

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine | DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



# THE CatechistNET

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they left their nets at once and followed him" (Matt 5:19-20)*

Volume 13, Issue 1

May 2015

*Christ  
is Risen*

**Classroom  
Support Visits**  
*CCD Wollongong out-and-about*

**Tips & Tricks!**  
*5 Classroom Management Secrets*

**Inside this issue** • Message from the Director • New Resources at Micah House • Level 3 Training  
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## Message from the Director

*Have your say in the Review of SRE*

As you are no doubt aware, the Special Religious Education (SRE) offered to the nearly 10,000 Catholic students in over 150 Government Schools is currently being reviewed by the Department of Education. My colleagues and I, in Dioceses around NSW-ACT have already commenced contributing to this review process and are confident of being able to accurately show what an amazing contribution that the Catholic Church via you, our incredible volunteers, make to Public Education through the delivery of SRE in New South Wales.

*"Special Religious Education is a marvellous feature of a robust, holistic education system."*

Special Religious Education is a marvellous feature of a robust, holistic education system. It offers formation in the chosen faith of the family for young people and in this way is a wonderful reflection of the cultural and religious diversity of our nation.

Some detractors of SRE would say that if people want formation in faith, they should receive it on weekends or after school. Such arguments are shallow and ignore the fact that this choice is one that truly contributes to a holistic education for

students in NSW. Making similar assertions about the removal of sport from schools because it should be compartmentalised on weekends or for music or the creative arts, would quite rightly be regarded as nonsensical. All of these things contribute to a holistic education that benefits students, families and society more broadly. Furthermore, as with sport, if a parent/guardian prefers their child not to attend, they can be exempted from the class. In these cases the school organises a productive activity such as private reading or a lesson in ethics.

As my colleague from Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, Mr John Donnelly wrote in a recent media article, 'Could you imagine a school in Australia which did not have sport as part of the week for young students? Even though a multitude of sporting competitions and activities abound in the wider community, it appears that learning about and engaging in sport is highly valued in the education system.'

Likewise, religious education has had a valued place in public education for over 100 years. Volunteers have been visiting state schools to deliver special religious education to the students of the various persuasions. The Catholic Church has been at the forefront of this community service for much of this time.'

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It is for this reason that I would urge all of the Catechists in our Diocese, the parents and grandparents of the students we teach and other interested parties who value the contribution that the Church makes to Special Religious Education to ensure their voice is heard as part of the review process.

Currently there are over 4,500 catechists engaged in this service across NSW who see around 100,000 Catholic students each week. Like volunteers in so many different domains, such as Surf Life Saving, Sporting Fields, Charitable organisation and the like, Special Religious Education Volunteers are part of the character of our communities.

Obviously, it is not enough to just be well meaning and committed; a Special Religious Education (SRE) volunteer needs to be well trained and resourced. For

decades, Catholic SRE volunteers have been formed via quality training and currently the NSW Bishops expectations for Catechists training far exceeds the minimum requirements of the Government and the Department of Education.

Furthermore, the curriculums have been developed in partnership with professional religious educators in Catholic schools and universities, to ensure we have highly effective curriculums, teacher manuals, student workbooks and resources, including now access to Electronic Whiteboard Resources.

There is so much to celebrate about what not only our Church, but other denominations and faiths contribute to Public Education through SRE. We hope the reviewers are given a very clear picture of what is being done well but also how this wonderful feature of Public Education

can be enhanced. It is for this reason that I encourage Catechists, mums and dads, grandparents and anyone who wants to ensure that the review has a balanced picture of value of Special Religious Education to have their say.

I encourage you to please take 10-15 minutes to answer some survey questions by going to one of the links below. Alternatively, fill in the form provided as an insert in this edition of Catechist Net and return it to Mrs Jennifer Raposio, Office of the Bishop, PO Box 1239 Wollongong NSW 2500.

Mr Jude Hennessy  
Director of CCD  
Diocese of Wollongong

## Have your say in the Review of SRE

To have your say go to our website [www.ccdwoll.org.au](http://www.ccdwoll.org.au), and click one of the following links on the homepage:



Online Contribution for Parents/Carers



Online Contribution for SRE Teachers

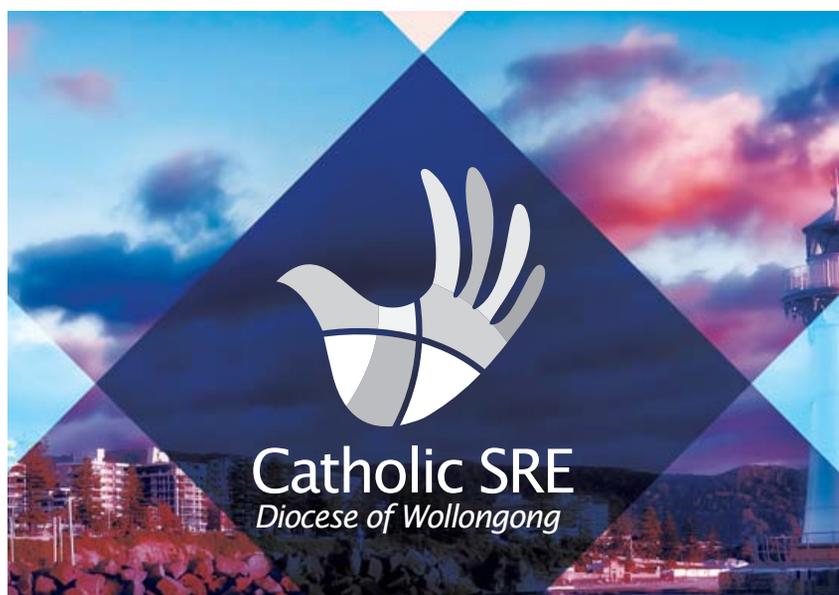


Online Contribution for Other Interested Parties



## Thanks for your cooperation with the New Child Protection Requirements

Over the course of the last 18 months, CCD has been working closely with Parishes to ensure all Catechists comply with the new Child Protection Requirements. This culminated in all Catechists both applying for and having the Diocese verify their new Working with Children Check number (WWCC) by 31 March 2015. We are most grateful to catechists and coordinators for all of their hard work to ensure that everyone involved in this ministry has completed the requirements to ensure that kids in classes are safe.



The Faith of Our Families  
& A Strength of Public Education



## New Resources available for borrowing at Micah House

We are pleased to inform you that all our 'Nest DVD's' have been updated and so now work on the SmartBoard and on all computers/laptops.

Also you would be happy to know we have purchased the 'Brother Francis DVDs' collection which cover a lot of the topics that a few of you have requested. The topics include: - Let's Pray (a lesson on Prayer, The Bread of Life (Celebrating the Eucharist), The Rosary (A Special Way to Pray), Forgiven (The Blessing of Confession & Forgiveness), Born into the Kingdom (The Miracle of Baptism), The Mass (A Life - Giving Prayer), The King is Born (What Christmas is About, which is the Nativity), The Saints (Our Heavenly Friends eg. John the Baptist, John Bosco & Mother Teresa) and Following in His Footsteps (The Blessings of Living Out Our Faith eg. Parable of the Sheep, This Little Light of Mine, Feeding the 5000).

Another interesting resource we have purchased is puppets. We have Jesus and Mary, Abraham and Sarah, John the Baptist, David the Boy with his own sling, Goliath in his armour, Daniel and a Lion, Noah with his Dove and two of each of his animals plus many more.

So come in for a cuppa relax and find new ways to make your lessons interesting and see for yourself the many fantastic resources we have for you to help the children to get a real sense of the bible stories which are covered in you Manuals.



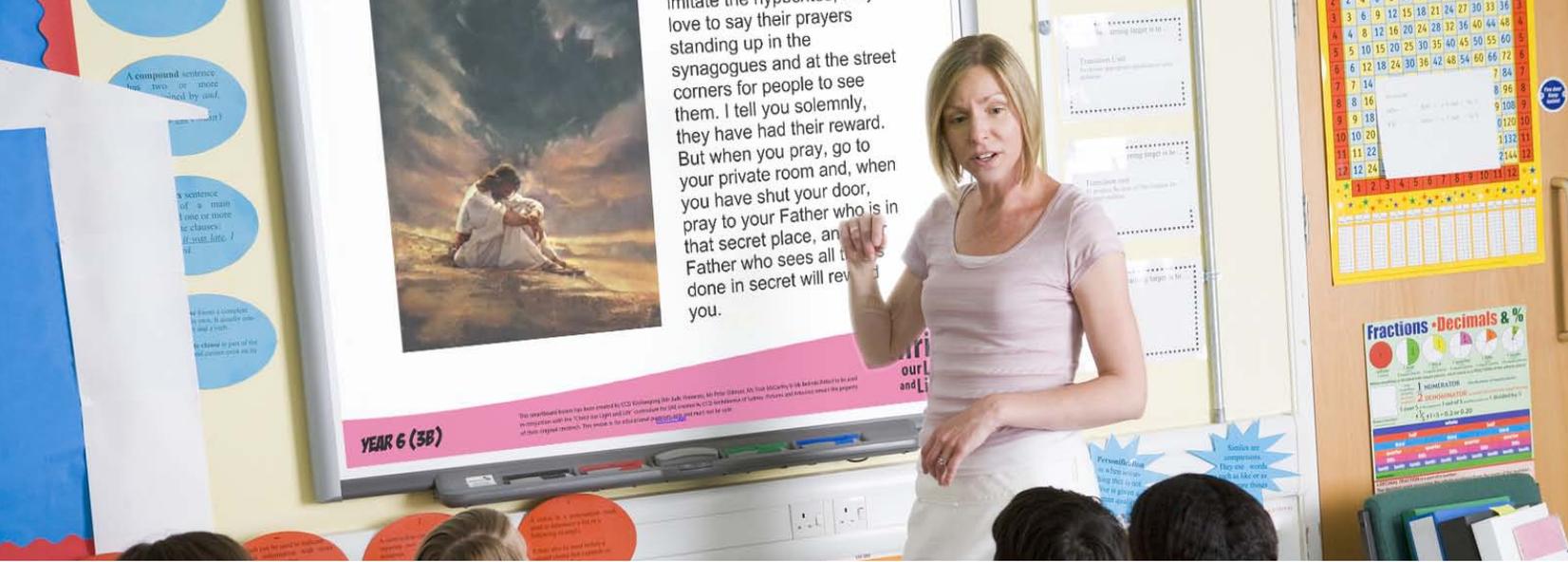
Written by  
Cindy Oliver  
CCD Clerical Assistant  
Regional Resource Centre



### Don't forget!

There is also the Resource Centre in Wollongong at the Xavier Centre next to the Cathedral with lots of great resources for you to use to spice up your lessons.





## Classroom Support Visits

Proclaiming the Gospel with your life is no little task. We here at CCD know the hours of preparation, planning, prayer and reflection that go into the lessons that unfold week in and week out, consistently, graciously and humbly.

So many of you have committed faithfully to this work and training and it has been with great pleasure and respect that we have met you through many of our training programs. There has been a strong focus on training and equipping catechists in their ministry through the provision of seminars in our Level 1, 2 & 3 courses, Child

Protection, Smartboard and Classroom Management training. With this in mind, we are now moving to provide more localised support and encouragement 'out in the field'. The proposal is one that will see CCD leadership take an active approach to visiting catechists in their class environment simply to offer individuals encouragement and support.

This sort of support and visitation is being implemented broadly across NSW and has been warmly welcomed by all catechists.

It is important to know that the nature of these visits is to build relationship, to

encourage and for you as catechists to feel supported in your role. We wish to affirm and celebrate your commitment and generosity. This is a proposal to strengthen the already existing positive and life giving culture amongst our catechists and encourage lifelong learning and team work, knowing that you are not alone in the task of evangelisation at the heart of our Church.



Written by  
Trish McCarthy  
Faith Education Officer  
Macarthur/Highlands Region



*A Big Bag of Goodies for Catechists to Borrow*

## A Big Bag of Goodies

Part of the joy of being one of the CCD Wollongong team is seeing the openness to new ideas! Something that we have heard from a number of Catechists is that they'd love to have greater access to resources but it's not always possible to get one of the Resource Centres.

Well, we thought, what if we could bring a bit of the Resource Centres with us when we came to visit? Of course we can't bring everything but what we can bring is a selection of books, videos and CDs that you can borrow.

We hope these resources are helpful and we look forward to bringing our big bag of goodies to your Parish!

Written by Peter Gilmore, FEO Wollongong



## Go deeper in our faith with Level 3 Catechist Training

We are all aware of the value of approaching life as 'lifelong learners'. I have also heard it said that the hardest thing to open is a closed mind...

It is easy to get stuck in a pattern of thoughts and belief that the way we see things is the only way the world can be. But Jesus challenged this way of thinking by inviting his disciples and those he encountered to look at things from a different perspective; a 'King' whose Kingdom was not of this world, to forgive and not keep score, to love even those who hurt you. Jesus in his renewed vision challenged the social structures of His time and gives us the capacity to do the same. It is in taking up these opportunities to grow in wisdom and understanding that we are equipped to make informed responses to the questions of our culture.

The Level 3 course being offered in Term 3 is a stepping stone to unlocking some of the wisdom held within our Catholic Faith, life and Church. It's an opportunity to journey

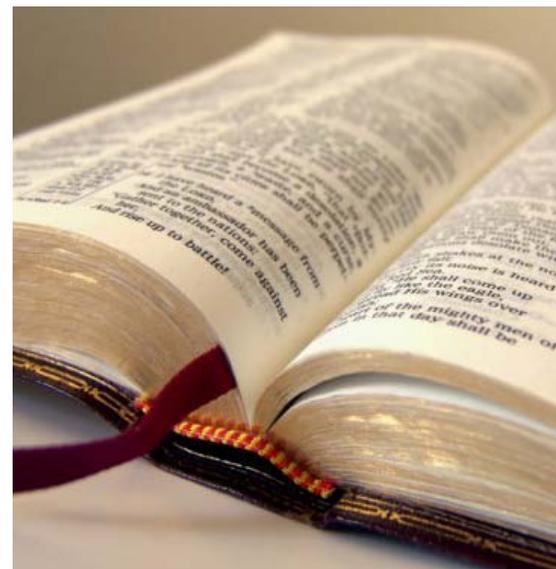
with each other through six key learning areas:

- Morality: Life in the Spirit
- Creation: Work of the Trinity
- Reconciliation: Forgiveness and healing
- Christ: The Heart of Catechesis
- Church: Mission of the Holy Spirit
- Communion: Eucharist the Source and Summit of faith.

The aim of these courses is to stimulate a thirst for Christ in Scripture, Tradition and Teaching of our Church and compliment the daily living of our faith. They seek to inspire further exploration engaging the adult experience of 'wonder and awe' that we encourage in our young people. Don't miss this opportunity to be refreshed through growth and learning!



Written by  
Trish McCarthy  
Faith Education Officer  
Macarthur-Highlands Region



### Catechist Training Level 3

**Campbelltown**  
Mondays 9:30-2:30pm  
July 27, Aug 3,  
Aug 10, 17, 24, 31

**Wollongong**  
Fridays 9:30-2:30pm  
Aug 14, 21, 28  
Sept 4, 11, 18

Go deeper in your faith and discover the treasures of our Catholic teachings.\*

Contact **Cindy Oliver** for details and to book, call (02) 4640 8550

*\*Catechist Training Level 2 is not a prerequisite for Level 3. Only Catechists who have completed Level 1, 2 & 3 are eligible for the Catechist Training Diploma.*

# Tips & Tricks!

## 5 Classroom Management Secrets to help you get control in the classroom

### Secret #1- Three is the limit!

Have you got important instructions for the students in your class? Make sure you never give more than three instructions in a row. Kindergarten children are most likely going to be able to follow two instructions at once. So be brief, use as few words as possible and never stack too many instructions together. The students won't remember and you'll have a classroom of unruly kids!

### Secret #2- Routine is king

Children thrive on consistency and routine. This does not mean you can't use a big book one week and then the SMARTBoard lessons the following week. What it does mean is that although your lesson has variety in content, it's routines don't change. What's the right way to answer a question? When the bell goes, does everyone just run out or do they wait to be dismissed? Routines are important and are worth practicing with your students.

### Secret #3-

#### Rule Reminders are a good reminder

Never miss an opportunity to remind the students of your classroom rules both when

they are misbehaving but also when they are doing the right thing. It is good to remind the students to raise their hand when you ask a question if they are calling out but it is even better to affirm good behaviour - "Joe, good job raising your hand when I asked a question". Students are more likely to follow rules if they understand the reason for the rule.

### Secret #4- Don't talk over students

If students aren't listening and are talking, don't let them get into the habit of thinking it's ok to speak when you are speaking. Reinforce with your students that good listeners don't speak when someone else is speaking. If someone is talking, pause your lesson and say, "Excuse me Jenny, in our class, we practice being good listeners. A good listener never speaks over someone else". This is a good chance to remind your students about class rules.

### Secret #5- Take a deep breath

In the end, the most important classroom behaviour management we can do is within ourselves. If we get stressed and lose control of our own emotions, we are well on the way to losing control of the class.

We can often take bad behaviour personally - it rarely ever is. So take a deep breath. Remember to pray and ask God to take care of your cares and concerns, even just for while the lesson is going - He'll look after them for you for 30 minutes.



Written by  
Peter Gilmore  
Faith Education Officer  
Illawarra-Shoalhaven Region



## Child Protection Update



As Catechists, we are called not just to create a culture of safety but to go further and create a culture of life.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we do to him. This is an important reminder that harming another, especially those whom we have power over, is the same as harming Jesus. But the reverse is also true! When we treat others with love and affirm their dignity, we are honouring Jesus.

As Catechists, we seek not to just protect the children in our care from harm but to go further and bring them life. Our Diocese affirms our need to treat all children with the four Gospel values of love, respect, service and justice. Through these values will we create not only a culture of safety but a culture of life, one that honours the dignity of each and every child.

## Catechesis Corner

"On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,"  
(Apostles Creed)

Jesus' Ascension into heaven bodily reminds us that after the human and divine natures of Christ were united in the Incarnation, they could never be again separated. That is, after the Resurrection, Jesus didn't just throw His human body away like He no longer had any use for it.

Catholic teaching tells us that His body will exist forever! As Fr John Trigilio, Jnr, tells us "Where Jesus went, body and soul, into heaven, the faithful hope one day to follow."

This tells us two important things. One, Christ in being human, affirms our great dignity as people made in God's image. And two, the God that raised Christ from the dead promises to do the same for us! We can live with hope!



## Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Diocesan Leadership Team and Support Personnel

### Director of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

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CCD Office Wollongong  
Catholic Church Offices, Xavier Centre  
38 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500  
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Email: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au  
Website: ccd.dow.org.au

### Faith Education Officer Macarthur /Highlands

Miss Trish McCarthy  
CCD Regional Centre, Micah House  
35A Cordeaux St, Campbelltown NSW 2560  
Ph: (02) 4640 8550 Fax: (02) 4628 8866  
Email: trish.mccarthy@dow.org.au

### Faith Education Officer Illawarra/Shoalhaven

Mr Peter Gilmore  
CCD Regional Centre / St Joseph Centre  
2 Bond Street, Bellambi NSW 2518  
Ph: (02) 4283 4833  
Email: peter.gilmore@dow.org.au

### CCD Clerical Assistant

Mrs Cindy Oliver  
CCD Regional Centre, Micah House  
Open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm  
Ph: (02) 4640 8550  
Email: cindy.oliver@dow.org.au

Other Supporting Organisations

### Catholic Education Office

Diocesan Resource Centre  
Xavier Centre, Wollongong  
Anne Russell, Resource Centre Coordinator  
Ph: (02) 4222 2481  
Email: anne.russell@dow.catholic.edu.au  
URL: <http://oliver.dow.catholic.edu.au/rc>

## Important 2015 Calendar Dates

<b>Catechist Coordinator Meeting</b> Macarthur-Highlands Region CCD Centre, Micah House	<b>10:00am - 11:30am</b> Monday, June 15
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Illawarra-Shoalhaven Region Xavier Centre, Wollongong	Friday, June 19
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<b>Level 3 Training</b> Macarthur-Highlands (Mondays) CCD Centre, Micah House	<b>9:30am – 2:30pm</b> Mondays, July 27, Aug 3, Aug 10, 17, 24, 31
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Illawarra-Shoalhaven (Fridays) Xavier Centre, Wollongong	Fridays, Aug 14, 21, 28 Sept 4, 11, 18
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<b>Child Protection / Classroom Mgt.</b> Macarthur-Highlands CCD Centre, Micah House	<b>10:00am - 1:00pm</b> July 13 Oct 12
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Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	July 17 Oct 8
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<b>SMARTBoard Training</b> Macarthur-Highlands CCD Centre, Micah House	<b>10:00am - 12:30pm</b> Jul 20 Oct 19
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Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	Jul 23 Sept 9
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**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**  
**TO BOOK, CALL MRS CINDY OLIVER ON 4640 8550**

## Prayer Requests

Do you have a special prayer request that you would like us to pray for? Please don't hesitate to send an email to [peter.gilmore@dow.org.au](mailto:peter.gilmore@dow.org.au) and we will definitely pray for you!

**SUNDAYS 11AM-12PM / WEDNESDAYS 10-11PM ON 94.1FM**



**JOURNEY**  
CATHOLIC RADIO



Catholic Diocese of  
**Wollongong**  
Bearers of Christ's Love

**pulse** ((94.1))