



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Mark

YEAR B : Mark

Volume13 Edition1: 2018

From the Team

Dear Catechists

Welcome to this year of 2018 - the *Year of Youth* in our Church - where the theme is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*. This theme is pertinent to all of us and our ministry as catechists as we open new horizons of spreading joy in the lives of our children and families as we open the good news of the Gospel to them in a new way. We are also all called to deepen our faith and to discern the way in which we live our vocation as catechists and help our children and families to discern the ways in which they live their faith life effectively in their own circumstances.

In March this year, we celebrated the 25 years of service in catechetical ministry within our Archdiocese of John Micallef. You can read about this wonderful event on page 8. If you or anyone within your Parish has served in catechetical ministry for 25 years or more could you please email Carmen or Sr Jenny as per the back of the newsletter with names, parish, number of years of service. Please keep this in mind throughout the year as we need the final details by September at the latest. Then a Papal blessing will be ready for these catechists for the Archdiocesan Catechist Mass in March next year when they will be presented by the Archbishop at the Cathedral.

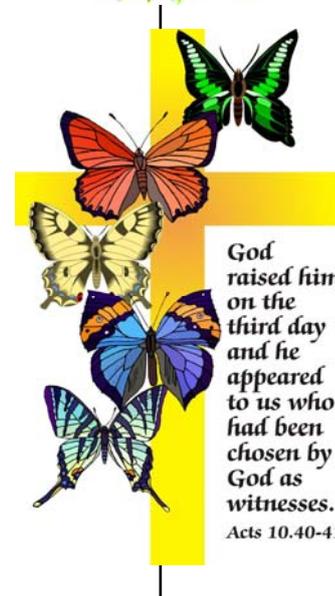
We are at the final stages now of the Archdiocesan Sacrament Review with only a few parishes to go. Thank you to all of you who have taken part as you have provided us with invaluable information. We have thoroughly enjoyed the face-to-face contact with you and thank you for all that you bring to this ministry.

We do hope that you have a very fruitful year and that the mystery of Easter will be alive for you in your lives in a new way this year.

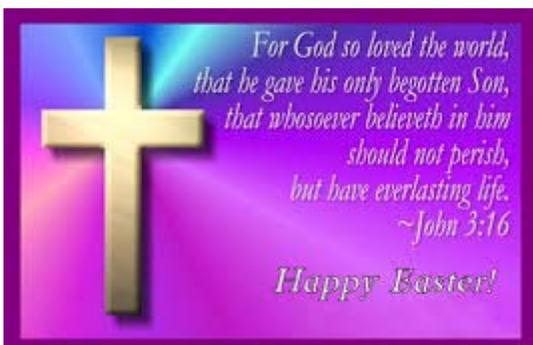
Sr Jenny Seal and Carmen Balaes

Inside this edition

Easter season	2
Our Team	2
Year of Youth	3
	3
Making Connections	4
Families + Parish	5
Catechist prayer page	6
Resources	7
Our Parish story	8
Detailed Diary Dates	8



God raised him on the third day and he appeared to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses.
Acts 10.40-41



EASTER SEASON

Easter is not just a single day of celebration—it's an entire season where we celebrate our new life in Christ. Easter is celebrated for an extended period of time—50 days to be exact!

Easter as an annual celebration of the Resurrection that lies at the centre of a liturgical year that has been observed at least since the fourth century. Prior to the fourth century, Christians observed **Pascha**, Christian Passover, in the Spring of the year. Adapted from Jewish Passover, Pascha was a festival of redemption and honoured both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as the way for God's grace. By the fourth century, with an increasing emphasis on Holy Week and Good Friday, Easter moved into a uniquely Christian celebration of the Resurrection, with Good Friday observing Jesus' crucifixion and death.

Easter is a **movable feast**. That is, the date of Easter is not fixed but is verified by a system based on the lunar calendar. The date for Easter was adapted from a formula decided by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 hence, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox.

Easter itself is a period of time rather than just a day. It is actually a seven-week season of the church year called **Easter tide**, the **Great Fifty Days** that begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday (the Easter Vigil) and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost . These seven Sundays are called the **Sundays of Easter**, climaxing on the seventh Sunday, the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday. This is celebrated as **Ascension Day**.

These special days and seasons are a means to shape sacred time, a structure in which to define what it means to be Christian and to call God's people to reverent and faithful response to God. Easter involves a time of preparation in Lent as well as a period of reflection on its significance for the life of God's people.

In anticipation of this emphasis at Pentecost, the Scripture readings during the Sundays of Easter are different, with readings from the Acts of the Apostles replacing readings from the Old Testament. This emphasises that the church, as empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, is the best witness to the resurrection and the work of God in the world in Jesus the Christ.

The image shows the phrase "Christ is Risen!" written in a golden, cursive, handwritten style. The text is arranged in three lines: "Christ" on the top line, "is" in the middle, and "Risen!" on the bottom line. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent exclamation mark at the end.

WELCOME TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: OUR TEAM

The Family and Parish Based Catechesis Office is a ministry of the Archdiocese and is located within the structure of Catholic Education, South Australia. The team consists of Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc and Carmen Balales who both work part time. The Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, alternate Wednesdays and Fridays. However, the team can be contacted via email anytime, details are on page 8.

This office supports those engaged in the religious education and catechesis of catholic children and their families within the parishes and catholic schools in the Adelaide Archdiocese, whilst promoting the partnerships between family, parish and catholic school. We provide resources, consultation, workshops and ongoing formation that support parish and school communities in the main areas of family catechesis, sacraments of Initiation preparation and Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Please know that the team are here to support you in the best way forward for yourself, your ministry with the children and your parish community.

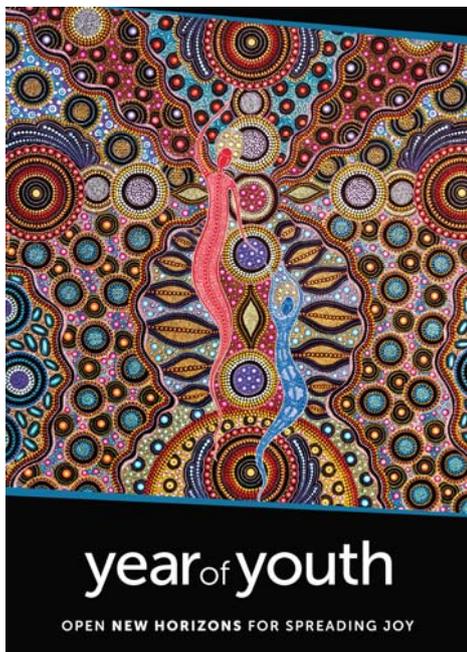
YEAR OF YOUTH



The Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults (COYYA) has been a part of the Archdiocese for over three decades, and a part of the Catholic Education Office for almost ten years. In its current form, there are three of us who serve in COYYA, Peter Bierer as Coordinator, Holly Roberts as Diocesan Youth Ministry Support Officer, and James Meston as Communications Officer. COYYA's role in the diocese is to support the efforts of parishes, schools and communities in ministry with young people. We offer a wide range of resources, training, and events to support youth and young adult ministry with young people in adolescence to young adulthood.

The 2018 liturgical year (3 December – 25 November) has been established by the Australian Catholic Bishops as the Year of Youth. Much like the Year of Grace in 2015, the Year of Youth is a time for the whole Church to pause and reflect on the gift of young people in the Church and society, listen to their concerns and situations, and discern *with them* the way forward for the Church into the future.

In the Archdiocese of Adelaide, parishes, schools and communities are asked to observe this special year by engaging in listening and dialogue with young people, particularly regarding their concerns and challenges, hopes and dreams and ideas for the future. COYYA has developed a number of resources specifically for the Year of Youth and these can be accessed on our website at www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au. For more information on the Year of Youth and other COYYA offerings, visit the website, sign up for our monthly newsletter, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@cathoyouthadelaide).



Christ our Joy

**Artist: Amunda Gorey
Alice Springs**
(commissioned by the Australian Catholic Bishops)

The central figure of Jesus, risen and glorified, has an arm pointing to God the Father. His other arm reaches toward Mary His Mother, and to the Church, drawing us to Him.

The central pink circle represents the Heart of God. Storylines of different lengths and shapes lead to and from the central Heart of God, representing our differing journeys and pathways to God.

The many dots and circles represent young people and the Church. The size, shapes and colours of the dots are as many and varied as young people, their backgrounds and stories.

Some young people (dots) are sustained around communities through sacrament and the Holy Spirit (water, fire, light). Others may be isolated or distant, closer or further away from the central figures. All are integrating to creating one vibrant image of Church.

The Cross extends to the borders of the painting. At its centre is the Heart of God, Jesus and Mary. It reaches all young people, those in communities and those in-between. The Cross breaches the edge of the painting, calling us to the peripheries, to new horizons.

Everyone will see, feel and sense the image differently. Each interpretation is valued as our stories and experiences are different. Take time to reflect in silence. What thoughts and inspirations come to you.

Making Connections: Within the Family ...

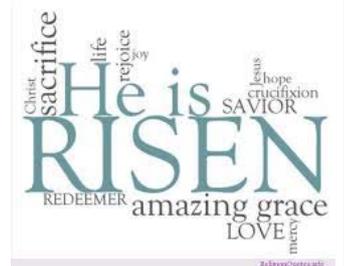
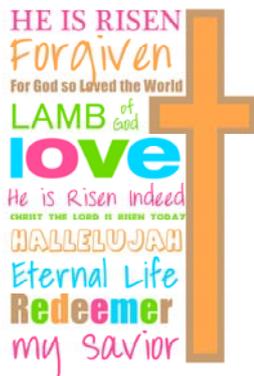
...because every family matters

Quotes and designs for making cards or making

Jesus is Risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

'I am the Resurrection
and the Life'
says Jesus

Jesus says
'I am the
Way,
the Truth
and the Life'



A MESSAGE OF JOY TO FAMILIES BY POPE FRANCIS

Dear families, you know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well... True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life's journey. **But the basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God, the presence of God in the family and his love, which is welcoming, merciful, and respectful towards all. And above all, a love which is patient: patience is a virtue of God and he teaches us how to cultivate it in family life, how to be patient, and lovingly so, with each other.** The family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole.



Making Connections: Within the Family ...

...because every family matters



But the fruit of the Spirit is



against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23

On the feast of Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Scripture, Saint Paul (Galatians 5:22-23) lists the fruits of the Spirit. Explain to the children that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will show these fruits in our lives.

Saint Paul tells us that these fruits are *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*.

Discuss with the children what each of these mean.

Write these on strips of paper or cardboard.

Encourage each family member to say what he or she can do to show how to share this fruit of the Spirit.

Pentecost is 50 days after Easter when the Spirit came upon the Disciples and Jesus' mother Mary and gave them strength to spread the good news of the Gospel that Jesus is Risen and comes to bring us new Life.

Come, Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people.

Let your wisdom and right judgment guide our decisions
and temper our impulses.

Let knowledge and understanding increase our capacity for
empathy and compassion.

Let reverence and awe fill us with gratitude and respect for
all of creation.

Give us the courage to witness boldly to our faith in word
and deed.

Through and with and in Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.



CATECHIST PERSONAL PRAYER

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

READING 1: Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. (John 20:11-16)

READING 2: "Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you, and all the trees of the countryside shall clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

READING 3: "The flowers appear on the earth The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance." (Song of Songs 2:12, 13)

Alleluia! Alleluia!



get more quotes at THE DAILY QUOTES.COM

Bless me, O God, with a joyful heart.

Awaken me each day with eagerness to see the possibilities that lie ahead of me.

In doing so, enlarge my capacity for sharing your love with others.

During times of distress, remind me that joy does not always equate with happiness.

Through openness and hope, I will find gladness in the midst of my troubles.

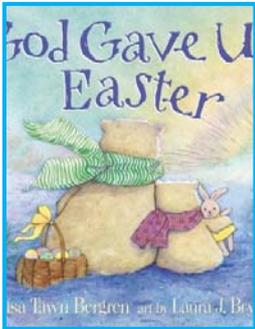
As I retire for the night, let worry and anxiety fall away, replaced by a simple trust in your care.

Let the joys of the day wash over me in a spirit of gratitude and wonder.

In the name of your beloved Son, Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

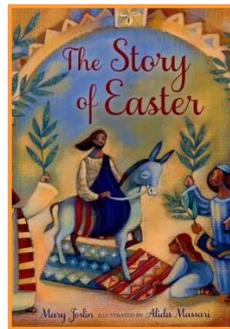
RESOURCES



God gave us Easter

by Lisa Bergan

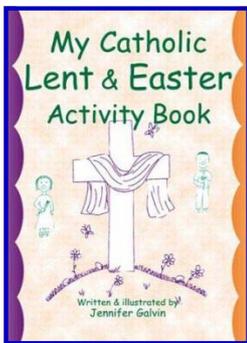
Why do we celebrate Easter? What happened on that day? Papa explains the meaning of *Jesus'* death and resurrection.
Ages 3– 8



The Story of Easter

by Mary Joslin

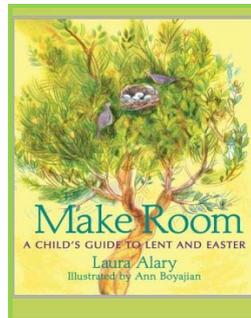
A classic retelling of the first Easter, drawing on key episodes from the Gospels and explaining the Biblical story for children aged 5- 7



My Catholic Lent and Easter Activity Book

by Jennifer Galvin

Author provides a real teaching tool explaining: Easter symbols, Lenten sacrifices, Stations of the Cross and the Easter Vigil. Age 7-10



Make Room: A Child's guide to Lent and Easter.

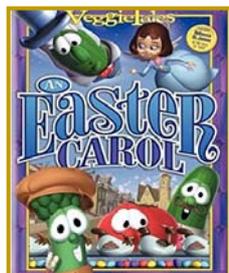
by Laura Alary

This unique book teaches children to experience Lent with all their senses, and to see it as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God.



The First Easter: DVD 25 mins

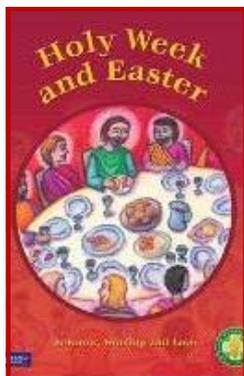
An outstanding 3-D animation telling the story of Christ through the eyes of a child. Excellent program to teach children ages 4-10 the meaning and significance of the crucifixion and resurrection.



An Easter Carol : DVD 34 mins.

Veggie Tales:

This film reminds children of all ages that 'Easter is about more than just lollies and eggs.'



Holy week and Easter (Big Book)

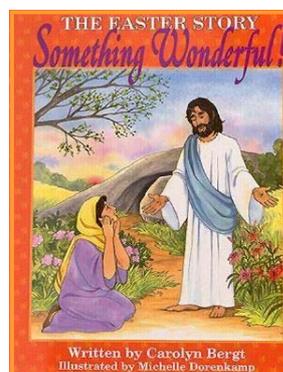
To Know, Worship and Love

By Catherine Blythe

- Remember Me
- From Death to New Life
- Alleluia! Jesus is Alive.

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

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



The Easter story: (Big Book)

Something Wonderful

By Carolyn Bergt

This Big Book can serve as the basis for activities that involve children in worship in your home, classroom, or church.

Remember that the Easter story is really many stories

New Opening times:

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



Your Parish Story

ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSIONING MASS

As people who are united in the task of making God's love real and active in the lives of children and their families, the many catechists all came together to re-commit themselves to the various catechetical ministries they work in.

The Commissioning Mass celebrated at the cathedral with the Archbishop is important as it publically recognises the great children's ministries happening within our parishes. It also formally symbolises the significance for each catechist in their role. Each catechist is entrusted to the catechesis of children in their parish and with breaking open the Word of God with them. This year we especially



celebrated 25 years of service within children's ministries for John Micallef. He was happily presented with a special Papal Blessing and an Archbishop's award for his particular ministry with the PRECA community. It was a lovely celebration and it was followed with supper and a slice of celebratory cake, which the Archbishop joined in. A very big thank you to those catechists who attended, some travelled from the country. It was a delightful evening!



Let us go, then. Let us allow ourselves to be surprised by this new dawn and by the newness that Christ alone can give. May we allow his tenderness and his love to guide our steps. May we allow the beating of his heart to quicken our faintness of heart.

Pope Francis: homily at Easter Vigil, 2017

Children's Ministry Update

Family & Parish Based Catechesis contact

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Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



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

Detailed Diary Dates 2018

SHAME + HONOUR IN THE BIBLE

When: Wednesday: April 18: 9am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

A DAY WITH ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI+ ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

When: Saturday: May 5

Where: Loyola Centre of Ignatian Spirituality,
137 William Street Norwood

PRAYER- WHAT-WHERE-WHEN-WHO + WHY?

When: Monday: May 7: 9am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

THE YEAR OF YOUTH- YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CLASS

When: Monday: May 28: 9:30am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

MARY- CELEBRITY OR ORDINARY WOMAN

When: Monday: May 28: 9am-4pm

Where: Catholic Education Office
Conference Centre,
116 George Street, Thebarton

CULTIVATING MINDFULNESS

When: Saturday: June 16

Where: Mary MacKillop Centre,
4 High Street, Kensington

MARK FOR THE EASTER SEASON: FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

When: Thursday: April 12: 7:30pm-9pm

Where: Bethany; Mary MacKillop Centre,
4 High street, Kensington