalan. This community of grace works ecumenically with other local Christian Churches to bring Jesus to the lives of hundreds of children and families. Weekly and fortnightly the preparation and dedication of the Special Religious Education teachers is to be commended and celebrated.

All of this leads to quality religious education in the local state schools and fosters relationships in the wider community. The enthusiasm of the CCD team to train in curriculum and formation opportunities highlights the joy of witness; the missionary outlook of the SRE teacher is a beacon to the community, as they work in collaboration with parish teams such as sacramental team to foster families through faith journeys.

I wish to congratulate each volunteer of the Toukley/Lake Munmorah parish; your faith commitment is that of modern day saints, you are an inspiration to many and working with you at Christmas assemblies and other times, I can only admire each of you.

May God bless and support you on the Mission of the Church.

Jubilee for Catechists - Alison Newell

As part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, catechists of the world will gather in Rome on the weekend of Friday 23 – Sunday 25 September. Let us, the catechists of the Diocese of Broken Bay, join with catechists across the globe in prayer as we give thanks for the opportunity we have to share God's mercy with the children and young people we teach in NSW Government schools. The work of lay catechists has been part of the Church's tradition since the 1565. Confraternities of Christian Doctrine were set up in the Post Reformation period, when Catholic schools had not come into general usage. They commenced in Italy, where an organisation of lay people undertook the task of instructing children in the truths of the faith. In 1905 Pope Pius X ordered that a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine be set up in every parish in the world. This decree has been incorporated in Canon Law. Your parish catechist team is encouraged to participate in the Jubilee for Catechists by making a pilgrimage to one of the five Holy Doors in the Diocese and attending Reconciliation, or with Eucharistic Adoration or with a prayer in the Prayers of Intercession at weekend Masses.

Attention All Secondary SRE Teachers!

Don't forget the Secondary Training workshops in Term 3.

For more details see page 10

CCD Reminders:

"Our Merciful God – Celebrate the Year of Mercy"
Students in our Government Schools will need to upload art work to the Diocesan website by Friday 29th July 2016. Finalist will be selected from each stage for judging at a Diocesan level.
www.dbb.org.au/news

SAVE THE DATE

This year the CCD Diocesan Mass will be held on the Saturday 5th of November 2016, at the Hornsby Cathedral Parish at Waitara.

How great and wonderful is our God? How blessed are we to be Catechists, and to be using the lessons that help us to reach the hearts of God's little ones! How truly awesome is it when we actually experience the Holy Spirit at work with us in the classroom.

This morning the lesson to a year 3/4 group of 38 children was the second one on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. After identifying the way in which the gifts operated the teacher was to tell the story of Nelson Mandela.

The lesson required the students to think of a person who was a hero kind of person who made a difference because they were empowered by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit As I spoke about the man, the terrible injustices that he and his countrymen and women experienced, and how he achieved his goals in South Africa, to my great amazement, the beautiful young woman (who agreed at the beginning of the year to be a helper so that we could keep this class together weekly) suddenly spoke up. "I grew up in South Africa! Nelson Mandela is my hero! We left South Africa to come to Australia when I was 16 because we could not bear the suffering of the black and coloured people!" She then continued to speak from the heart about her experience, which absolutely mesmerised the children. She had not read the lesson plan for the day and I had no knowledge of her background. During questioning the children were easily able to identify the gifts of the Spirit operative in this great man, Mandela.

When asked to write their own story of a person they knew, this rather noisy and restless group of children broke into chatter. Amongst the many stories that came forth as we moved around the room, I recount three particular ones that touched us deeply.

1) Tim (Not real Name) asked if he could write about his favourite TV hero. After conversation it became clear that this hero used violence to achieve his goals and not the power of the Holy Spirit. Tim was downcast and wandered away from his desk, which was usual. He then asked if he could write about his father. Glad that he would actually sit down and write, I responded quickly and he then said: My father is a true hero! He is the first Aboriginal person to be ..... in Australia! He was also able to identify the particular gifts of the Spirit active in his father. At that moment everything changed for Tim. It was as if he was now connected to what was happening around him and to the children at his table who were happy to listen to his story. (The classroom teacher who had overheard Tim's statement went to Google and for sure there was the truth of the Tim's story; his background and family life were unknown to her. She too was touched and commented that this gave her a much greater understanding of a child that she had only categorised as a very naughty little boy)

2) Joshua said that Joshua was his hero. The students laughed and commented that he could not be his own hero! Joshua explained. He meant the Joshua of the First Testament Bible stories and could recount that hero story. Following that, I told the children that if they were named after a hero saint, they could write about that person. I then told them the story of my hero saint.

3) Ramon, who has been a little difficult and disengaged in class last year and this year suddenly became excited when I told them the story of my name Saint, St.Eulalia who is the Patron Saint of Barcelona, and of the Basilica that honours her in Barcelona. Ramon jumped up and said "I know that story! I know what happened to her! My mum told me that story when I was small! I was born in Madrid but my parents took me to Barcelona to be baptised in her church.

After a busy time of writing and interacting the children came to silence for the final prayer. All this happened in that "never enough time" of thirty five minutes.

I continue to reflect on how the Word of God and the Spirit **"reaches into the depths of everything" (1Cor. 2:10.)** and how privileged we are to be catechists.

Eulalie O'Keefe

Terrigal Parish -Holgate PS

Mass was celebrated at Holgate Primary School on Thursday 16th June. It was a joy to watch the children join in the liturgy. Many of these children had never been to Mass before, so it was very special for everyone involved. Because we were lucky enough to have an overhead screen made available, the children were able to participate. They cheerfully sang their hymns and joined in the prayers of the Mass.

With great delight the children gave their offertory gifts to Father Jacek of Terrigal. They also presented Father with special prayer boxes containing prayers which they had written. Many joyful "Peace be with you" greetings were exchanged by all.A very warm thank you to Father Jacek and also to Holgate Primary School for the extended SRE time needed for this special Mass.

Mary Smith, Terrigal Parish SRE Teacher

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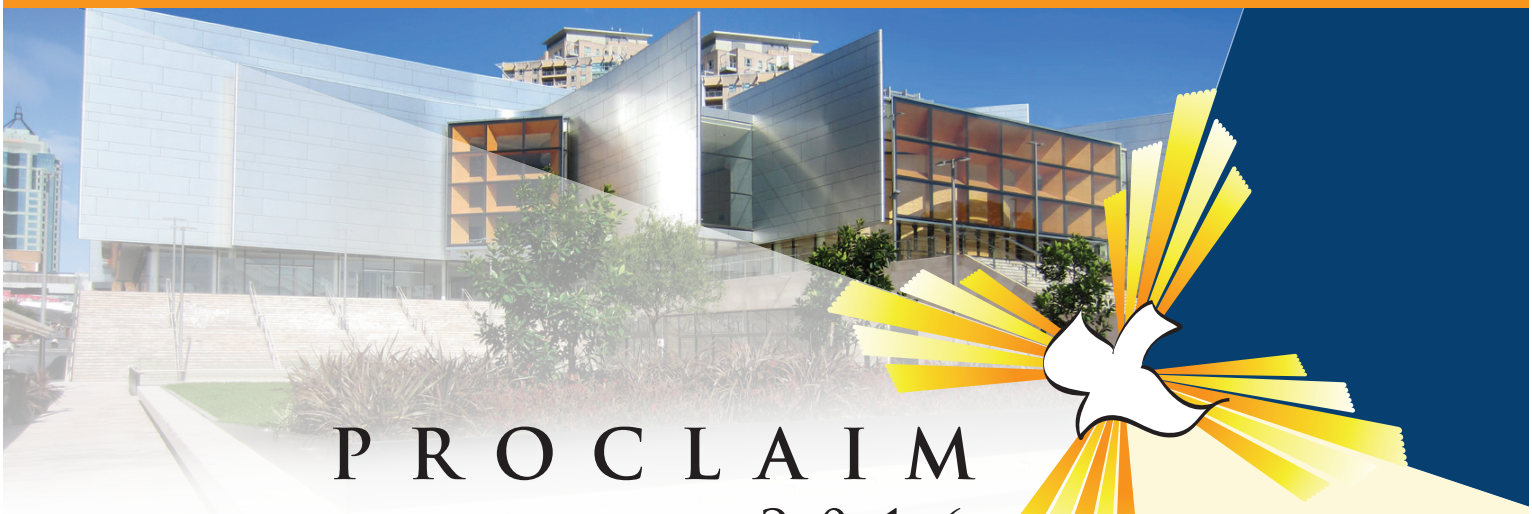
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE NEW EVANGELISATION



PROCLAIM 2016

On a Mission of Mercy: Evangelising Parishes

1-3 SEPTEMBER 2016

THE CONCOURSE CHATSWOOD SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 1 AUGUST

- PROCLAIM 2016 will bring together over 500 Catholics over a period of three days in Sydney
- A conference for people who are interested in the new evangelisation in parishes
- Includes workshops for parish life, liturgies, panel discussions, social media, a night of praise and worship open to youth and young adults
- For clergy, religious, diocesan and parish staff and volunteers in parish ministry, married and single people, young and old

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Cardinal Donald Wuerl is the Archbishop of Washington and was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2010. He serves on a number of Vatican Congregations, Councils and Commissions including those for the Doctrine of the Faith and for Bishops.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Westminster in 2014, with responsibility for the pastoral care of Central and East London. He has oversight of the Agency for Evangelisation.

Dr Susan Timoney is the Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington, USA. Dr Timoney's visit to Australia is hosted and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Mr Daniel Ang is the Director of Evangelisation, Diocese of Broken Bay, with responsibility for planning for mission and implementing strategies for evangelisation. He is Chair of the National Pastoral Planners Network and a member of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research.

PROCLAIM 2016 conference is organised on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

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