

Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

YEAR A : Matthew

Volume15 Edition 1: 2020

From the Team

Dear Catechists

Welcome to Children's Ministry for 2020 and to all our new catechists who have joined parish teams this year!

You may recall that at the end of last year we farewelled Carmen Balales as a team member of the Family and Parish-Based Catechesis Office.

Now, we have the privilege of welcoming Elena Moffa to our team.

A very warm welcome to you Elena!

Even though many catechists have already met Elena, Elena will introduce herself to you in this Newsletter.

Earlier this year, we have also been privileged to celebrate the 25 years of service of three of our catechists to Children's Ministry in the Adelaide Archdiocese at the Cathedral.

Heartfelt Congratulations to Pauline Connell, Mignon Hogben and to Anna Gioiosa.

With the situation of the current virus, we will not be holding any workshops or gatherings at this time. However, Elena and I will be available via email/phone to support you in any way that is possible.

In this Newsletter, we will offer some resources for the season of Lent, we welcome our newly appointed Archbishop and offer some resources to use at home in line with current directions and regulations.

At this time, we continue to be called to live in trust in the God of love and healing for ourselves and for all people throughout our world—pertinent during this time of Lent.

With blessings, Sr Jenny Seal and Elena Moffa

As a response to the COVID-19 situation, while Masses and all parish activities have suspended, the Family and Parish-Based Catechesis Office has prepared liturgies with a focus on children. Families can use these at home to reflect on the Gospel each Sunday. More links to Family Faith Formation resources can be found on pg. 7 of this Newsletter.

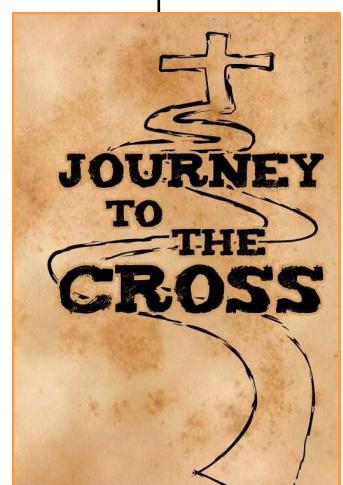
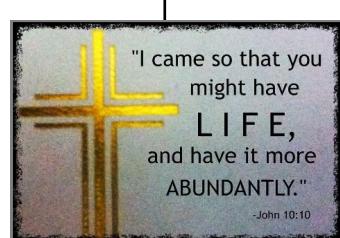
Please note that Parish Sacrament Preparation Programs will resume when the current situation is resolved.

The following is the link on the Archdiocesan website to find Sunday liturgies for families with children:

<http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/prayer-services>

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WELCOME ELENA MOFFA

Greetings everyone!!!

I hope this first Newsletter of the year finds you and your families in good health. We are all living a very unusual Lent period this year and everywhere we turn there is worry about the present world situation in regards to COVID-19. Never has it made more sense to say that all we can do is to put our trust in our loving and comforting God.

I have been in this new and exciting role for almost two months now and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.



As the days go by and I understand a bit more about what my role entails, I am meeting new wonderful and inspiring people dedicated to this ministry with children along the way. I have big shoes to fill; Carmen Balales was in this role for many years and her bright and caring personality touched many of us as we worked with her.

I am lucky to have a companion on the journey in the person of Sr Jenny Seal who is patiently introducing me into all my new role requirements.

My main focus at the start of my involvement is going to be getting to know you. I would like to meet and connect with as many of you as possible. I would like to create opportunities for us to get to know each other and connect with others in this ministry so we can learn from one another and find support in this.

Just a little bit about me and where I have come from, for those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet. I am married to Nic and have been for 33 years. We have been blessed with two gorgeous sons. Legri who just got married to his beautiful wife Anthea and Gian who is thankfully still at home with us. I have been a catechist since my high school and youth group years and a teacher in Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools for many years. My involvement at the parish level in the Western Deanery led me to be called to work as a Pastoral Associate and Sacrament Coordinator. Throughout my involvement, I have worked with many families and their children in the area of Sacrament preparation and Faith formation.

I have now been called to this new role, which I hope will give me the opportunity to put to good use all the experience I have gained in my life journey so far. I am part-time in my new position, so I will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays (all day) and Tuesday mornings. Please get in touch with me as I would love to hear from you, your joys and your struggles and together continue in our service to the children and the families in Adelaide.

Thank you for your important role in our community and I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months. I leave you with a little helpful exhortation. It is from or via the Diocese of Geraldton; we thank its writer: **"Churches are Not being closed' You are the Church! You are to remain open."**

Stay Well and Hopeful,

Elena Moffa



CATECHIST REFLECTION PAGE



Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone



may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

-from Richard Hendrick (Brother Richard) in Ireland March 13th 2020





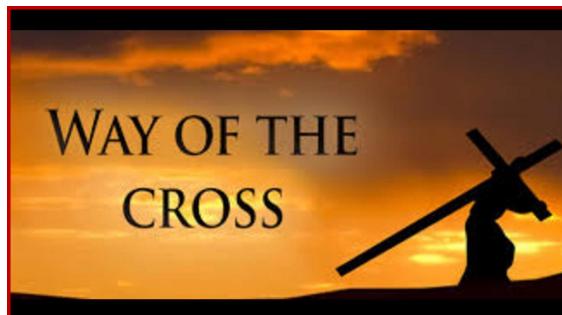
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

WHAT ARE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?:

The Stations of the Cross (sometimes also called the “Way of the Cross” or Via Crucis, in Latin) are a traditional devotion tracing the events on the way to Christ’s crucifixion. The devotion has its roots in the practice of pilgrimage to Jerusalem, especially to sites along the way to the cross. In the fifteenth century, as it became difficult for Christians to visit Jerusalem, the Franciscans began to erect outdoor shrines in Europe to recall these holy places, and in later centuries the devotion took root throughout the entire Church.

Traditionally, there are fourteen stations:

- 1. Jesus is condemned to death***
- 2. Jesus takes up his cross***
- 3. Jesus falls the first time***
- 4. Jesus meets his mother***
- 5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross***
- 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus***
- 7. Jesus falls the second time***
- 8. Jesus meets the weeping women of Jerusalem***
- 9. Jesus falls the third time***
- 10. Jesus is stripped of his garments***
- 11. Jesus is nailed to the cross***
- 12. Jesus dies on the cross***
- 13. Jesus is taken down from the cross***
- 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb***



Not all of these stations are found in scripture; they are based on extra-biblical traditions surrounding the passion of Christ. (In 1991 Pope John Paul II released a “Scriptural Way of the Cross” which closely follows the gospel accounts of the passion.) Traditional prayers that accompany this devotion allow us to meditate on the mystery of Christ’s death on the cross.

VIRTUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This method offers the traditional devotion in a virtual way to help both children and adults reflect on the mystery of Jesus’ death and what it still means to us today.

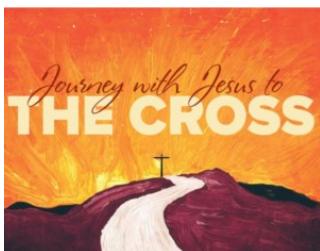
The Stations of the Cross is a devotion following the events leading to Jesus’ crucifixion. Prayers accompanying it allow time to reflect on the mystery of his death. The Stations of the Cross may be done at any time, but is commonly a part of Lenten spiritual practice, specifically on Good Friday. Busted Halo has created a series of virtual stations designed for personal devotion. These stations relate to Jesus’ teachings about the Kingdom of God and the reason his vision of this Kingdom led to his death. Find a quiet place to watch these stations, and as you do the devotions be open to how God is speaking to you through the Stations of the Cross.

The following web address will take you to the Busted Halo website where you can access this virtual experience.

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>



JOURNEY TO CALVARY



Traditionally, there are fourteen stations of the Cross which we take time to journey with Jesus after he was condemned to death. Some churches have a variant to the traditional stations starting Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and ending with the Burial of Jesus.

Churches usually have a community prayer reflection of the Journey of Jesus to Calvary scheduled each week during Lent and on the morning of Good Friday. We are all invited, also, to a personal journey to the cross at anytime either in the Church or with our personal pictures or booklet at home.

Some ideas:

- Google the various images of the 14 stations and create your own set and place in an organza bag. Pray and reflect on these or take a different one each day and Journey with Jesus.
- Take a different Scriptural Station of the Cross with the children at different times (outlined below), look up the scripture quote and make a response to the reflective reading either through a prayer or drawing or shared reflection on life.

Scriptural Stations of the Cross

1st Jesus on the Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39-46).

2nd Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested (Luke 22:47-48).

3rd Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71).

4th Peter denies Jesus (Luke 22:54-62).

5th Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:13-25).

6th Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns (Luke 22:63-65).

7th Jesus takes up His cross (John 19:17).

8th Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross (Luke 23:26).

9th Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-31).

10th Jesus is crucified (Luke 23:33-47).

11th Jesus promises His kingdom to the believing thief (Luke 23:43).

12th Jesus on the cross speaks with His mother and disciples (John 19:26-27).

13th Jesus dies on the cross (Luke 23:44-46).

14th Jesus is laid in the tomb (Luke 23:50-54).

- Allow Jesus to journey with you during any of the 'stations' of your life.

- Create a 'Stations of the Cross' kit with the children with symbols as outlined



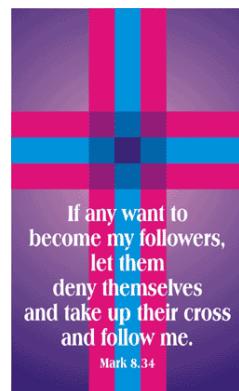
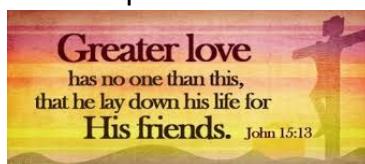
Stations of the Cross Montessori Box Contents		
1	Jesus is condemned to death	String representing the rope used to tie His hands
2	Jesus carries His cross	Small cross
3	Jesus falls for the first time	Bandage to represent 1 st fall
4	Jesus meets His mother Mary	Small Marian pendant
5	Simon helps Jesus	Tracing to represent helping hands
6	Veronica wipes the face of Jesus	White cloth with face of Jesus
7	Jesus falls for the second time	Bandage to represent 2 nd fall
8	Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem	Tissue for their tears
9	Jesus falls for the third time	Bandage to represent 3 rd fall
10	Jesus is stripped of His garments	Small piece of cloth for cloak
11	Jesus is nailed to the cross	Three nails
12	Jesus dies on the cross	Crucifix
13	Jesus is taken down from the cross	Picture of Michelangelo's Pieta
14	Jesus is buried	Rock for stone rolled in front of tomb

LENTEN SYMBOLS IN THE HOME

Enable the home to be a place of the sacred with symbols that raise the mind and heart to God. Our world is full of images that nurture our minds and hearts everywhere.

BIBLE The Word of God is our guide and inspiration in our faith and daily life. The prominent presence of a Bible in the home represents our desire for God's Word in our lives .

Write quotes from the Scriptures on card or google your own set of images.



SAND Place a small bowl of sand to remind us of our journey. God led the people in their journey through the desert to the Promised Land. (Exodus 6:8).



Jesus himself a time of prayer in the desert where he faced. The desert can be a place of retreat and reflection (Luke 4:1).

Let the children feel the sand. Explore what it might feel like to walk across the desert. Write a story or poem of the experience.

JESUS' JOURNEY TO THE CROSS Symbols or pictures of Jesus journeying to Calvary. We unite ourselves with Jesus in his journey and we reflect on the ways in our life that Jesus has journeyed with us. Traditionally, our churches display the fourteen stations.



CRUCIFIX Place the crucifix in a central spot where it can be obviously seen, even a child's drawing of Jesus's death for us can be a powerful stirring reminder of God's love.



WATER: Place a bowl of water in a central spot as a reminder of our journey to the font of baptism for the renewal of commitment and life in Christ.

Pray over the bowl saying: "Lord, may this water remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home. Bless us as we sign the cross each day".





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Open (Phone or Email ONLY) MON-WED 9am-5pm &
THUR. 9 AM-12 noon

Children's Ministry Update

RESOURCES

Faith Formation Links for Children and Families

The Family and Parish-Based Catechesis Office are offering a few sites for the continuation of faith formation of families with their children.

Parents/Caregivers/Catechists are advised to open the various links and use them as you judge which is appropriate to the needs and age of your child/ren.

Some suggestions are:

Important days about Lent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmvL3lqknRs&feature=youtu.be>

Free access during corona virus: <https://mycatholickids.com/athome/>

Spiritual Comfort for Troubled Times & Holy Week -Emmaus Productions

<https://www.emmausproductions.com/special-feature/spiritual-comfort-for-troubled-times-holy-week-2020/>

Free faith lessons for children: check to download only free sessions on website

<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/collections/free-sunday-school-less...>

<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/pages/bible-stories-for-kids>

<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/pages/childrens-sermons-for-kids>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/resource-type/activities-for-kids/>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/bible-stories/>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/teaching-basic-bible-skills/>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/category/people/>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/special-emphases/>

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/curricula/gods-unfolding-story-preschool-curriculum/>

Catholic Kids Media – collection of you tube videos with, for example:

Guided prayer

Readings of the week and Sunday including homilies for children

Liturgical Season eg Lent

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ-wl3_x_XbF--5a9rW3sg

Various you tube videos of gospel stories when searched by Gospel story, for example,

The lost sheep <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LEu0mAjOR0>

The raising of Lazarus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM&feature=youtu.be>

News & Events

Children's Ministry Update

DIOCESAN CATECHISTS COMMISSIONING MASS

The Annual Commissioning Mass was richly celebrated in March. Catechists from our Adelaide Archdiocese gathered to be formally commissioned in their vital and important ministry for this coming year. It was wonderful to see many catechists present representing all catechists working in our Parishes near and far. It was a great opportunity to publicly acknowledge the good work happening within the many ministries with children and families. We also celebrated three very special recipients of the 25 years of service award in the form of a beautifully framed Papal Blessing. The four recipients were Pauline Connell, Mignon Hogben and Annka Gioiosa. Present to receive her award from Fr. Philip Marshall and her Parish Priest, Fr Denis Travers cp, was Pauline Connell with her son, Matthew. Both Mignon and Annka regrettably could not be there but will be presented with their Papal Blessings in their own Parish celebration. All three recipients are dedicated and quietly follow their calling as echoers of God's Word.



Congratulations Pauline, Mignon, and Annka!

We continued the celebration after Mass with a happy gathering sharing a delicious supper and a slice of chocolate cake! Many thanks to the many who attended, it was certainly very joy filled!



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We're on the web



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

NEW ARCHBISHOP FOR ADELAIDE

The Holy Father has appointed Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan, presently Bishop of Sale, as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Adelaide.

We express our delight and welcome to our new Archbishop.



More about Archbishop's O'Regan's installation in the next issue of our Newsletter.