



Confraternity  
of Christian Doctrine  
Diocese of Broken Bay

# CONNECTIONS

CCD Newsletter  
Volume 15 Issue 4 Term Four 2010



## IN THIS ISSUE

**For the Classroom:**  
*Planning your Christmas Assembly*  
Page 8

**Catechist Formation:**  
*Surrounding Christmas...* Page 10

Combined Peninsula and  
Hornsby & North Shore  
Region

## Reflection Day

Friday  
12 November 2010  
St Anthony in the Field  
Terrey Hills

Further details  
on the  
Noticeboard

*An Invitation to attend*  
**CCD** Celebrate

Respond personally

## Annual Diocesan Mass

Proclaim



Serve

Sunday 31 October 2010  
2:00pm

Educate

## North Harbour Parish

St Kierans Church  
349 Condamine St  
Manly Vale

Love each other

Seek unity



DIocese of Broken Bay

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As of 1 August 2010

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## *From the Diocesan Office*

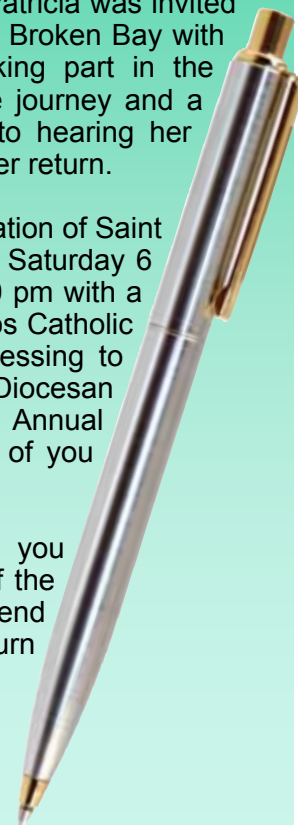
It is always very encouraging to read the stories and reports from Catechists and Coordinators. In this issue of Connections, there are a number of reports about the events of Term 3 and a few have shared stories of their classroom experiences. Do you have something to share in the next edition?

As preparations for the celebrations of the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop gain momentum in all quarters, Patricia Stuart, a catechist from the Woy Woy Peninsula Parish is excited as she prepares to go to Rome. Patricia was invited by Bishop David to represent the Diocese of Broken Bay with the Indigenous delegation who will be taking part in the ceremonies there. We wish Patricia a safe journey and a truly blessed time there and look forward to hearing her stories about the historic event in Rome on her return.

The official diocesan celebration for Canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be held on Saturday 6 November 2010. Celebrations start at 12:30 pm with a free sausage sizzle on the grounds of St Leos Catholic College, and at 2:00 pm we will start processing to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral for the Diocesan Mass. It is only a week after the CCD Annual Diocesan Mass, but we hope to see many of you there.

Thank you again for the important work you continue to do – I wish you the Blessings of the Advent and Christmas seasons that will descend on us soon. Enjoy the holiday break to return refreshed and reenergised in 2011.

Carole Gan  
Director



Directory / From the Diocesan Office	2
Events	3
From the Regions	4
From the Classroom	6
For the Classroom: Planning your Christmas Assembly	8
Catechist Formation: Surrounding Christmas	10
Noticeboard	12

# CONTENTS



## From the Diocesan Office

### Journey of Love

VALE Margaret Morrison



A journey travelled by Catechists, is to spread the love of God. Margaret Morrison was one of these Catechists, who spent over 22 years, not just teaching, but also nurturing the children of her class; her care was well known by many and especially by the school she attended. After Easter it was with great regret that Margaret had to retire as she was very ill. Margaret went to hospital for treatment as her family did not want to lose her but she was ready to go to God. A request for a letter of appreciation was made. Not only a certificate but also a Rosary blessed by the Pope was made available. Many thanks to our PSO Trish McKenzie and everyone who helped in any way.

Father Joseph Pattakandam and myself visited Margaret in the hospital. We presented to her the certificate and the Rosary. Margaret took the Rosary, wrapped it around her hand and held it to her heart. We prayed with her and for her. Margaret went to God on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. The SRE of the School rang me to make sure that what they heard was correct, they sent her family a note of appreciation and flowers.

Mavis Tarr  
Warringah (Narraweena)  
Parish Coordinator

The upcoming canonisation of Mary MacKillop has seen many catechists in the Diocese focusing on this great Australian woman in the SRE classroom. Indeed, the spirit of Mary MacKillop lives on in the important work of religious education of Catholic students in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Mary's inspirational life can serve as a witness to the students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in any age group from Kinder to Year 12. We catechists can aspire to her courage and love of the Church as we go out to spread the Good News to the children we teach. Please contact your Regional CCD Support Coordinator for resources if you would like to do a lesson or two on Mary MacKillop.

Thankyou once again to all those people who have contributed to the evaluation process for the Walking With Jesus Curriculum. I can advise you that a Second Edition of the K-2 program will be released for the beginning of the 2011 school year. Some changes will be made to this program based on your feedback and the theological evaluation received from Fr. David Ranson. The Second Edition of Years 3 -6 will be released as planned for the 2012 school year.

The Diocesan Mass will be held on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm at North Harbour Parish – St. Kieran's Church at Manly Vale. Please accept my apologies for the change of venue for this celebration. Unfortunately, the disruption caused by the school building program has required that we make some venue changes for some of our events this year. We are looking forward to a great celebration on this day and warmly invite catechists from across the Diocese to attend.

As we approach the final term of 2010, please accept my sincere thanks for the great work which you continue to do with the children week in and week out. You are the "salt of the earth".

Alison Newell  
Diocesan Coordinator CCD

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### TERM 4

Further details on the Noticeboard and throughout the newsletter

October			
11	Term 4 Commences		
14, 21	MWP: Level 3 (cont'd)	9:30am- 3:00pm	Terrey Hills
15-17	Lighthouse Festival (Youth)		Somersby
18	MWP: Parish Coordinators Meeting	10:00am-1:00pm	Balgowlah
18	MWP: Secondary Catechists Meeting	2:00pm-3:30pm	Balgowlah
18	CC: Parish Coordinators Meeting	10:00am-1:00pm	East Gosford
18	NTH: Parish Coordinators Meeting	10:00am-2:00pm	Normanhurst
19, 26	CC: Level 1 (cont'd)	7:00pm- 9:00pm	East Gosford
26	MWP: BAC	9:00am - 3:30pm	Forestville
31	CCD Annual Diocesan Mass	2:00pm	Manly Vale
November			
1, 8	CC: BAC	9:30am-2:30pm	The Entrance
3, 10, 17	NTH: BAC	7:00pm-9:00pm	Epping
9, 16, 23, 30	MWP: Level 1	9:00am-3:30pm	Forestville
9, 16, 23, 30	CC: Level 1 (cont'd)	7:00pm-9:00pm	East Gosford
12	MWP & NTH: Ministry Reflection Day	9:30am-2:30pm	Terrey Hills
16	CCD Advisory Committee Meeting	5:00pm-7:00pm	CCC
19	CCD Parish Coordinators Thank You Lunch	10:30am-2:30pm	CCC
December			
1	Diocesan Curriculum Review Meeting	10:00am-2:00pm	CCC
1	CC: Youth Matters Meeting	7:00pm- 9:00pm	East Gosford
1	Deadline for submitting articles for Connections		CCC
7	MWP: Level 1 (cont'd)	9:30am- 11:30am	Forestville
17	TERM 4 CONCLUDES		

CC – Central Coast; CCC – Caroline Chisholm Centre (Pennant Hills); MWP – Peninsula; NTH – North Shore



### North Shore

#### Level 3 Wahroonga



Hornsby/Nth Shore

Catechists from the North Shore and Hornsby Deaneries took part in the Level 3 Course at Wahroonga Parish which commenced on Friday 13 August. The course took place over six weeks, covering two sessions a day on the study of the Gospel of Luke. Four of the participants were attending the Level 3 Course for the second time after having completed it last year when the Gospel of Mark was studied. Congratulations to the many attendees who had experienced a busy year of courses with Levels 1 and 2 completed earlier in 2010, as well as attending workshops and reflection days.

#### Annual Mass for North Shore and Hornsby Deaneries



Hornsby/Nth Shore

Over a hundred Catechists with family members and friends attended the Annual Mass on Wednesday 1 September. The Mass was held at St Agatha's



Hornsby/Nth Shore

Parish at Pennant Hills who hosted the evening's event. A number of Catechists received awards for 5, 10 and 15 years of service in the CCD Ministry plus Accreditation Certificates for having completed Levels 1 and 2 in the training courses.



Hornsby/Nth Shore

### Central Coast

#### Harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few"

(Luke 10: 2)

A year ago when I heard that help was needed to teach Religious Education for the children in Public Schools, I felt God's calling but was scared as I was not a trained teacher. When I started I came to know that there is a curriculum for every stage for us to follow and all the guidance and help needed is provided by our Diocese of Broken Bay. I am being guided every step by my coordinator Mr Michael Tebbutt, who has given me the confidence that it is possible for anybody with a heart to serve our Lord, to assist our children on their religious path. It has been a very fulfilling experience and has also helped to nourish my own faith and made it more meaningful.

Mary Peeris  
Catechist, Wyong

#### We honour our volunteers – the best things in life are free

Australia has a history of generous volunteers who give freely of their time and energy in many walks of life. Very recently, tribute was paid to the band of volunteers who gave so generously of their time, gifts, skills and talents to earn the admiration of many, and to label the Sydney 2000 Olympics the "best ever".

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has, over the years, also been extraordinarily blessed to have attracted generous volunteers. Each year at our Regional and Diocesan Masses, we celebrate those magnificent volunteers.

In addition to our catechists, there is a very small band of other volunteers – low profile, out-of-the-spotlight volunteers supporting

catechists in 'value-adding' to the lessons. Weekly, fortnightly, periodically - according to their ability, those quiet big-hearted people get to work in regional resource centres without any fanfare giving what they can faithfully and humbly because they mostly just want to 'do something' to help the catechists. For many years, Nenita and Christine have given quiet service assembling resource packages, bringing order and fun to the 'office', as well as tasty morning tea 'bits and bites' to make the hours they work with staff at the centre a lot of fun and a real pleasure. Their work has contributed to the ministry in Brisbane Waters Deanery in particular, by equipping catechists with vibrant life-giving resources for their students. Nenita and Christine each received an Award for Service to The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine of the Central Coast at the Regional Mass on 15 September at Kincumber.

Congratulations and our thanks to Nenita and Christine and all those who, in your many ways, serve and support the ministry of CCD. We certainly know ...*The Best Things in Life are Free.*

Kath Ryan  
CCD Central Coast Gosford  
Special Duties

### Peninsula

#### A Saint for Australia

A workshop day was held at Balgowlah on Monday 16 August on the life and spirituality of Mother Mary MacKillop. Presented by Sr. Colleen O'Sullivan rsj, the workshop was attended by about 50 people from across the Diocese. Workshops for primary and secondary catechists followed which looked at ways of including Sr. Colleen's ideas and resources into age-appropriate lessons for students from K-12. Sr. Colleen's knowledge and love of Mary MacKillop was inspirational and catechists left the day with an urgent desire to share the story of Mary with the children.

Alison Newell  
Diocesan Coordinator CCD

## Report on Regional Masses

The Regional CCD Masses which were held during September across the three regions of the Diocese were a great celebration of the ministry which catechists serve. The encouragement and support received from our priests at each of these Masses is very much appreciated. It is clear that the work of catechists is greatly valued at every level of the Church across Broken Bay. Congratulations to all those people who received Accreditation Certificates and Years of Service Awards.

*Alison Newell, Diocesan Coordinator CCD*



Reader: For the children we teach:  
 All: Send your Holy Spirit onto the hearts of all students and help them to respond to your word.

Peninsula



Central Coast



Central Coast

## Year 10 Social Justice Day 2010

This year at the Social Justice Day for the Catholic Students in year 10, the theme was building bridges. The day started with some students taking on the roles of ministers from 5 major religions. They were a Buddhist monk, an Islamic imam, a Jewish rabbi, a Hindu priest and a Catholic priest.

Initially the Catholic priest displayed an arrogance to the other ministers while the Buddhist monk showed reverence to all. This was followed by a statement from each one judging the shortcomings of the other faiths, with theirs being the best.

The Catholic priest and the Buddhist monk had a conversation and discovered that they shared similar beliefs and desires for the world and humanity. Together they spoke with the Muslim, the Jew and the Hindu. After the conversations each representative from these major world religions discovered that there was a lot that each religion held in common and they were able to work together, rather than putting the other religions down in favour of their own.

This was the key learning objective for the day and was followed up on in the subsequent workshops.

At the end of the day, statements were made from the different schools who participated in the day. A summary of these responses included ways we can be positive influences in our communities, that we need to treat each other with respect and dignity, that we should not judge others who have different practices and traditions to our own and that forgiveness is important.

As usual, the year 10 Social Justice Day was both an incredible learning experience for the students to whom the secondary catechists minister and a great social event as well.

*Michael Tebbutt  
 Senior CCD  
 Support Co-ordinator  
 Central Coast*



## Samaritan Drama

### Manly Freshwater

My 4<sup>th</sup> class is between 24-28. Today we did the story of the Good Samaritan. I took scarves, shawls, sarongs and Canteen bandanas to use for dress up. Also bandages and bag of coins. The children used their own words and it was very entertaining. I think the robbers had a ball. The audience did the background noise of wolves and lions when it is getting dark. The children always remember the lesson even if a couple of years have passed.

Next week

I am planning to do

Jesus heals the crippled man. This I find a good way to teach a lesson that has a very powerful influence and moral to it. Please try doing these dress ups as it is good fun for all concerned I am also very happy to have my wonderful helper Cynthia to help. Remember God loves us and we are only his messenger.



Beverley Crouch  
Catechist, Manly Freshwater

## Vocations Awareness

### Frenchs Forest Parish

An art competition was held in Frenchs Forest parish on the subject of vocations in our lives as Christians. It culminated during National Vocations Awareness Week in early August.

This provided a challenge for catechists, who have so little time with their classes. The competition was just for infants and primary students and was to include the two Catholic schools as well as Catholic classes in public schools. Despite the difficulties, several catechists responded, with some excellent results.

Altogether, some three hundred entries were received, of which about a quarter were from five of



the seven public schools in the area. Book awards, donated by the North Shore Serra Club, the Frenchs Forest Catechist Coordinator and parishioners were necessarily limited, but included awards for entries from five of our public schools; many of our entries received 'special mentions'.

The students covered a wide range of aspects of vocations, including pictures of priests and sisters (Mary MacKillop was one such), some of Mary the mother of Jesus, many of "my mum" and of course, a good number of everyday occupations.

Then there were quite a few that showed parts of the Bible that talk about God's call to us, to do his will. The results were impressive and even the 'I want to be a ....' entries were all pointed towards helping occupations. I don't recall one that talked about making

money. One exception was the lad who drew a fishing boat with Jesus and disciples on board, the caption saying something like 'the disciples were selling the fish for money to help Jesus with his work.' From the mouths of children!

David Hamilton  
Catechist, Frenchs Forest

## A Holy Spirit moment

### Epping Carlingford

Some years ago I taught a Yr 1 class followed by a Yr 5 class. One of the students from Yr 5 asked "If you can't see God how do you know He exists?" I basically said "I'll get back to you on that one" and followed up with my parish priest. The priest spent about 30 minutes explaining and I thought to myself "OK. I think I can bring this down to a child's level of understanding and reduce it to



## From the Classroom

about 1 minute!!!”

The following week one of the Yr 1 students asked exactly the same question – what are the chances? – but before I could respond another student said “*God is love. You can’t see love but you can feel love*”.

This explanation was more profound than anything my parish priest or I had managed and this was from the mouth of a year 1 student whose family don’t go to church. I was ever so grateful to God for His assistance.

*Margaret Kelly  
Catechist, Epping Carlingford*

### Ecumenical Seminar

Killara High



In August, the Year 11 and 12 Catholic SRE students at Killara High experienced a seminar which was held jointly with the Protestant classes and featured the three piece band *Destination Life* who played to an appreciative audience.

Initially our Parish CCD Coordinator had some concerns about holding a joint seminar, as this might raise questions about denominational differences, but this did not happen. Also an ecumenical seminar such as this had not been held for many years before, but it turned out that here was much goodwill and fellowship amongst the students.

*Destination Life* is a rock & soul band that uses music to explore the gospel story and to seek a relationship with Jesus and to understand his message. Over the

last 3 years the band has toured high schools, churches and universities across NSW, playing songs that carry these questions and sharing how Jesus truly transformed their lives. Their website is

<http://www.myspace.com/destinationlifeband>

The students were intrigued by the questions raised and greatly amused by the dance and air-guitar competitions. From their preliminary responses, the students also seemed to have favourably enjoyed the format of the seminar very much. Feedback forms collected will be processed to identify and formulate future action to be taken. A list of the local youth groups was also handed out and the students invited and

encouraged to join them.

*Michael Berman  
Catechist, Killara*

### Merry Christmas

A Catechist’s Story

I have been a catechist for 14 years.

For the last seven years I have been teaching at a girls high school enjoying the communication with older students. In most of my classes I was blessed with girls who showed respect, listened to the Bible stories and cooperated during lessons. Sometimes, when I noticed a lack of interest I focused on the particular student trying to find out what is keeping her from being interested learning about Jesus and His love for us.

However a couple of years ago I had a class with two girls who obviously did not want to be in the SRE classroom. They were interrupting the teaching/learning process with their behaviour sometimes openly expressing disrespect stopping the other students from learning.

I was given support by the school SRE coordinator, my parish support person and from the CCD team but nothing helped. I was very frustrated and questioned my ability to teach the Christian message of love and patience.

Christmas approached and at the last lesson the girls were asked to create a Christmas card for their family. Craft material was provided and the students were cutting, pasting and decorating. At the end of the lesson as they were leaving one girl handed me card. I thanked her and at home when I opened it read: “Wishing you a merry Christmas and thank you for putting up with us all through the year”.

I did not need any more encouragement to continue teaching the following year.

*Susan Zavesky  
Catechist, Epping Carlingford*

### Thank you

Thank you for submitting your stories from the classrooms and parishes to be included in *Connections*.

If your article is not in this issue keep an eye out as it will most likely appear in a future issue of *Connections*.

If you’d like to submit an article, please do so. It can be as little as a few lines on a good lesson; a story; a resource you’ve found; or a special event in the parish or school. If there’s something you’d like to see us cover in future editions, please let us know that too!

The closing date for article submissions for the Term 1 2011 edition is 1 December, 2010.

Email: [ccdinfo@dbb.org.au](mailto:ccdinfo@dbb.org.au)  
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If you’d like to see the colour version of *Connections*, it’s on our website: [www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/ccd](http://www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/ccd) (click on *downloads*). You’ll also find back issues of *Connections* there.



## Planning your Christmas Assembly

*In this article, we will explore simple and effective ways to construct and present an assembly for the students who attend Christian SRE classes in the school at which you volunteer.*

Assemblies are usually a celebration of a particular event, in the case of SRE, Christmas and Easter are the most common events that are celebrated. They usually involve a significant section of the students from the school, across all the year levels. This term, Christmas will be the focus but the process can be applied to any time an assembly has to be organised.

The first handy hint is not to try to do it by yourself. Get together with all the volunteers who teach at your school and together, create the assembly.

The structure consists of four elements or movements. They are the Gathering movement, the Listening movement, the Sharing and Responding movement and finally, the Going Forth movement.

**The Gathering Movement:** This consists of an activity which will engage the students' imagination and actively involve them in the assembly itself. For Christmas, a bright and catchy Christmas song could be sung with all the characters of the Christmas story gathering in the performance space. Another idea is that some travellers ask the audience for directions as to how to get to where the new King was born.

**The Listening Movement:** This is the time for the story to be told. It may take the form of the traditional Nativity Scene or it could take the form of a modern interpretation of the Nativity Story. You may have an SRE Teacher in your group who has the gift of telling a great story. This person might tell the story while the children act it out. Another take on the listening movement is to have the children dramatise the story in their own manner. Let the children have some input in the production of the assembly. They can surprise us older folk with their innovative ideas. So long as the way the story is communicated involves children, is easily understood by the children and leads to an understanding of and an appreciation of the significance of the Christmas event.

**The Sharing and Responding Movement:** This is a time to reflect on the story and draw out its meaning for the children. *What did the birth of Jesus mean for the people of his time? Why did the magi travel so far to pay homage to the newborn king? Imagine how the shepherds felt when they saw and heard the angels singing?* Get either an experienced catechist or your parish priest to take charge of this stage. This is also a time where prayers can be prayed reflecting the thoughts and reflections shared. The children can be prepared to lead the prayers or possibly write their own. (If the students write their own prayers, be sure to make sure they suitably reflect the event).

**The Going Forth Movement:** The final movement would include some closing prayer and blessing and a lively song to draw the assembly to a conclusion and a bright note on which the gathered community would leave the place of gathering.

The variety of ideas for an assembly following these four simple movements are limited only by the creativity of those who are planning. Be sure to enlist the talents off all who are available to be involved and do not be afraid to involve the students in the preparation of the assembly. Their contributions could be invaluable.

Michael Tebbutt  
Senior CCD Co-ordinator  
Central Coast

### Term Four

Week 1 Ordinary Time
Week 2 Ordinary Time
Week 3 Ordinary Time
Week 4 Ordinary Time 1 Nov - All Saints 2 Nov - All Souls 4 Nov - St Charles Borromeo (Patron Saint of Catechists)
Week 5 Ordinary Time
Week 6 Ordinary Time
Week 7 Christ the King
Week 8 First Sunday of Advent New liturgical year begins Sundays - cycle A Weekdays - cycle 1
Week 9 Second Sunday of Advent
Week 10 Third Sunday of Advent



**TERM 4 DATES:**  
Start:  
Monday 11 Sept 2010  
Finish:  
Friday 17 Dec 2010





# A Prayer Ritual for the Classroom

**Leader:** As the days grow longer and hotter, we look to the green leaves of the advent wreath to remember the promise that God would send us his Son, Jesus Christ as the light for the world.

**Reader:** Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:  
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. *Is. 9: 1-2*

*Then all pray:*  
O God in heaven, with joy, we remember how you promised to send your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, and may it light up our path and may we be guided by his truth. May Christ our Saviour bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Then the first candle is lit.*

Each lesson in the lead up to the end of the year, an electric candle in the Advent wreath could be 'lit' as part of the beginning prayer for each lesson. For the second, third and fourth lessons, have the previously lit candles already lit in anticipation of the new one to be lit for the coming week. I suggest that the same prayer be used each week to highlight the fact that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise and that he is a light for the whole world.

Term One 2011	
Week 1	Ordinary Time
Week 2	Ordinary Time
Week 3	Ordinary Time
Week 4	Ordinary Time
Week 5	Ordinary Time
Week 6	Ordinary Time
Week 7	First Sunday of Lent
Week 8	Second Sunday of Lent
Week 9	Third Sunday of Lent
Week 10	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Week 11	Fifth Sunday of Lent

## The Advent Wreath

*The Advent Wreath is the symbol for the season of Advent. It consists of a simple circular wreath of greenery and four candles. Three candles are purple and one is pink. Each week a new candle is lit. The first candle celebrates the **Hope** we have in the forthcoming birth of the Saviour. The second candle is the candle of **Waiting** and celebrates our waiting and the waiting of the people of the Old Testament for the coming of the Messiah. Both of these candles are purple. The Third candle, the **Joy** candle, is pink while the fourth and final candle is once again purple and celebrates the **Love and Peace** that will characterise the Reign of God when the Messiah comes.*

*See your Regional Resource Centre for easy - to - follow instructions on how to make an Advent Wreath.*



© Susan Daily

Michael Tebbutt  
Senior CCD Coordinator Central Coast

## Surrounding Christmas...

There is a lot of material available on Christmas, however there is not as much on Advent, and even less so on Epiphany. This article will attempt to shed some light upon these lesser known feast times that surround Christmas.

**ADVENT**

*What is Advent?*

Advent is the season that begins the western Church's liturgical year, and is usually a time of preparation for Christmas.

*Where does the word 'Advent' come from?*

The Latin 'ad venio' means 'to come to.'

*When does Advent start and finish?*

The Advent season begins on the Sunday nearest to the feast of St Andrew the Apostle (30 November) and lasts for four Sundays.

*Why do we celebrate the season of Advent?*

Christians are encouraged to reflect on the ways Christ comes into our lives; through prayer, Scripture, our church community, the sacraments, the words/actions of friends, etc. During Advent, we are encouraged to reflect on Jesus' presence through

1) preparing for the celebration of Jesus' coming into the world (his Incarnation)

2) preparing for Jesus' coming to us at Eucharist

3) preparing for Jesus' coming again at the end times.

*How did this season come to be celebrated in our church's calendar?*

An exact date cannot be verified,

however from the fifth century onwards, we find mention of a time of fasting, abstinence and penitence (similar to that of Lent) in preparation for Christmas. A collection of St Gregory the Great's homilies (590-604) begins with a sermon for the Second Sunday of Advent. Since the 900s, Advent became the season that would mark the beginning of the Church's calendar year.

**Interesting Liturgical facts: Did you know that ...**

..the theme of the readings during Advent is often about the coming of Jesus at the end of time, while commemorating his first arrival at Christmas?

**..the predominant liturgical colour of the Advent season is purple?**

..the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday ('gaudete' means 'rejoice')? This Sunday is marked on an Advent wreath by the use of a pink candle and it signifies the halfway mark of the season, with an aim to lighten the mood of the once very restrictive fasting disciplines of the season.

..that when Mass is celebrated during Advent (as is also the case in Lent), the Gloria is omitted? By reserving the Gloria for the festive season of Christmas, the liturgy emphasizes Advent's character as a season of waiting with great expectation.

**CHRISTMASTIME**

*Did you know the Church does not stop celebrating Christmas on 25 December? We continue to celebrate an Octave of Christmas until 1 January (after the Jewish practice of 8 day celebrations) and*



an extended Christmastime until the Feast of the Epiphany.

**Interesting Liturgical facts: Did you know that ...**

..during Christmastime, we celebrate feasts for three different types of martyrs?

1) St. Stephen (Dec 26), represents those who went to their death willingly

2) St. John the Evangelist (Dec 27), represents those willing to die but were not martyred

3) the Holy Innocents (Dec 28), represents those put to death without their choice.

*On the Sunday between Christmas and January 1, the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Family?*

1 January is the feast day that celebrates Mary's title of Θεοτόκος (transliterated as Theotokos, meaning God-bearer, and translated as Mother of God)? The Council of Ephesus (431 CE) decreed that Mary was Theotokos to emphasize that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine.

**EPIPHANY**

*What does the Feast of the Epiphany celebrate?*

This feast marks the end of the 12 days of Christmastide with the celebration of the visit of the Magi to the manger (Matthew 2:1-12). This feast celebrates that Jesus, the Messiah, has appeared to the whole world, and has come to all peoples. In some places, it is a tradition on this day to bless homes with holy water and incense.

*When is the feast of the Epiphany?*

Epiphany is normally celebrated on 6 January (or the Sunday between 2 and 8 Jan).

*Where does the word 'epiphany' come from?*

The Greek word ἐπιφάνεια is transliterated as *epiphaneia* which means "appearance" or "manifestation".

*(continued on page 11)*



# Catechist Formation

Who are the main characters of the Epiphany?

While the Magi are mentioned in scripture, their number, names and descriptions were introduced later by storytellers to explain that the characters represent all the peoples of the world: Melchior, an old man of Caucasian appearance, bears the gift of gold for Christ's royalty; Caspar, a young man, carries incense for Christ's divinity; and Balthasar, a man of dark skin, offers myrrh for Christ's suffering and death.

How did this feast come to be celebrated in our church's calendar?

The feast of the Epiphany originally celebrated the manifestation of Jesus to the world at his baptism. However, due to the vagueness of the word 'epiphany,' other manifestations of Christ's glory and divinity also came to be celebrated at this feast, including the revealing of Jesus at the Wedding of Cana, the Nativity and the visit of the Magi. The celebration was later adopted

by the western Church which attached a greater importance, as time went on, to the visitation of the Magi.

### Interesting Liturgical facts: Did you know that ...

..the Magnificat antiphon of Second Vespers acknowledges this history of the various manifestations of Christ to the world? it reads: "We keep our Holy Day adored with three miracles: today a star led the Magi to the crib, today wine was made from water at the marriage, today in Jordan Christ willed to be baptised by John to save us."

..church councils (e.g. Orleans in 541 CE) decreed that on the feast of the Epiphany, it would be customary to announce the date of Easter, and other festivals of the coming year?



Francis Voon  
CCD Support  
Coordinator  
North Shore

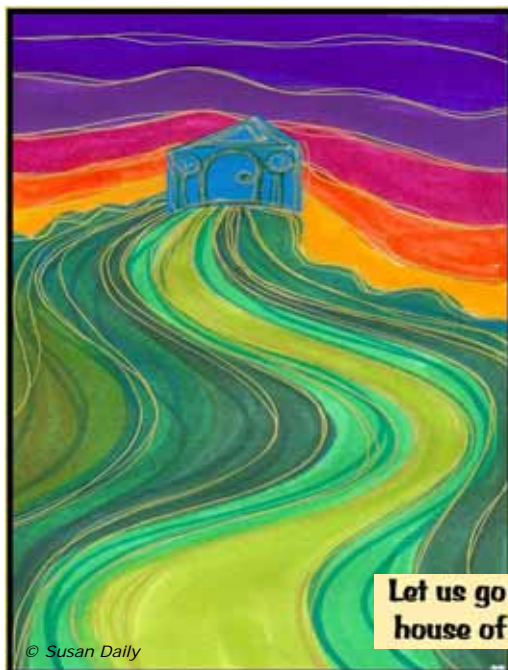
Research material from:

- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01165a.htm>,
- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05504c.htm>,
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent>,
- <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/advent/advent.htm>,
- <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/advent/epiphany.htm>

Retrieved September 2010

## Fun in the Classroom

Learning is meant to be fun. Give yourself permission to have fun in the SRE classroom with the children. As we approach the Liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas in our lessons, there are many ways that the lesson plans can be adapted to suit the learning styles of your children and to have fun whilst preparing the children and their families to welcome Jesus into their homes and hearts this Christmas. Craft activities are always a great strategy at this time of the year. Simple Advent wreaths can be



created in a relatively short time in the classroom and can be taken home by the children to be shared with the whole family. See your regional resource centre for instructions on making an Advent wreath.

Later in the term, play Christmas Carols in the background as the children work in their activity books. The Music for Discipleship CDs have Christmas songs included or take in some old favourites from home like "Away in a Manger" or "Silent Night".

Your class might be a group of budding actors. Perhaps you could role play the Christmas Story. Read the story while pre-selected students form a nativity tableau as the story unfolds. Regional resource centres will be able to help with dress-ups.

Frozen statues, liquid pictures, echo-mimes are all fun ways of breaking open the Infancy Narratives from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. There's even a conversation between Jesus and Santa which is lots of fun and uses a play on the words "presence" and "presents" which unpacks some of the true meaning of Christmas. Again, your regional resource centre can provide copies of this.

We wish you a happy fourth term with the students and lots of fun in the classroom.

Alison Newell, Diocesan Coordinator CCD



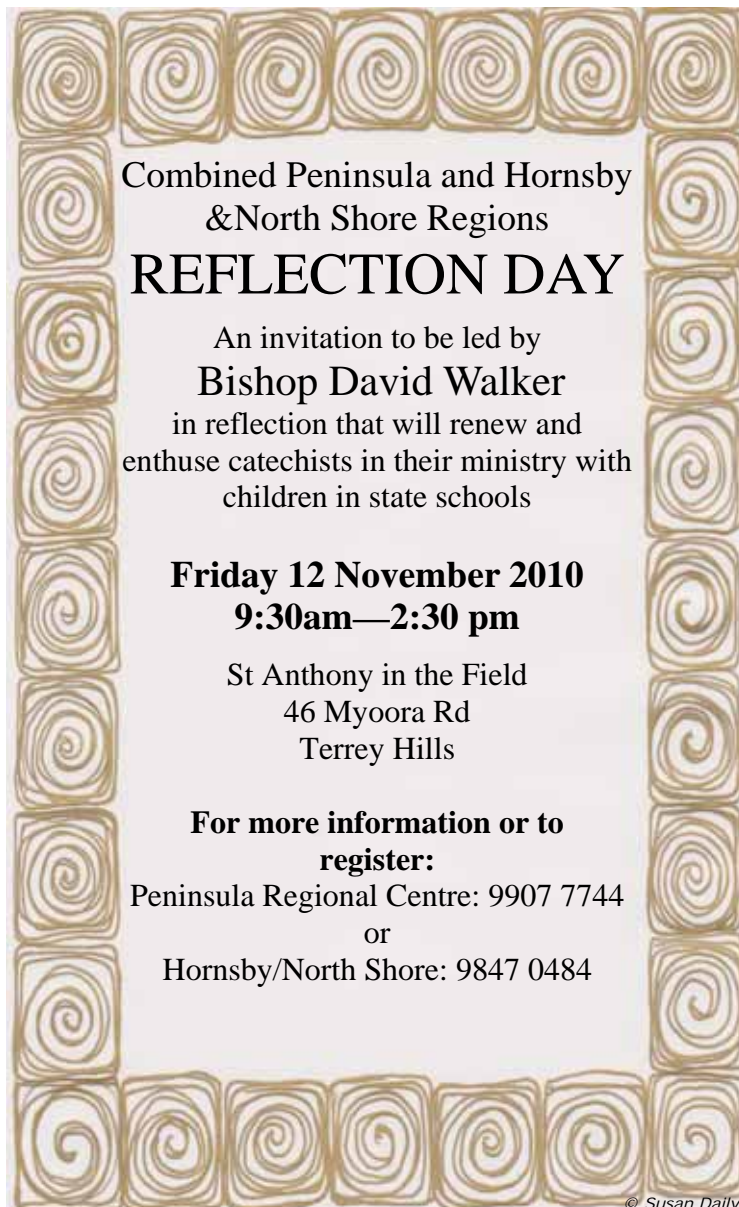
# Noticeboard

## Training & Formation Courses

Course Type	Location	Date	Time	Register by	Phone
BAC	Forestville	26 Oct (Tuesday)	9:00am-3:30pm	Thu 21 October	9907 7744
BAC	The Entrance	1, 8 Nov (Mondays)	9:30pm-2:30pm	Thu 28 October	4334 3367
BAC	Epping	3, 10, 17 Nov (Wednesdays)	7:00pm-9:00pm	Mon 1 November	9847 0484
Level 1 (cont'd)	East Gosford	19, 26 Oct, 9, 16, 23, 30 Nov (Tuesdays)	7:00pm-9:00pm	Fri 3 September	4323 7090
Level 1 (cont'd)	Forestville	9, 16, 23, 30 Nov 7 Dec (Tuesdays)	9:30am-2:30pm 9:30am -11:30am	Tue 2 November	9907 7744
Level 3 (cont'd)	Terrey Hills	26 Aug, 2, 9, 23 Sep, 14, 21 Oct (Thursdays)	9:30am-3:00pm	Tue 24 August	9907 7744

BAC = Basic Accreditation Course. Single units may be attended.

Phone your local PSU Office for a full program. See page 2 for further contact details.



Combined Peninsula and Hornsby  
& North Shore Regions

## REFLECTION DAY

An invitation to be led by  
**Bishop David Walker**  
in reflection that will renew and  
enthuse catechists in their ministry with  
children in state schools

**Friday 12 November 2010**  
**9:30am—2:30 pm**

St Anthony in the Field  
46 Myoora Rd  
Terrey Hills

**For more information or to  
register:**  
Peninsula Regional Centre: 9907 7744  
or  
Hornsby/North Shore: 9847 0484

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Please assist us in our planning for events and courses by replying by the advertised closing date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please note that the venue  
for the  
2010 CCD Annual  
Diocesan Mass  
has been changed *again* to:

**North Harbour Parish  
St Kierans Church  
349 Condamine St  
MANLY VALE**

**For more information & to RSVP:**  
Sharon da Roza  
9847 0492  
sharon.daroza@dbb.org.au