

Family & Parish Based Catechesis Office Archdiocese of Adelaide



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Mark

YEAR B : Mark

Volume10 Edition 2 :2015

From the Team

Dear Fellow Catechists,

Welcome to our second newsletter for this year. As you are all aware, this year is a big year for our Australian and New Zealand history with the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli.

We remember all who have served and sacrificed their youth and lives for many. We remember too their families and the aftermath of war.

During this Eastertide in particular, we remember the supreme sacrifice of Jesus' death and of his rising. Transformation and Resurrection are vital elements of our Christian faith.

In this newsletter, we offer some reflections and activities around the theme of SERVICE based on our Christian identity. We hope they can spark off some further ideas for you.

We would like to draw your attention to the day with Fr Timothy Radcliffe who is in Australia for a number of weeks across April. Please see the invitation below. The focus for the day is entitled 'Take the Plunge' and Leadership. The day will lead participants in conversation around how our baptismal call and baptism shape the Sacraments and consider implications for catechesis.

Our Office together with the Office for Worship will also hold a workshop outlined below for preparing children of catechetical age for all the Sacraments of Initiation.

We pray that this year is rich in blessings for you, Carmen Balales + Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc

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Diary Dates

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe
Tuesday 28th April
- Seeking an Australian Spirituality
Saturday 2nd May
- Jesus the Miracle Worker
Friday 22nd May
- Preparing Children of Catechetical Age
Thursday 28th May
- Directory of Masses with Children seminar
Wednesday 17th June

For Catechists and those interested in Children's Ministries

A day with FR TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP

Grange Golf Club, White Sands Drive, Grange,

9:00am– 3.00pm

rsvp ESSENTIAL by April 21 to

carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au or phone 8301 6110 or 8301 6195

PREPARING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE FOR BAPTISM

Thursday 28 May 9am—1pm

Room S1, 34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park

rsvp 21st May to jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au or 8301 6110 or 8301 6195

SERVICE and SACRIFICE

ANZAC DAY is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. ANZAC DAY is a day when we honour our history. A day when we honour our fallen and those serving now. It is the one day of the year when we as Australians truly unite, when we come together as a nation of equals, no matter who we are, how old we are or where we've come from. It unites us across generations, across heritage, across culture, religion and politics. For Australia's story about World War I and the story about the Australians who fought so bravely, is a story of sacrifice, but also a story of the tragedy of war. It is a universal and unifying story about courage.

On 25th April 2015 we mark the **100th anniversary** of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. The ANZAC centenary commemorates Australia's involvement in World War 1 and remembers anyone who has served in a war or conflict as well as those men and women still serving in the Defence Forces today.



Jesus is our example of service

True leadership is servanthood, and the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ. Servanthood is an attitude personified by Christ "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" (*Philippians 2:6-7*). The New Testament translated the word "ministry" generally as referring to servanthood or service given in love. Serving others is the very core of ministry. All believers are called to ministry (*Matthew 28:18-20*), and so, we are all called to be servants for the glory of God. Living is giving; all else is self-seeking.

The Bible has much to say about servanthood because its central theme is the Servant of all—**Jesus Christ**. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (*Mark 10:45*). When we give Jesus Christ his rightful place as Lord of our lives, his lordship will be expressed in the way we serve others (*Mark 9:35*; *1 Peter 4:10*; *John 15:12-13*). Our love for God is demonstrated in the very way we express our love as seen through our words and through our actions with others. "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (*2 Corinthians 4:5*).

Calling yourself a Christian brings with it the duty and the privilege of a lifetime of service that allows us to practice doing what Jesus would do. It connects us to those we serve and gives us a kind of satisfaction that self-interest can never offer.

Jesus Christ said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (*John 15:13*). This does not mean we have to die to show our love for our friends. We lay down our lives every time we put someone else's needs before our own. (The "friends" mentioned in the scripture can be understood to be everyone we meet, since Jesus also commanded us to "love one another.")

We lay down our lives through service. Parishioners have many opportunities to serve by doing small acts of kindness for our neighbours, take part in community service, fulfill responsibilities within our local church community or contribute to the Church's large-scale humanitarian efforts. These actions, whether great or small, allow us to feel the happiness of connecting with our brothers and sisters and remind us that God often allows us to be the answer to someone else's prayers.

SERVING OTHERS

The following stories illustrate the true meaning of serving others...

THE GOOD SAMARITAN Luke 10:25-37

Through this story, Jesus tells us to follow the Samaritan's example in our own conduct; i.e., we should show compassion and love for those we encounter in our everyday activities. We should love others (vs. 27) regardless of their race or religion; the criterion is **need**. If they need and we have the supply, then we should give generously and freely, without expectation of anything in return. This is an impossible obligation for the lawyer, and difficult for us. We cannot always keep the law because of our human condition; our heart and desires are mostly of self. When left to our own, we fail to meet the law thus, the lessons of the Parable of the Good Samaritan are three-fold: (1) we are to set aside our prejudice and show love and compassion for others. (2) Our neighbour is anyone we encounter; we are all creatures of the creator and we are to love all of humankind as Jesus has taught. (3) Keeping the law in its entirety is an impossible task; we need Jesus.

FEEDING THE 5000 Mark 6:30-44

God will use the ordinary things to create extraordinary things. We must never believe that our resources are too little to serve God. God delights in taking a humble person and uses them for God's glory. Philip's mind immediately ran to the cost of the project and quickly calculated how many hours of work it would take to feed all those people; he saw the task as impossible because he approached it as if everything depended on his own work. The unique approach Jesus took was different as he bypassed all human effort and did the impossible.

It is notable that Jesus fed the people through the agency of his disciples. He could have simply clicked his fingers and caused everyone present to have a meal, but instead, he "gave...to his disciples to distribute to the people" (Mark 6:41). In this way, the disciples had to trust the Lord for everything they distributed. They could only give as they received. Philip, Andrew, and the rest were put in a position of total dependence upon the Lord for the supply.

Roll up your garage door.... Imagine ...

10,000 households across Australia connecting with neighbours in streets, parks and communities through the simple act of hosting a barbie or street party. Let's flood our communities with the presence of Christians connecting with their neighbours. **So roll up your garage doors.** Spill out onto your driveway. Invite households in the street to enjoy spending time together. Host a BBQ in your street or park. Support: **National Families Week** Visit their website for more ideas, helpful resources and to register your event: familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek
Australiatalksfamily supports this event as one means to encourage safe ways for our 'villages' to help protect and raise our children... see more at our website: australiatalksfamily.org.au

DIOCESAN CATECHISTS MASS



The annual commissioning mass was held in March whereby catechists from our Adelaide Archdiocese gathered to formally be commissioned in their great ministry for this coming year. The catechists present stood proud on behalf of all the many catechists who do wonderful work in the many various forms of children's ministries. We also celebrated a 25 years of service award in the form of a very special Papal Blessing presented to Margaret McCulloch by the Vicar General, Father Phillip Marshal. During the Mass, we were blessed to listen to a stunning homily which focused on the importance of catechists and the message that the essential in all that we do is tenderness. We continued the celebration after Mass with a happy gathering and a slice of delicious cake! Many thanks to those who attended, it was joy filled!

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connecting Families with Parish

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could use to assist families to connect with the Parish in the light of SERVICE.

Through the School and Parish newsletter, invite parents and their children to a morning tea/lunch/supper



- after a class Mass
- after a Sacrament ritual such as a Commissioning Mass
- for Sacrament preparation session/s
- week/s after receiving the Sacraments
- at the usual parish morning tea or functions

Use the regular Parish morning tea or twice a year luncheon/barbeque for



- Welcoming new people to the parish
- For those who have had children baptized in the Parish (send invites)

Talk again with the Parish about the importance of building community and service within the community.

Create a sheet with the ideas above so that people can volunteer their services at least once or twice that year on a roster basis.



From thanksgiving program, recreate a pamphlet with current service and outreach groups for families to be involved in.

Include a section for

- needs within the community which are not being met
- naming of services which needs volunteers
- ways that the family or individuals would like to be involved in (listed or new ways)
- reassurance of opportunity to speak individually to someone specifically re any pastoral or family need
- liase with the school community to be involved with the above process.

- As a Parish, create a list of people who are house bound
- With their permission, ask families to keep in touch with this person on special or other occasions (such as Easter, Christmas, etc) by way of a card, or craft the children in the family have created for their special person.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connecting Families with each other

On this page, we offer some ideas which Parishes could create on a page for families to encourage **SERVICE in the home**. In this way, we can assist families to nurture their children's faith through the sharing of activities during the school holidays.

- Brainstorm with your children what 'SERVICE', means (eg the action of helping or doing work for someone)
- Describe where they have seen service being done in their school, shopping centre, Church or anywhere else they have been
- Help them to think about any stories where Jesus describes service (eg story of the Good Samaritan)
- Brainstorm with your children about ways to 'give back' to others, be it in the home, local or Church community. It can sometimes take creativity, but talents are meant to be shared. Where there is a gift or strength, there is also an opportunity for giving
- Discuss ways the family can be involved in service in the local or Church community as a one off or as a regular event
- Look at these images:
Describe what the images say to you. Do they inspire you in any way or ask



something of you.

Draw your own images to describe service and building community and friendship.

Family Prayer

- Set some time aside to pray as a family
- You will need:
A central focus with a cloth,
a saucer of olive oil

We gather as a family to pray for strength to be Christian servers in our family, neighbourhood, school and Church. Oil was used to anoint kings who were servers of the people.

Let us anoint each other with the sign of the cross on the forehead +

We now pray for those in need of being served by others:

For the sick and frail

All: that they may be strengthened in Christ

For those who carry pain and hurt

All: that they may be strengthened in Christ

For those who need to make important decisions

All: that they may be strengthened in Christ

For those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation

All: that they may be strengthened in Christ

We close our eyes and pray:

God of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One,
Heal us, strengthen us and help us to serve you wherever we are. Bless us all that we may reach out to all in need like Jesus did. Amen.

CATECHIST PRAYER PAGE

Interactive Prayer Stations on the Good Samaritan

Take each of the prayer stations below and reflect on the story of the Good Samaritan as a story of love, service and care as Jesus lived

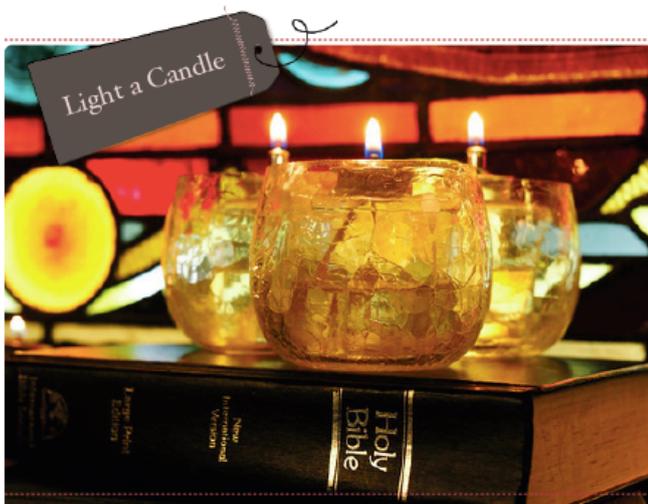
(www.theresaecho.com/.../interactive-prayer-stations-on-good-samaritan-love/)



PRAYER STATION 1:

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. (Luke 10.33-34)

PRAYER STATION 2:



"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY ON TOP OF A HILL CAN'T BE HIDDEN. NEITHER DO PEOPLE LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BASKET. INSTEAD, THEY PUT IT ON TOP OF A LAMPSTAND, AND IT SHINES ON ALL WHO ARE IN THE HOUSE. IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE PEOPLE, SO THEY CAN SEE THE GOOD THINGS YOU DO AND PRAISE YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN." (MATTHEW 5.14-16)

TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THOSE WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE, TO SHINE A LIGHT, AND TO SHARE POWER.

LIGHT A CANDLE AS A SYMBOL OF YOUR PRAYER.

PRAYER STATION 3:

**Thy Homeless Neighbor
Thy Muslim Neighbor
Thy Black Neighbor
Thy Gay Neighbor
Thy White Neighbor
Thy Jewish Neighbor
Thy Christian Neighbor
Thy Atheist Neighbor
Thy Racist Neighbor
Thy Addicted Neighbor**

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Mark 12.31 says the 2nd commandment is "you will love your neighbor as yourself." How do we measure love? By the many people we show love.

Take a moment to think of a "neighbor" God is calling you to pray for. Add them to the prayer wall. You can write their name, an adjective, or say it quietly to yourself.

RESOURCES

The following resources are available for borrowing from the Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS). CRIS is located at 112 Kintore St Thebarton ph 8301 6869. Other details and catalogue can be found on www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-faith/catholic-resource-and-information-service. Borrowing is free to all.



VeggieTales DVD

Are You My Neighbour? A Lesson In Loving Your Neighbour
(contains a story based on the Good Samaritan)



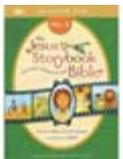
Jesus and the Miracle

By Sophie Piper



Prayers and activities on Service

By Patricia Mathson



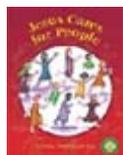
The Jesus Storybook Bible DVD series

By Sally Lloyd-Jones
(contains the first eleven stories from the New Testament)



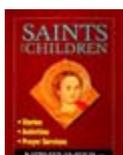
Saints and Heroes for Kids

By Ethel Pochocki



Jesus cares for people (Big Book)

By Catherine Blythe
Series: To know, worship and love



Saints for Children : stories, activities, prayer services

By Mary Kathleen Glavich



God Said Amen

By Sandy Sasso



Your Parish Story

LEADING CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD TRAINING WORKSHOP

I have been a leader of children's liturgy for 3 years now. I always thought I did a "good" job in delivering the Gospel to the children. Then I attended a training session delivered by Carmen and realised how "poor" my efforts had been.

Carmen presented a thorough and meaningful session in a very relaxed setting. The session gave me the tools and confidence to deliver a **FAR** better prepared and **MORE** meaningful session with the children. We were provided with all the resources, notes and hands on training in order to give you exactly what you needed to succeed.

Carmen emphasised that you don't need to be "teacher" to be able to have the skills to deliver a session. You just need to have the willingness and desire to spread the Word of the Lord to the next generation.

Its true what they say "Training is extremely important before you can provide sessions of any topic"

JOHN ARMANI: Plympton Parish

"I registered for the Children's Liturgy of the Word workshop from both a teacher and parish perspective. I have a passion for teaching Religion and making it meaningful for children.

The workshop opened my eyes to a range of different ways the Gospels can be explored, using different mediums and in such a short amount of time. The knowledge and understanding I have come away with has not only enabled me to become a Children's Liturgy of the Word leader in my local parish, but it has also strengthened my teaching practice in the classroom.

Carmen is clearly passionate about her work and delivers the workshop in an engaging way. She is a wealth of knowledge and I am glad I attended the workshop!"

BIANCA DIPILATO, Acting REC St Teresa's School, Brighton

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADER TRAINING SESSION

Our office offers a 2 hour training session that is required before anyone can lead a session in their parish. The session is divided into two distinct parts. The first part offers a basic theology by way of background as to why we offer children's Liturgy of the Word and then the group is taken through a practical session where they participate as the children would. The second part unpacks the method of using 'Godly Play' as another way of breaking open the Word of God for children. All who attend get the chance to learn by doing, have fun in the process and receive a certificate of completion. **Please contact Carmen Balales for more details. ..Carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au or 83016110**

Children's Ministry Update

Family & Parish Based Catechesis

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Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis

Detailed Diary Dates 2015

- **Fr TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP :**
'Take the Plunge: Living Baptism and Confirmation'
WHEN: Tuesday 28th April
9:00am– 3:00pm
VENUE: Grange Golf Club
White Sands Drive, Grange
- **SEEKING AN AUSTRALIAN SPIRITUALITY**
WHEN: Saturday 2nd May
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **JESUS THE MIRACLE WORKER**
WHEN: Friday 22nd May
VENUE: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **PREPARING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE FOR BAPTISM**
WHEN: Thursday 28th May
9:00am– 1:00pm
VENUE: ACD S1,
34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park
- **SEMINAR: Directory of Masses with Children**
WHEN: Wednesday 17th June
9:00am– 12:30pm
VENUE: Glenelg Golf Club
James Melrose Rd, Novar Gardens