



# Children's Ministry Update

YEAR B: Mark  
Volume 12 Edition 4: 2017

## From the Team

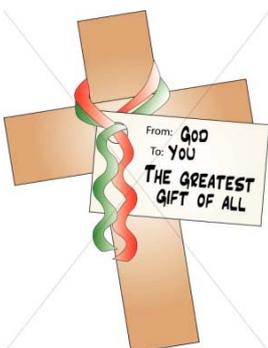
### Dear Fellow Catechists

Greetings and blessings to each of you during this Season of Advent; and welcome to the last edition of 'Children's Ministry Update' for this year!! Both Jenny and I hope that you have had a rewarding year and are able to take some time out for rest and special times with your loved ones.

We are all part of the **New Evangelisation and Parish Renewal!** We are part of this evangelisation as parents, grandparents and catechists; so, we say an enormous thank you for the wonderful work that you do. To those of you who are moving on from your role in children's ministry, thank you for your service and we wish you every blessing for what lies ahead.

In this edition we have highlighted certain events planned for early 2018 to help support your ministry, please come along. In particular, the annual *Diocesan Catechetical + Commissioning Mass* on Sunday 4th March @ 6pm, to which each of you is warmly invited to attend. Please put this particular event in your diary as it is our chance to formally acknowledge you and commission your ministry as part of the whole archdiocese. Also next year, we will continue to visit parishes to review the Sacrament process for the Initiation of Children within each Parish and discuss the needs of the Parish in this area. It is our hope that assistance can be given to help parishes to continue with the implementation of the 'Framework'.

Please access this Office for training in *Liturgy of the Word with Children* which all catechists in this area are asked to complete this training. As well as for weekend Masses, this process is also included in the 'Framework' as part of the Sacrament process. Family Catechesis is also a part of the 'Framework' so please keep a look out for invitations to seek assistance in this area as well.



*We extend our deepest gratitude for the wonderful gifts each of you bring to your ministry and ask that God continues to bless you and enthuse you in your service. Enjoy your break, take time out for yourself. We look forward to working together with you next year.*

*May your Christmas be merry and bright with the light of God's love, abundant blessings, Carmen and Sr Jenny.*

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**THE BEST WAY  
TO SPREAD  
CHRISTMAS  
CHEER  
SINGING LOUD  
FOR ALL TO  
HEAR**

## OUR PLANS FOR 2018

**Parish Visits:** Throughout this year, this office has made it a priority to visit each parish to meet with the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associates, Sacrament Coordinators and key people involved in the preparation and delivery of sacraments of initiation process. This was to collect data for the Archbishop's review in this area and to meet you face to face to thank you for your fabulous contribution. We also took the opportunity to discuss how we could best support the catechists in their ministry by providing formation for catechists, parent leaders, assistance in promoting a team approach involving partnerships between Parish and Catholic School, facilitating various workshops to help engage families and their children with the parish and also providing pastoral support to catechists.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet over a cuppa and it has enabled us to get out of the office and into the parishes!! This year we visited 43 parishes and still have 13 to visit next year and so you will be contacted in February either by Carmen or Jenny to make a date so that a conversation can take place. We envisage visiting on either a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. We look forward to meeting with you in 2018.

**Catechist Formation Series** This year this office offered a series of formation workshops for all catechists to help build and extend the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for their catechetical work and to support their personal faith journey. ***In order for Catechists to assume the responsibility of handing on the faith they require appropriate training and formation "Catechesis is the responsibility of the entire Christian community." (General Directory for Catechesis, #220)*** The ***Directory for Catechesis*** calls for the initial and ongoing formation of catechists. It states, ***"Programs of formation should be designed to help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to hand on the faith to those entrusted to their care and assist them in living as disciples in Christ." (p.235)*** Catechists play a pivotal role in ensuring that effective catechesis occurs. Our series of formation workshops was designed for the particular needs of those attending and covered various areas including Sacraments of Initiation, Family Catechesis, Methods and Strategies for working with children, Developmental Stages of Children's Spiritual Growth, the Pastoral Framework and activities to support each of the Models. We were pleased that the following parishes took up this training: Seaton, Morphett Vale and Dernancourt.

The Formation Series is designed to support your needs and are practical and useful sessions. Each attendant receives a certificate of participation to go towards building a portfolio of training that is necessary for a catechist in children's ministries. Please contact us if you are interested in accessing this training in 2018, we would be very happy to work to the needs of your particular group.

**OFFICE CLOSURE:** The Family and Parish Based Catechesis office will be closed from Tuesday 12th December 2017 and reopen on Monday 22nd January 2018. In 2018, We will be available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Our office will be closed on Thursdays. We thank you for utilising our services and we look forward to working with you again next year!

On behalf of the Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS), we wish you a most wonderful and blessed Christmas this year. We look forward to seeing you next year,

Sarah Pietch

Please note the CRIS will be closed from the 22nd Dec 2017 and reopen on the 22nd January 2018.



## COME AND SEE in 2018

### INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN BLESSING OF THE CRIBS MASS 2017

In the Cathedral this year the annual Blessing of the Cribs Mass will highlight families with newly baptised infants. We are invited to bring our cribs (home made by the children or commercially made) to be blessed. This Mass signifies the beginning of the Advent season as a wonderful celebration. A focus will be the Jesse Tree with hand made symbols presented by the students of SAC. Each family present will be given a small bundle of hay to place in their family crib at home. There is much joy to share as we begin the time of waiting for the birth of Jesus. This Mass will take place at The Cathedral on Sunday 3rd December @ 6pm. You are all very welcome. Please take this opportunity to have your own blessing of the cribs celebration in your local parish!



### CATECHIST SUNDAY

WHEN: Sunday 4th February 2018  
WHERE: Your local parish

This a time to formally acknowledge and commission all catechists who volunteer their time in various children's ministries within your parish.

*2018 Morning Tea WELCOME  
and an opportunity to look at & borrow resources*

*For all Catechists involved in Children's Ministries*

WHEN: Monday 12th February 9.30-11am  
WHERE: Catholic Resource and Information Service (CRIS),  
112 Kintore St, Thebarton  
RSVP: 6th February: [carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADER TRAINING (essential for those who have not been trained since 2013)

WHEN: Saturday 24th February 9:30am– 12:00pm  
WHERE: Catholic Education Conference Centre,  
116 George Street, Thebarton  
RSVP: 15th February: [carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

### DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL + COMMISSIONING MASS

WHEN: Sunday 4th March at 6pm Mass followed by supper  
WHERE: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wakefield St, Adelaide

The Annual Diocesan Catechetical Mass, is a time to formally acknowledge and commission all catechists who volunteer their time in various children's ministries within our parishes.

Bring your families to share in the Mass and the supper in the Cathedral hall.

## Making Connections: Within the Family ...

*...because every family matters*

### Blessing of the Cribs

**Families** are invited to take part in the Parishes or Cathedral's **Annual Blessing of the Cribs**.

**Alternatively**, families are invited to create their own or buy a Christmas crib and **have a family blessing prayer of the crib** during the first Sunday of Advent which, this year, is on 3rd December.

**To consider:** Where will your family crib be placed this year?

Is it a decoration in the house or a focus of celebration?

**Parent:** We pray together (sign of the cross)

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen.



**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke:** (or read the story of Christmas from a picture book)

At that time the shepherds were saying to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard marvelled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these words pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them.

**Invite members of the family to share what part of the story spoke to them.**

**Let us pray together:**

O God, out of your love for us you sent Jesus your Son to become man.

He was born in a stable to give us an example of living a simple and humble life.

We pray you now to bless this crib, a representation of the scene of his birth.

May the crib draw us closer to Jesus so that we can spread his word of love through living like him.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, friend and brother.

**All:** Amen.

**Sing together:** Away in a Manger

JESUS is  
the Reason  
for the  
Season.

# Making Connections: Within the Family...

...because every family matters



**Advent Weeks 1 to 4** starts on the fourth Sunday before Advent—the time of preparation before Christmas.

This free printable Advent Calendar can be found through pintrest and on the following link.

<http://redbird-blue.blogspot.com/2013/11/free-printable-christmas-story-advent.html>

The idea is to open or pin up the reading or activity for each of the days of Advent.



This free downloadable Advent Lego Christmas Calendar found on pintrest [littlebitsforlittlehands.com](http://littlebitsforlittlehands.com)

Ideas to make from lego:

- Candy Cane**
- Christmas Tree**
- Star**
- Cow**
- Sheep**
- Jesus in the manger**

- Mary and Joseph**
- Present {large and minis!}**
- Reindeer**
- Reindeer with sled**
- Snowflake** (Jesus was born in winter)



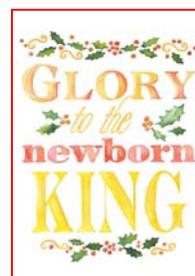
Give some special thought this year towards the ornaments on your tree.

These **stars** can be made by forming some wire into the shape of a star and adding the beads, bell and ribbon.

The **Christmas star** is a wonderful symbol of the light Jesus Christ has brought into the world by being born. **'I am the Light of the World'** says Jesus.

## Christian images and words for card making

**'I BRING YOU NEWS OF GREAT JOY!'**



**CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR IS BORN!'**



# CATECHIST PERSONAL PRAYER

During the weeks of Advent,  
Take some time to reflect and pray with the readings.

Place yourself in the scene, allow one of the characters to speak to you.  
Respond from the heart.

Ask God to transform you in a way in which you know you need or however God speaks to you through the character.

In conclusion, praise and thank God for the blessings you receive.

## ADVENT WEEK 1

Readings: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1, 3-8  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mark 13:33-37

## ADVENT WEEK 2

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
2 Peter 3:18-14  
Mark 8:5-11

## ADVENT WEEK 3

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19, 28

## ADVENT WEEK 4

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-28



Loving God,  
We give you thanks for the blessings of this Advent season.  
You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things.  
We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas.  
Help us to turn toward that light in our lives.  
We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name.  
May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives.  
May your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever.  
Amen.

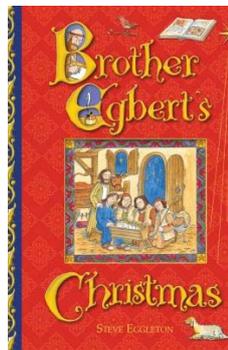
# RESOURCES



**Extra Special Baby:**  
The Story of the Christmas Promise

Let Antonia Woodward's beautiful retelling of the Nativity story take you back to the excitement of that very first Christmas night.

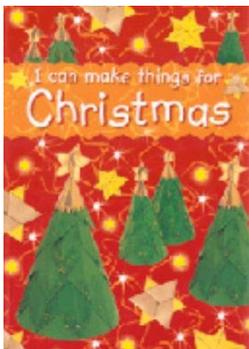
Call No: 232.921 WOO  
Available at CRIS



**Brother Egbert's Christmas**  
by Steve Eggleton

Br. Egbert is a monk at the abbey and on Sunday afternoons he invites the children to come and read the Bible stories he has written for them. That is how Jake learns to read the story of Jesus' birth.

Call No: 232.921 EGG  
Available at CRIS



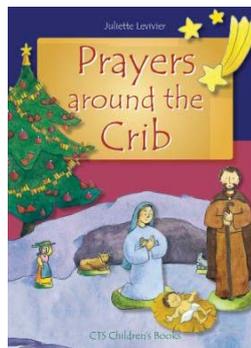
**I can make things for Christmas.**

**I can make Starry things for Christmas.**

by Jocelyn Miller

2 Craft books

Available from CRIS  
Call No: 745.5 MIL

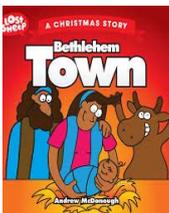


**Prayer around the CRIB**

by Juliette Levivier

A joyful book for young children preparing for Christmas, & explains the meaning of the advent calendar & Wreath, the Christmas tree and the familiar figures of the Crib.

Available from CRIS  
Call No.: 232.921 LEV



**LOST SHEEP: Collection of 4 Christmas Stories by Andrew McDonough**

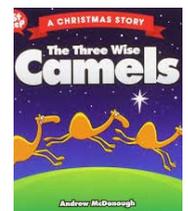
Bethlehem Town:

Tonight in the Palace:

Available from CRIS Call No. 232.921 MCD

The Three Wise Camels:

Jed & Roy McCoy:

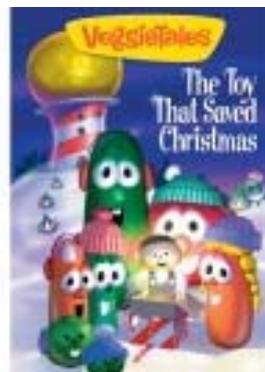


**The Animated stories from the New Testament: The King is Born**

DVD 30 mins.

Journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, and witness the humble birth of our Saviour in a manger together with the shepherds.

Available from CRIS  
Call No: 232.921 ANI



**The Toy that saved Christmas**

DVD: Veggie Tales

This film reminds children of all ages that "Christmas is not about getting; it is about giving."

Available from CRIS  
Call No.: 232.921 TOY

Available from: Catholic Resource & Information Service (CRIS) (free borrowing)

112 Kintore Street Thebarton SA 5031  
T:83016869 E: cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au

New Opening times:

Monday- Wednesday: 9am- 5pm  
Thursday: 9am- 12:00 noon  
Friday: closed



# Your Parish Story

**Christmas Pageant:** I was lucky enough to participate in this year's Christmas pageant as an angel on the Nativity Scene float. It was definitely a bucket list item for me!! The smiles of the thousands of people who lined the streets was overwhelming and the voices of many children who knew that baby Jesus was being held by Mary and Joseph filled me with even more joy. It was an unbelievable experience to be part of the most significant float in the whole pageant. Adults applauded us as we passed by, there were even tears of joy! I got to know what it feels like when children participate in their own parish Christmas play and just how memorable that is for them.



*God's Blessings  
Be Yours  
This Christmas!  
Have a Joy Filled Christmas!  
Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

To all of our delightful Catechists who work in this vital ministry with our loved children and their families:  
We thank you for your generosity throughout the year.  
May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!  
We look forward to working together again in 2018.  
With every blessing,

## Children's Ministry Update

### Family & Parish Based Catechesis Office

Catholic Education Office  
112 Kintore Street Thebarton

PO Box 179  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Carmen Balales Ph: 08 8301 6110  
carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc Ph: 08 8301 6195  
jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis)

### Detailed Diary Dates 2018

- **CATECHIST SUNDAY**  
WHEN: Sunday 4th February  
VENUE: your local parish
- **CATECHISTS MORNING TEA WELCOME TO 2018**  
WHEN: Monday 12th February  
9:30am– 11:00am  
VENUE: Catholic Resource & Information Service (CRIS)  
112 Kintore St, Thebarton
- **LEADING CHILDREN'S LITURGY of the WORD TRAINING**  
WHEN: Saturday 24th February  
9:30am– 12:00pm  
VENUE: Catholic Education Centre  
116 George St, Thebarton
- **DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL/ COMMISSIONING MASS**  
WHEN: Sunday 4th March 6pm  
VENUE: St Francis Xavier Cathedral,  
Wakefield St, City  
This event will be followed with supper