



CONNECTIONS

Diocese of Broken Bay

Volume 12 Issue 4

CCD NEWSLETTER

Term Four 2007

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CCD Annual Diocesan Mass

SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2007

2PM

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL, ST IVES
(FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA)

2007 Service Awards

Papal Blessings (20 Years)

<i>Joyce Beukers</i>	<i>Lakes</i>
<i>Jim Caruana</i>	<i>Epping & Carlingford</i>
<i>Anne Grice</i>	<i>Toukley</i>
<i>Janette Gurr</i>	<i>Kincumber</i>
<i>Christine Kindred</i>	<i>Waitara</i>
<i>Elizabeth O'Connor</i>	<i>North Harbour</i>
<i>Gail Pearce</i>	<i>Terrigal</i>
<i>Viviana Roberts</i>	<i>Wyoming</i>
<i>Jeannette Simpson</i>	<i>Lakes</i>



25 Years Service

<i>Rita Biviano</i>	<i>Chatswood</i>
<i>Margaret Burg</i>	<i>Gosford</i>
<i>Pauline Cornwall</i>	<i>Wyong</i>
<i>Lola De Souza</i>	<i>Woy Woy</i>
<i>Diane Elbourne</i>	<i>Arcadia</i>
<i>Angela Glover</i>	<i>Pymble</i>
<i>Amanda Hickey</i>	<i>Lakes</i>
<i>Wendy McGowan</i>	<i>Normanhurst</i>
<i>Anne Moore</i>	<i>Epping & Carlingford</i>
<i>Carol Roach</i>	<i>Normanhurst</i>
<i>Fran Van Schie</i>	<i>Lakes</i>

Bishop Patrick Murphy Award

30 Years Service

<i>Lyla Abood</i>	<i>Arcadia</i>
<i>Nancy Keogh</i>	<i>Epping & Carlingford</i>
<i>Gloria Wiggins</i>	<i>Waitara</i>

35 Years Service

<i>Joan Swift</i>	<i>Frenchs Forest</i>
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40 Years Service

<i>Mary Julien</i>	<i>Chatswood</i>
<i>Leonie Miller</i>	<i>Arcadia</i>

SEEK UNITY

EDUCATE

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**TERM 4 2007
MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

See noticeboard on back page for details of events

October

15	TERM 4 COMMENCES	
17	NTH Secondary Curriculum W/shop 12:30pm-2:30pm	Waitara
	CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm	CCC
22	MWP Parish Coordinators Meeting 10am-2pm	Narraweena
23	CCD Curriculum Day	CCC
24	CC Parish Coordinators Meeting 12:00pm-3pm	Gosford
TBA	CC Secondary Curriculum Workshop	TBA

November

1	CCD Curriculum Day	CCC
2	Northern Region Reflection Day 9:30am-2:30pm	St Ives
	<i>2008 Curriculum Resources Orders Due (Note new date)</i>	
4	Annual Diocesan Mass 2pm	St Ives
5	CCD Staff Meeting 9am-4pm	CCC
7	Curriculum Consultative Comm Meeting 9:30am-12pm	CCC
9	MWP Reflection Day 9:30am-2:30pm	Terrey Hills
12	CCD Curriculum Day	
14	NTH ES1 & S1 Curr W/shop (#2) 12:30pm-2:30pm	Normanhurst
16	CC Reflection Day 9:30am-2:30pm	North Entrance
19	CCD Executive Meeting 9am-4pm	CCC
20	CCD Advisory Council Meeting 5pm-7pm	CCC
21	CC ES1 & S1 Curriculum W/shop (#2) 1pm-3pm	Gosford
23	CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm	CCC
26	NTH BAC 9am-4pm	Wahroonga
28	MWP ES1 & S1 Curric W/shop (#2) 12:30pm-2:30pm	Manly Vale
30	Central Coast BAC 9am-4pm	Terrigal

December

3	CCD Executive Reflection Day	
5	<i>Connections</i> articles deadline / CCD Curriculum Day	
10	Manly Warringah BAC 9am-4pm	Forestville
12	CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm	CCC
13	CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm	CCC
17	CCD Staff Meeting 10am-2pm	CCC
21	TERM 4 CONCLUDES	

DEC 24 - JAN 18: CCD OFFICES CLOSED

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From the Director

The Diocesan Vision for 2010 and the pastoral directions for the Diocese for the period 2006 – 2010 are outlined in the document - *Going Forward Together: Pastoral Care for Evangelisation 2006 -2010*. In the introduction to the document Bishop David Walker calls all the diocesan community to ‘develop the best possible pastoral care for the people in the Diocese, enabling us to spread the word of God’.

This edition of *Connections Newsletter* gives evidence to the way in which all members of the CCD are working to provide that Pastoral Care to each other and the Catholic children in the State schools of the Diocese.

The catechists, through their attention to their own training and formation as well as the lessons they give to the children, are enabling the spread of the word of God – Evangelisation.

During Term 4 we reflect on the year that has passed and start to look towards the future – 2008. It is timely, therefore, to reflect on what is our ultimate goal, Evangelisation, and how effective our Pastoral Care is in achieving this goal. I offer you the six presuppositions below, suggested by Bishop David, to assist in your reflection.

Ann Maree

Director: Parish Support Unit

Presupposition: The essential mission of the Church is evangelisation

If the ultimate goal is not before one’s mind, intermediate goals can become ultimate. It can be difficult to keep peoples’ eyes focused on the ultimate goal, while they are working for intermediate goals.

Question: How does what we are doing now contribute to evangelisation?

Presupposition: The Church is to preach the Good News of “God revealed in Jesus”.

Pope Paul VI: the axis of evangelisation is faithfulness to the message and faithfulness to the people to whom we preach it. Faithfulness to the message means passing it on in its totality and authenticity. It can be difficult to ensure that all who are preaching, or sharing the Gospel, make the core message their focus e.g., bishops, priests, teachers, catechists etc.

Question: How does what we are preaching now illustrate this core message?

Presupposition: To evangelise effectively we must use the language of the people.

This is being faithful to the people to whom we are to preach the message (Pope Paul VI). Ultimately, the issue is not whether our message is intact and authentic, but rather whether in is in a shape and language that people can understand. We must be ready to present the Gospel in terms of their key words, symbols and images. Indeed, some of our key words, symbols and images were once the key words, symbols and images of the people whom we were evangelising. Can we speak the language(s) of our modern society?

Question: Is our evangelisation in the language of the people with whom we are communicating?

Presupposition: In evangelisation we need to expose people to the mystery of God’s love, not just tell them about it.

Faith exists in the person. A marriage is a relationship between two persons. The marriage does not exist without them. Faith is a relationship between the believer and Jesus. The disciple of Jesus is living in the presence of the divine mystery as it is offered to humankind, and as humankind responds to it. The Good News itself is a ‘power of God’ (Rom 1:15).

Question: Are the bishop, priests, and the people of the Diocese true sacraments of the mystery of God’s love and the human response to it?

Presupposition: The Church makes the Good News incarnate in society.

‘The local Church is a Church incarnate in its people. It is native, springing out of local culture, with reverence for ancient customs and traditions, speaking the local language, dressed in local clothing, expressing immortal truths in images that the common people understand, and love. The Church must be local in its songs, in its artistry, in its architecture, in its thoughts and language, in its ways of life.’ (Asian Bishops)

It can be difficult when there are subcultures within a culture: young, poor, indigenous, etc.

Question: How does our local evangelising community match up to this criterion?

Presupposition: We should evangelise with a confidence that comes from Christian hope.

It is ultimately the Holy Spirit who evangelises through us. This is the foundation of our confidence.

Question: Has the magnitude and complexity of the task affected our Christian hope?

Walker, D (2007) Presuppositions and Questions for Reflection on Evangelisation Australasian Catholic Record v48ni January 2007 p.88-89

FROM THE REGIONS

Congratulations to Central Coast Catechists

Four catechists from the Central Coast, Gosford Region, were honoured for their services to Public Education recently at a special awards ceremony held at Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, Tumbi Campus.

Ms Maree Roberts, Deputy Regional Director of the Hunter/Central Coast Region of the Department of Education presented the Central Coast Public Education Awards of Appreciation. School Education Directors and State and Local Government representatives were also present at the ceremony. Awardees came from various sectors of Public Education and included principals, teachers, SRE teachers, teachers' aids, students, parents, and other volunteers.

Anne Arnold and Terri Clulow, catechists from Copacabana Primary in Kincumber Parish and John and Mabs Monahan from East Gosford Primary in

Gosford Parish, were awarded for their enthusiasm, dedication and inspirational contribution to their respective school communities.



Mr Frank Potter, School Education Director, DET, with Mabs and John Monahan, Gosford Parish

The Northern Region Assembly Workshop

In July, the catechists of the Northern Region were invited to take part in a workshop designed to assist them in creating interactive assemblies for the school using music, drama, storytelling and other suitable resources. The major focus of such assemblies would be Easter and Christmas.

The question was asked 'What is an Assembly?' To answer this we explored the components and structure of an effective assembly, the resources that would be available and how they could be used creatively. As for the structure, the four elements of Gathering, Listening, Sharing/Responding and Going Forth were discussed and these formed the scaffolding upon which the rest of the assembly would be built.

The stages of faith and cognitive development of the children attending the school assemblies were considered and appropriate activities were

developed for these groups. The developmental groupings used were Early Stage 1 and Stage 1, Stages 2 and 3 and Stages 4 to 6.

After morning tea, the participants broke into their groups and began to work on the assembly topic of the group's choice. Some resources were provided, e.g. story books, posters, music, cloth etc. To conclude the day, each of the groups presented a précis of their assembly and questions were asked and comments made. The outcome of the day was that all were excited about how relatively easy preparing an assembly was when you have three or four people contributing their ideas and already Kath and I have received two reports from those who attended about the assemblies they have already prepared for this Christmas.

Michael Tebbutt CCD Coordinator: Northern Region



Regional Masses

Pauline Cornwell, 25 Year Service Award recipient, Mrs Ann Maree Whenman, Director – Parish Support Unit, and Fr Bill Stevens, Dean of the Central Coast Deanery, at the Central Coast Regional Mass at St Cecilia's, Wyong, in August.

FROM THE REGIONS

Monica Brown Workshop

The Central Coast and Northern Regions invited Monica Brown to facilitate a day of reflection and workshopping the use of music, drama and Sacred Scripture in Special Religious Education lessons. In her introduction to the day she emphasised that God is not a theological statement, an idea, a tradition, or a religious debate but is a person. Special Religious Education lessons should be a tangible experience of this person. As teachers we need to lead students into a situation which will enable them to deepen their relationship with God and allow a time and place for God to act.

How do we do this? We imitate Jesus. We do what Jesus did. Jesus met people **where** they were and **as** they were. Jesus was intimate with these people. We can do the same by the tilt of the head, tone of voice, etc, developing a **right relationship**. We become creative by stepping out of our comfort zone in teaching practise, by looking at the bigger picture and by empowering the children through story and action. We lead the children into prayer time when they can sit and talk with God and we need to challenge anyone and anything not of God.

The day was full of examples of these principles. We were given time and space to be with God in prayer and we were urged to step outside our comfort zones to experience what it might be like for the children in our classes if we teach using these principles.

Monica was ably assisted by her sacred clown friend, who gently led the catechists to places some of them had never dreamed of going to. The day with Monica was both a time of spiritual refreshment and full of teaching ideas.



'Mountains' Mass

To celebrate the Feast of Mary's Birthday, children from three of the four schools in the Mountains Region of the Gosford Parish gathered with Fr. Robert Masternak SDS for their annual Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Somersby recently. Catholic SRE students from Central Mangrove, Somersby and Kulnura primary schools travelled by bus to St. Francis' for the occasion.

Birthday cake was shared around following the Mass as the children enjoyed the beautiful grounds of the St. Francis of Assisi Centre. As students from Peats Ridge Primary were unable to attend this year due to another commitment, Fr Robert will join them at their school in the near future to celebrate a liturgy around the theme of St. Francis.



Congratulations to Mary Luci, Mountain Schools Delegate, and all the dedicated catechists who teach in the schools for having the children prepared for the Mass.

CURRICULUM NEWS

WALKING WITH JESUS

PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Role of the Catechism in the New SRE Program

In the praxis method of Religious Education there is significant emphasis on the recognition of the life experience of the learner. While this is appropriate and most desirable in the modern SRE classroom, this recognition should not be at the exclusion of any of the *Rs*.

Walking with Jesus Pathways of Discipleship is a program based on a model of Religious Education called Teaching for Discipleship. This model has six *Rs*, one of which is **Respect**. It is this element of the model which ensures that the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church is presented. References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* (1994) are listed as background for catechists in the *Teachers Manual*. An example of the Lesson Plan table –

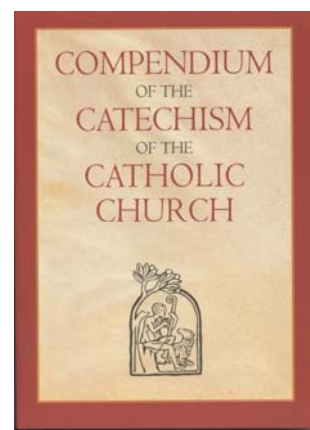
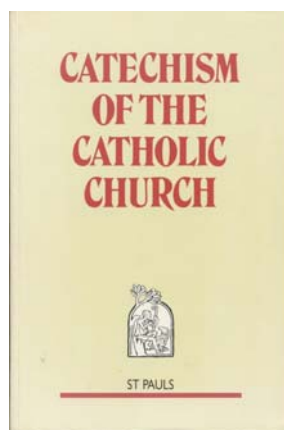
UNIT 1.3 LESSON No: 2 JESUS IS ALIVE	
DISCIPLESHIP RESPONSE(S)	
Students are challenged to	
▲	<i>Recognise the implications of Jesus' words and actions</i>
▲	<i>Show reverence and appreciation towards the Bible</i>
LESSON AIM:	<i>Relate the story of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and her response.</i>
RESOURCES:	Symbols or pictures of new life:
	▲ <i>a candle</i>
	▲ <i>a white or yellow cloth</i>
KEY CONCEPTS:	<i>Rising from the dead (Resurrection)</i>
REFERENCES:	
Scripture:	<i>John 20:10-18, Matthew 28:5-7</i>
Catechism:	<i>The appearances of the Risen One (CCC) (# 641)</i>

This reference in the Catechism relates the scripture accounts of the appearances of the Risen One. Reference #639 states:

The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified.

The catechism then refers to the scripture accounts.

Catechists can rely upon the certainty of teachings in the Catechism to assist them in forming their students in the Doctrine of the Catholic Church. The wording can sometimes be difficult to understand so there are often explanations in the background material in the *Teacher Manual*. This background is found at the beginning of each unit in the outline.



The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross (CCC 638)

Further support in understanding the teachings of the catechism can be gleaned from the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church which was released in 2005. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that this publication “with its brevity, clarity and comprehensiveness is directed to every human . . .”

As catechists become more familiar with the layout of the new SRE program in the Diocese of Broken Bay they are gradually making more and more use of the treasures that lie within its covers.

John Donnelly

Senior CCD Coordinator

Family Forums

Throughout Term 4 Family Forums will held in Davidson, Gosford and Pymble to canvas the opinions about the new SRE program *Walking with Jesus, Pathways of Discipleship*.

All families are welcome to any of these forums.

Dates, times and venues – to be advised

CURRICULUM NEWS

WALKING WITH JESUS

PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

R is for Respect

Shared Christian Praxis is designed to integrate our faith and our lives.

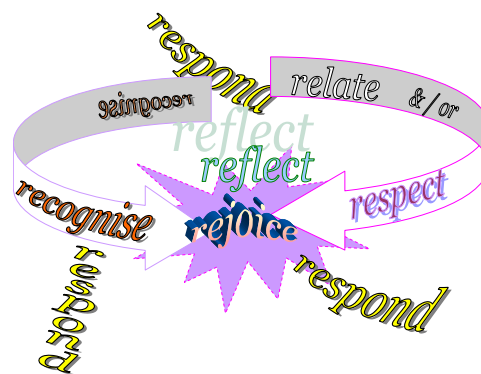
What do we mean when we say faith? Do we mean faith with a small ‘f’ referring to a personal set of beliefs and practices or do we mean Faith with a capital ‘F’ as in Faith of our Fathers. Most Catholics probably mean the latter thus referring to the dogma and doctrines of the Church.

In the *Teaching for Discipleship* model illustrated below it is the dogma and doctrine of the Catholic Church which is indicated by the word RESPECT.

- ▲ RECOGNISE students’ life experiences of the topic or issue
- ▲ RELATE the Christian Story (Sacred Scripture)
- ▲ **RESPECT** the Christian/Catholic Vision (Tradition & Teaching)
- ▲ REFLECT upon one’s life experience and/or Church’s Story & Vision
- ▲ RESPONDing as a disciple is the challenge to students
- ▲ REJOICE in a celebration worship often linked to other elements

Whenever we share with our students the teachings of the Church we are inviting them to *RESPECT* the great tradition of teachings that has been handed down to us. In a similar way as one might challenge another to at least consider the opinions of those who have gone before us.

In the new program *Walking with Jesus Pathways of Discipleship* authentic Catholic dogma and doctrine is presented to students of all ages in a manner that they can comprehend. It may not be the question and answer format of old but the Faith is still being authentically handed on.



JESUS AS REFUGEE – A Secondary Christmas Seminar

After seven years of Primary School SRE lessons students are ready to find new meaning in the story of Christmas. The following seminar is one example of what has worked for many catechists presenting seminars in state secondary schools.

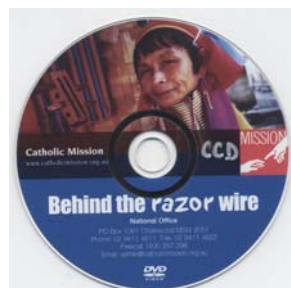
Atmosphere is a key ingredient of these ‘once a term’ presentations. Often it is the sacred space that student best remember. This Advent seminar calls for a Christmas tree adorned with lights on a carpet of mauve fabric.

This atmosphere is further enhanced by the song *Angels Brought Me Here* by Guy Sebastian which is playing as students arrive. Images of angels, stars and the manger contrasted with images of refugee camps and boat people can also assist participants to get a sense of the topic.

Before stories of the first Christmas are told, the scene is set of first century Palestine occupied by the mighty Roman army. Students present a dramatic reading of the *Birth of Jesus* (Matthew 1:18-25) and the *Visitors from the East* (Matthew 2:1-11)

One of the catechists then proclaims the story of the *Flight into Egypt* (Matthew 2:13-15) from a large bible in a formal manner, highlighting its significance. These readings are accompanied by a variety of images that portray the Gospel story.

Students are invited to reflect upon the notion of *Jesus as Refugee* as they view the Catholic Mission’s *Behind the Razor Wire*, a film about refugees in Thailand. This reflection is continued in small discussion groups led by catechists who present Catholic Social Teaching on “Respect for the Human Person”, “Equality and Differences among Men” and “Human Solidarity” (CCC 1928-1948)



Continued on Page 9 . . .

Advent: Year A First Sunday - 2nd December 2007
The Empty Manger

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In 1223 St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene to share the story of Jesus' birth with the many people of the time who couldn't read.

At the time of Jesus' birth the manger was simply an object available in which to lay the newborn child. The symbol of the empty manger has throughout history become greatly significant as a symbol of hope and of the promise of love and peace. Today it provides us with a strong symbol of humility and of our Advent waiting.

To facilitate your students' experience of Advent as a time of longing for Jesus and preparing for his coming, help them to make their own manger. Alternately, invite the children to participate each week to building up the Christmas story in your class sacred space.

As SRE teachers, we emphasise the *Empty Manger* at Advent because we are still waiting for Jesus to be born on Christmas day. We highlight to the children, that on Christmas day Jesus is again born into our hearts. The empty manger needs to be the focal point of our sacred space within the SRE lessons.

Here are a few suggestions to help celebrate the season of Advent in your classroom.

Paper Manger:

Materials:

Brown cardboard or construction paper; scissors; glue; pieces of straw or straw substitute, such as paper ribbon, thin strips of felt, dried grass, transparent tape etc.

Procedure:

1. From cardboard or construction paper, cut two rectangles and two triangles using the patterns provided. (*Templates available from Regional Offices*)
2. Into both rectangles, cut a slit as shown on the pattern.
3. Slide the two rectangles together, forming the main sides of the manger and the lower wedge that will serve as the manger's stand.
4. Fold the edges of the triangles as shown, creating flaps.
5. Form the head and the foot of the manger by gluing the flaps to the sides of the manger, at both ends.

(You may want to use transparent tape to reinforce the flaps)

Catechist Magazine November-December 2005 <http://www.peterli.com/archive/cat/1212.shtm>

Advent Promises:

Provide the children with small slips of paper on which to write their Advent Promise. Children put the promise into a match boxes (or other small box). Cover the box with attractive paper and tie with curling ribbon. These promises may be hung from a class tree.



Advent Garden:



As a focal point for your sacred space plant a garden! Using a small pot, add florist block, polystyrene, sand or soil fitted inside the pot. Invite the students to draw, colour and paste a flower onto the end of a paddle pop stick. On the stick the students write or draw prayers or advent symbols.

(Graphic – www.keasoftware.com)

Classroom Ritual:

After making a manger then add – a piece of straw / string / paper anything, to signify each good deed, helpful act, kind action and prayer given by them to others in their love of God.

Maria Whitton

CCD Regional Coordinator: Wyong

Advent 2007



Term 4
Week 1 Ordinary Time <i>St Teresa of Jesus</i> <i>St Luke</i>
Week 2 Ordinary Time
Week 3 Ordinary Time <i>All Saints Day</i>
Week 4 Ordinary Time
Week 5 Ordinary Time
Week 6 Ordinary Time
Week 7 <i>Christ the King</i>
Week 8 Year A Advent
Week 9 Advent



Advent Resources:

Drama:

- ▲ *Sacred Celebrations for Advent and Christmas Year B*; Rina Wintour; Mountjoy Enterprises, Brisbane 2003
 - The Story of the Annunciation**, Luke 1:26-38 (For younger children) - page 63
 - The Story of the Annunciation**, Luke 1:26-38 (For older children) - page 64
 - Jesus Meets Santa**; pages 65-67
 - A Christmas Interview with Matthew and Luke**; pages 68-70
 - Behind the Views**: What challenges and inspires you about an empty crib? - pages 71-77

Storybooks:

- ▲ *The Story of Mary*; Patricia A Pingry Ideals Children's Books.
- ▲ *The Christmas Story; The Usborne Book of Bible Stories plus CD*; Usborne Publications, England pages 103 – 118
- ▲ *The Biggest Bible Story Book; 100 favourite stories* pages 109 - 117

Music:

- ▲ *"God of Hope and Harmony"* Jim Cosgrove
- ▲ *"My Spirit Sings"* – *Songs of Mary* – Michael Mangan
- ▲ *"Sing Your Joy"* - *Compilation of 48 songs* – Michael Mangan

Continued from Page 7 . . . JESUS AS REFUGEE – A Secondary Christmas Seminar

Christmas tree lights are illuminated as students are invited to symbolise their response to the challenges presented by adorning the tree with gift tags and decorations. As each approaches the tree they are invited to pledge their commitment to the traditional greeting – *Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward Others*.

Traditional symbols of candles, lights and colour are used in conjunction with prayers to assist the students to pray about the issues raised, their concerns and the need for God in the world.

As the seminar concludes the contemporary Christmas music students are offered an inspirational bookmark and a booklet entitled *Gifts of the Heart: a different kind of Christmas catalogue*. Produced by *The Story Source* this booklet presents alternatives to the consumer-centred approach to Christmas.



At a time when Australia is building detention centres in places such as Christmas Island the irony of this seminar will not be lost on teenagers. If justice cannot be addressed as we wait for the coming of the Prince of Peace, when can it be? Young people are especially sensitive to such issues and are often ready to rethink the ideas around the traditions of the Christmas season.

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Mission and Ministry

Waiting in Joyful Hope

In this final article, under the heading of Mission and Ministry, we will focus on the waiting time of Advent, examine the place of prayer in the life of a Catechist, and explore some ideas about how awareness of the subtle movements of the Holy Spirit in daily life are important for our personal faith development, and therefore, for ministry.

To Think About

How does the mission of Jesus relate to the ministry of the Catechist when we are in a period of waiting?

Can we take the ordinary experiences of our daily life and through deliberate focus become conscious of the subtle movements of the Holy Spirit in each event?

What do you wait for in your personal life?

Most of our life is spent waiting. It is such an ordinary and regular event. We wait for a beloved to come home. We wait for the rains to come or the rains to stop. We wait for a train, a bus, for a big event like a wedding or the birth of a child; for examination results; for the next payday; for our turn in a long queue at the checkout; for the children to go to bed so that we can have our time of peace and quiet; for our favourite program on television to begin. Indeed we are always waiting for something or someone. Our heads are in the past or in the future. We are in a state of expectancy or of planning.

What do you do when you are waiting?

Some usual responses to waiting are: we sit and think, fidget, reflect, worry, question, become impatient, pace and get into a state of high anxiety, drum our fingers, complain to the person beside us, become concerned about issues of safety, plan to take action in the event of a problem, occupy the time mulling over past events, usually negative, or wildly or mildly, become involved in criticism of persons and situations. Our thoughts and actions become focused in the past or in the future, in expectations, usually to the detriment of peace of mind and composure of heart.

To Pray About

The Church has provided for us a special season of “waiting”. That is the Liturgical season of Advent. Here again we have the themes of expectancy and planning.

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. (CCC 524)

We live day by day, in a time between the first Coming and the Second Coming.

How do we link this Liturgical time with our lives, and the living Presence of God?

In the ordinary and regular everyday event of “waiting” we have an opportunity to enter more fully into the “Way of Christ” and to become present to the inner movement of the Holy Spirit. We can practice the Spirit’s Presence. We can become present to the present moment. We can become inwardly attentive and begin listening with our heart.

This is prayer.

A Catechist, by definition, has the mission to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ and to reveal the newness of life in Christ Jesus. Therefore a catechist needs to become actively involved in surrendering to “*a catechesis of the Holy Spirit, the interior master of life according to Christ, a gentle guest and friend who inspires guides, corrects and strengthens this life*”. (CCC 1697)

Mission and Ministry

A Catechist is a teacher of prayer (CCC 2663). We cannot teach anything we do not know or experience. Prayer therefore is a vital necessity. An essential pre-requisite for prayer is stillness of mind and composure of heart.

Prayer is the life of the new heart. It ought to animate us at every moment. (CCC 2697)

Christian tradition has retained three major expressions of prayer: vocal, meditative and contemplative. They have one basic trait in common: composure of heart. (CCC 2699)

To Explore

Here are some tips to help us link our “waiting” times to “composure of heart” and to prayer.

The Church, from the times of the Early Church Fathers and from the writings of the Saints throughout the ages, has given us many guides for awakening spiritual attentiveness.

Our human sensory awareness is a gateway for spiritual awareness.

We have Spiritual Senses.

The Word of God in the Scriptures is full of the language of the senses.

When standing in a queue waiting, become aware of your breath.

- ▲ Notice what you can see, be conscious of all you are looking at, taking in the colours, shapes, people and things around you. Think the words of Scripture:

*I will **look** to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation* (Micah 7:7)

- ▲ Notice the sounds you are hearing all around you. Be still and take in those sounds. Think the words of Scripture:

***Hear** my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry* (Ps: 39:12.)

or

*Open your ear and come to Me; **listen**, so that you might live* (Is: 55:3)

- ▲ Notice the feel of all that you touch. Bring to mind the persons and things you have touched that day. Think:

*If only I can **touch** Him I will be healed* (Matt. 9:21.)

- ▲ Notice the smells around you. Be still and let your brain register what you smell. Think:

*Christ loved us and gave himself up as a **fragrant offering** and sacrifice to God.* (Eph: 5:2)

or

*Let my prayer rise as **incense** before you* (Ps. 141:2)

- ▲ Notice the taste of your food as you eat. Think:

***Taste** and see the goodness of the Lord* (Ps. 34.8)

or

*How sweet are Thy Words to my **taste*** (Ps. 119:103)

Our “Waiting” time is in the hands of God:

It is possible to offer fervent prayer even while walking in public or strolling alone, or seated in your shop, while buying or selling, or even while cooking. (St John Chrysostom) (CCC 2743)

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2007 Basic Accreditation Courses (BAC)

	Central Coast	Manly Warringah	Northern
Date:	November 30 (Friday)	December 10 (Monday)	November 26 (Monday)
Location:	Terrigal	Forestville	Wahroonga
Time:	9:00am – 4:00pm	9:00am – 4:00pm	9:00am – 3:00pm
Register by:	Tuesday 20 November	Wednesday 5 December	Wednesday 21 November

Single BAC units may be attended to make up missed units. Talk to your Regional Office for details.

REGIONAL REFLECTION DAYS

Theme: Exploring Life through Luke's Gospel

Central Coast

Friday 16 November 2007, 9:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: North Entrance Surf Lifesaving Club

BYO lunch

Enquiries/bookings: CCD Wyong - 4334 3367



Manly Warringah Peninsula

Friday 9 November 2007, 9:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: St Anthony in the Fields Parish, Terrey Hills

BYO lunch

Enquiries/bookings: CCD Manly/Warringah Office - 9907 7744

Northern Region

Friday 2 November 2007, 9:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: St Ives Parish – 263 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives

BYO lunch

Enquiries/bookings: CCD Northern Region Office - 9847 0492



CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS

SECONDARY

Secondary school catechists are being invited to discuss the particular needs of their ministry. This consultation will inform the writing of Stages 4, 5 and 6 of the new program, *Pathways of Discipleship*.

Central Coast - Date and Venue: TBA

Enquiries/Registration: CCD Central Coast Region (Gosford) Office - 4323 7090

Northern Region - 17 October 2007 12:30pm - 2:30pm

OLOR Waitara Parish – 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara

Enquiries/Registration: CCD Northern Region Office - 9847 0492

PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

EARLY STAGE 1 AND STAGE 1

Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 catechists are invited to complete the introduction into the new program. These workshops will include a look at Term 1 lessons and a practical demonstration of how the *Teaching for Discipleship* model works in the classroom.

Central Coast - 21 November 2007 1pm - 3pm

Venue: Gosford Parish

Enquiries/Registration: CCD Central Coast Region (Gosford) Office - 4323 7090

Manly Warringah Peninsula - 28 November 2007 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Venue: CCD Office, Manly Vale

Enquiries/Registration: CCD Manly Warringah Region Office - 9907 7744

Northern Region - 14 November 2007 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Queen of Peace Parish, 18 Stuart Ave, Normanhurst

Enquiries/Registration: CCD Northern Region Office - 9847 0492



*Do you have something to share of your experience as a catechist?
One or two lines . . . a good lesson . . . a story . . . a great resource . . . a special event - parish or school?
Send it to: The Editor, Connections, CCD, PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715
e-mail: ccd@dbb.org.au Deadline: Monday 10 December 2007*