



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

YEAR A: Matthew

Volume 15 Edition 3: 2020

From the Team

Dear Catechists and all involved in Children's Ministries,

Welcome to our third newsletter for 2020.

We hope you are all well amidst the uncertainties, concerns and struggles of our times. As we adjust to all the changes brought about by the situation the world is currently facing we are slowly and cautiously, but courageously finding ways to move forward into new normalities of being a Christian community. Now more than ever we are all called to find new ways to connect and reflect on the mystery of the presence of God in our lives.

As you know, Archbishop Pat on July 11, wrote to Parish Priests and on July 23 to schools, informing them that he gave delegation to the Parish Priest to celebrate Confirmation in their respective parishes for 2020 only. Since then, Sacrament Teams, have been busy reorganising preparation programs and procedures so as to find the best solution for each local reality in line with COVID-19 Safe Protocols and Plans. Some parishes have judged that they would prefer to postpone confirmations until 2021 but others are working towards completing the initiation journey with their families this year.

Whichever situation your parish may be in, we know that we need to stay positive and continue to be people of hope. The gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions in SA has allowed us the opportunity of restarting some of our community activities. We are called upon, not to pick up from where we left off, but to recommence with a different, renewed outlook on what it means to be a Church community.

How can we best support the children and families engaged in catechesis who have been burdened by extra difficult circumstances in these past months? What can we learn as a Christian community from this period? We would really love to hear from you if you have any nice stories of how you have connected with your children and families remotely or if you are working on any exciting proposal you would like to offer in the future. You can email your ideas or reflections to us: elena.moffa@cesa.catholic.edu.au and/or jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au. We would love to hear from you and together explore new ways of continuing to bring the Good News into our communities.

Thank you for everything you do in your parishes and schools.

With blessings,

Elena Moffa and Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc

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let your
faith
BE BIGGER
than your fear.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

What Is the Communion of Saints?

Catechism *God's people, the Communion of Saints, includes those of us on earth, those being purified in purgatory, and the saints in heaven (cf. no. 962).*

Did you ever ask St. Anthony to help you find something or pray to St. Jude for an impossible situation? We pray to the saints in heaven because we believe they will help us. The term saint can be used with different meanings in the Church. For instance, Christians believe in the Communion of Saints which is the spiritual union of the members of the Christian Church, both living and dead who form the mystical Body of Christ. By the **Communion of Saints** we mean everyone in the Church: those of us on earth who are journeying in faith; those who have died, those blessed ones in heaven who are already in glory and those who are canonised.

Our Communion

We are united, or in communion, in sharing the: one faith, the sacraments, graces and good works, the goods of the earth, and love. These things draw us together into communion. Above all, we share the Eucharist, which makes us one. When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we say we are receiving "holy communion." We are all receiving Jesus and becoming one in him. As we are bound in unity as the Communion of Saints, whatever good one person does benefits all others. Likewise, whatever poor choices one person makes harms the rest. All of the good that has been done by Church members, and all the good that Christ did belongs to us all, to the whole Church.

Relationships: We are all connected

The people in the Church, like a family, lovingly pray for one another trusting in the unending love of God for each one of us, who holds us in God's immense and tender love, before birth and into eternity.

Did you ever say to someone, "I'll pray for you"? We can pray and offer our good works and suffering for people on earth, and they can do the same for us. We can also pray and offer good works and sufferings for people who have died, for their purification. That is why after someone dies, we have Masses said for them. You can pray for your deceased relatives or even for people who might not have anyone to pray for them. They, can also pray for us. Likewise, we can turn to the saints in heaven and ask them to intercede, or pray for us. The Church celebrates all Saints on November 1 and all Souls on November 2.

Friendship with the saints can help us grow closer to Christ - they continue to offer inspiration and support to being a disciple of Jesus.

Communion of Saints for children

This YouTube clip presents the Communion of Saints topic to children and how saints can help by interceding with God on our behalf: <https://youtu.be/B--jUSHVpZA> *The Communion of Saints - We are Catholic Series* (23:16 mins).

Recap

- **Church members are in communion by sharing one faith, the sacraments, graces and good works, the goods of the earth and love.**
- **Church members are united by the Eucharist.**
- **The consecrated bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ, are received in Holy Communion.**
- **The Communion of Saints includes people on earth and in heaven.**
- **Members of the Communion of Saints can pray for one another.**
- **Saints continue to offer inspiration and support to being a disciple of Jesus.**

Adapted from: Totally Catholic!, Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

THE SAINTS

You could become a Saint too! God gives us the power, the grace and the spirit to become Saints.

Saints weren't perfect but had "crooked halos." St. Jerome had a temper, and St. Therese was too sensitive. There is a wide variety of saints who show us that holiness is possible no matter what our flaws. They are kings and peasant girls, old women and young boys, popes and parents, teachers, doctors, missionaries, refugees, migrants and martyrs. Get to know them now, for with God's grace you will be spending eternity with them!

You might have been given a saint's name when you were baptised - that saint, then, is your patron saint. If you don't have one, you can choose one for your Confirmation.

St Pius X (1835-1914)

Giuseppe Sarto was a priest from Italy who felt called to work for the poor. Instead he was assigned to teach at the seminary. After becoming a bishop and a cardinal, he was elected pope. He took the motto "Renew all things in Christ." As Pope Pius X, he urged people to receive Communion, something that wasn't done at the time. This holy pope encouraged Scripture study and social action. In vain, he worked to prevent World War I, and died soon after it began. His feast day is August 21.

St Clare (1193-1253) Clare was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. She was attracted to the lifestyle of St. Francis, who had given up everything to live for God. So Clare became the first Franciscan sister. Her religious community stayed in their convent, slept on the floor, went barefoot, and prayed much. They lived on donated food. One Christmas Eve, Clare was sick in bed. That night, however, she saw and heard the Mass as though she were present for it. This miracle is the reason St. Clare is the patron of television. We celebrate her feast on August 11.

St Joseph (First century)

St Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, was known as a good and holy man. He was a carpenter and taught Jesus his trade. Whenever God asked Joseph to do something, he obeyed, even if he didn't understand. According to tradition, Joseph probably died before Jesus left home to begin his ministry. We ask St. Joseph to pray for us because he is the patron of the universal Church, of families, of workers, and of a happy death. He has two feast days: March 19 and May 1.

St Mary of the Cross (1842-1909) Mary MacKillop, first Australian saint, is an inspirational figure for all Australians, presently just as she was in the past. She was an astounding woman of incredible mental, spiritual and physical strength who overcame huge obstacles to pioneer the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, bringing education, welfare and religious life to thousands in colonial Australia. The story of her life's work touches each of us just as it is connected with the growth of Australia in many deeds and her legacy continues to grow here and across the world. Personally, Mary tolerated much so that her vision of service for the poor and needy would become a reality. She rejected a society which on the ecclesial and secular level tried to restrain her efforts and force her and the Sisters of her Order to give up. Her qualities embody pure love and faith in a selfless woman and serve to urge Australians to a faith filled understanding of what we are experiencing presently. She gives us hope in an age that has been described as one of hopelessness. God was with Mary through her dark trials and her trust in the providence of God saw her through painful experiences as well as joy filled ones. There were numerous tough times when she could have abandoned the Order but she faithfully obeyed God's will and she chose to stay. Australia is richer because of her fidelity. Her feast day is August 8.

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968)

St. Pio (Padre Pio) was the son of peasant farmers in Italy. He joined the Capuchins and became a Franciscan priest. Two years later he offered his life to God in order to help the souls in purgatory. Always in poor health, Padre Pio had much suffering to offer. He is known for his spiritual experiences, especially the stigmata, which are Christ's wounds appearing on the body. Embarrassed by the painful stigmata, Padre Pio usually covered his hands. Crowds came to his Masses, which could last two hours. People kept him busy in the confessional many hours each day. Padre Pio opened two hospitals, and one was called Home to Relieve Suffering. His feast day is Sept. 23.

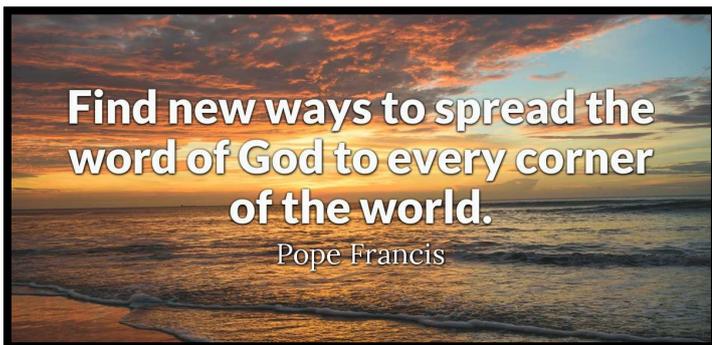
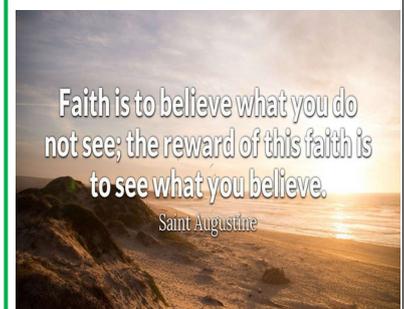
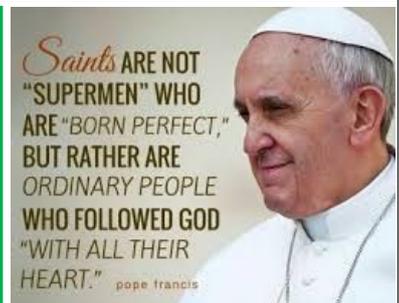
JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Pope Francis on the need to engage in the world and respond in faith:

"The defining aspect of this change of epoch is that things are no longer in their place. Our previous ways of explaining the world and relationships, good and bad, no longer appears to work. The way in which we locate ourselves in history has changed. Things we thought would never happen, or that we never thought we would see, we are experiencing now, and we dare not even imagine the future.

That which appeared normal to us – family, the Church, society and the world – will probably no longer seem that way. We cannot simply wait for what we are experiencing to pass, under the illusion that things will return to being how they were before."

- Pope Francis, St John Lateran Cathedral (Rome), 16 September 2013



What are we called to do?
Who are we called to be?
How do we need to change?

Vatican updates catechesis directory

Teaching the faith is a work of evangelisation meant to lead people to a deeper relationship with Jesus and not just impart information, according to the Vatican's updated "Directory for Catechesis".

The directory, released by the Vatican June 25, lists the goals and essential elements of catechesis and is meant to guide the drafting of national catechisms that take into account specifics of the local culture and the needs of Catholics at different ages and stages of life. Previous versions of the directory were approved in 1971 by St Paul VI and in 1997 by St John Paul II. The updated content responds specifically to Pope Francis' 2013 exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" (The Joy of the Gospel), and to the 2012 meeting of the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelisation.

Because the faith is lived in human communities, it said, catechesis must take into account the challenges and problems of the societies in which Catholics live and should draw on Catholic social teaching, which applies Gospel values to social, political and economic questions.

In the updated directory, the link between catechesis and the new evangelization is clear and it calls for a "missionary transformation" of catechism programs.

Source: CNS

UPDATES

COVID-19 Restrictions Update The Premier announced that as of this Wednesday, July 29, the number of people allowed at funerals and weddings in South Australia will be 100, provided your Mass Centre has the necessary capacity as per your COVID Safe Plan. Other restrictions remain the same, that is:

- ⇒ A two square metre per person rule for Mass centres with no specific cap on numbers.
- ⇒ Strict hygiene protocols must be adhered to, as per the guidelines developed by the Archdiocese.
- ⇒ A COVID Safe Plan must be completed before churches can reopen.

Click [here](#) for Archdiocese Guidelines for celebration of Eucharist and distribution of Holy Communion.

Click [here](#) for the SA Government's guidelines on the creation of a COVID-Safe Plan.

Sacrament Programs and Confirmation 2020 - Archbishop Pat on July 11, wrote to Parish Priests ([Link to Archbishop Pat's Letter to Clergy](#)) informing them that they have delegation to celebrate confirmation in their respective parish for 2020 only: A similar letter was sent to schools on July 23 ([Link to Archbishop Pat's Letter to Schools](#))

As the letters state, Confirmation may be celebrated either within or outside of the Eucharist, and after the normal process for preparation of candidates, sponsors and families has been concluded. Dates, times and number of celebrations need to be decided at Parish level. Parishes can opt to postpone the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist until 2021. If the celebration occurs within a Mass it may be the opportunity for candidates to celebrate their First Holy Communion at the same ceremony.

Sacrament Preparation Programs The Sacrament coordinators who contacted our office informed us that these have recommenced in many parishes (in line with COVID Safe Protocols & Plans).

Liturgy of the Word with Children Understandably, it seems that in many Parishes, leaders of CLOW are comfortable with not offering this to children, face to face, at the present moment but are offering their families the Resources prepared by our office. (see below)

Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of any assistance with these.

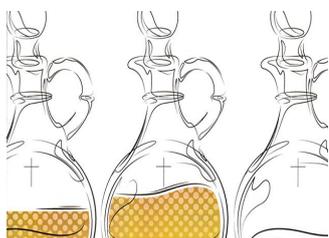
Resources for Families and Leaders of Liturgy of the Word with Children Reflections for families based on the Gospel for each Sunday have been prepared to reflect on the Gospel and pray together as a family each week. In addition, these resources can be adapted to be used by parishes for Liturgy of the Word with Children. They can be found each week at [this link](#). Please help us to make your families aware of this resource. You may wish to print some copies for your families to take home. For any further inquiries please email Elena Moffa elena.moffa@cesa.catholic.edu.au and/or Sr Jenny Seal jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au at the Family and Parish-Based Catechesis Office.

Plenary Council 2020 The six themes that have been discerned as 17,000 peoples' responses to the question 'What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?' are now published in six booklets offered for our reflection. We encourage you to explore these booklets on line at this link

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Pastoral Care in Parish and Community Life A Presentation by Margaret Speechley

Pastoral care in parish and community life presented by Margaret Speechley on Sunday August 23 from 4pm – 5pm at Semaphore Parish (Sacred Heart Church Parish meeting rooms). Enquiries direct to Fr Roderick O'Brien P: 8449 6378. Click [here](#) for the Pastoral Care Flyer.



Chrism Mass Tuesday, August 18 2020 in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Mass of the Oils. Bookings can be made from Wednesday, July 29 via www.trybooking.com/BKOEW. Due to restrictions, limited spaces will be available to attend Mass. Please note **NO** onsite car parking will be available for this Mass. If you would like more information regarding this event, please contact the Office for Worship on P: 8210 8287 or Archdiocesan Events on P: 8210 8220 or via E: events@adelaide.catholic.org.au.

MAKING CONNECTIONS Family

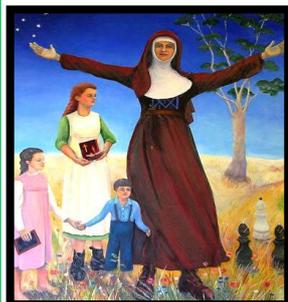
Assist your children to understand that the reason we retell the stories of saints today is to help us live the Gospel message more fully. Watch a DVD or read a book of a saint (Some ideas from the resources on page 7 for you to borrow)

- **What does the saint tell us about what is important?**
- **What does the saint teach us about how we need to live today?**
- **How does each saint live the values that Jesus promoted?**
- **How does help us make choices about the values we live today?**



For Sacrament Program, Pre/Post Sacrament Catechesis or Faith Formation

In looking at lives of Saints of the past or of today, assist young people to identify key characteristics and qualities that made the person special and understand their relevance for life today.



For example, if St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a voice for the poor in her time, who would she speak out for today and where would she use her time, energy and resources?

Mary MacKillop was faithful, trusted God, worked for others and showed great love.

How does the story of her life help us and others to be stronger in our faith and to help others who are less fortunate?

SAINTS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY!

Choose a saint _____

Year of birth? ___ Born in which country? _____

Was made a saint because _____

In life today: If this saint lived in Australia today, what would he or she speak out about or do?

PRAYER OF PRAISE WITH THE SAINTS

Let us remember saints who showed the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives and praise them in honour of their inspiring example.

After each gift below we pray: We praise God

LOVE: For Saint Joseph who worked hard and cared lovingly of Mary and Jesus

JOY: For Saint Hildegard of Bingen who composed beautiful music to teach her community to pray to God with great joy

PEACE: For Saint Edith Stein who was never afraid to speak out against injustice and who longed for peace in our world

PATIENCE: For Saint Paul who showed patience and perseverance with the early Christian communities he founded

KINDNESS: For Saint Vincent de Paul who showed kindness by providing practical help to the hungry, sick and homeless

GOODNESS: For Saint Damien who from the goodness of his heart gave up his life to bring the message of Jesus and practical help to people suffering from leprosy on the island of Molakai

FAITHFULNESS: For Saint Joan of Arc who faithfully trusted the voice of God in her life and always acted in accordance with her conscience

HUMILITY: For Saint Francis of Assisi who showed us how to live a simple and humble life and to be gentle with all creation

SELF-CONTROL: For Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop who lived simply and with self-control to provide education and schools for poor children

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**
(slightly adapted from *Echoing the Word* Vol 12 No 4, 2013)

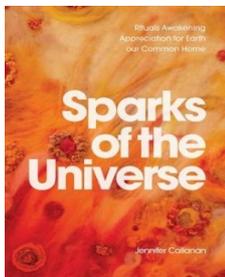
RESOURCES WELCOME KIRSTY POWER!



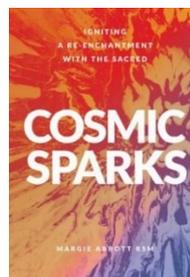
What's new at the Catholic Resource & Information Service?

The first thing that springs to mind is me! The new library officer at CRIS, Kirsty Power. You might have met me in my last role at Pauline Books & Media in the city. So I've had a bit of a change and now I'm not selling the resources, I'm lending them out. I'm still getting to know the collection at CRIS, which is great and has lots of useful resources for families, catechists, parishes and schools. If you'd like to explore it yourself, come in and browse, or you can search the CRIS catalogue [here](#). Send me an email or give me a call if you have any questions, or if you can't find what you're looking for.

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* – On care for our Common Home



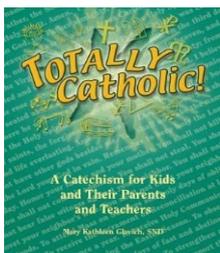
Sparks of the Universe: Rituals Awakening Appreciation for Earth our Common Home
By Jennifer Callanan
This book of rituals is for educators, students and all those committed to awakening ecological awareness.



Cosmic Sparks : Igniting a Re-Enchantment with the Sacred
By Margie Abbott RSM
This collection of rituals is about realising that Earth is sacred once and for all.

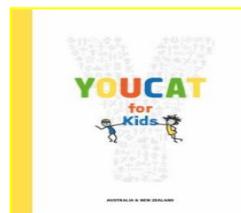
Two new resources at CRIS to help kids explore the Catechism with their parents and teachers.

Totally Catholic!
A Catechism for Kids & Their Parents & Teachers
by Mary Kathleen Glavich SND



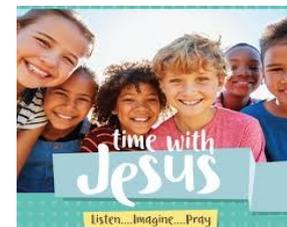
Share and pass on the faith from A to Z with this guidebook of all things totally Catholic!

Youcat for Kids : Catholic Catechism for children & parents
Australia & New Zealand edition



An exciting and fun new way to help children and parents to discover their Catholic faith together

Looking for an imaginative way to engage children in prayer...



Time with Jesus: Listen... Imagine... Pray
Scripture based guided meditations for children on CD.



We have an assortment of books and DVDs to help explore the lives of the saints. Especially useful for Confirmation candidates wanting to find out more about the saints before they choose their name.

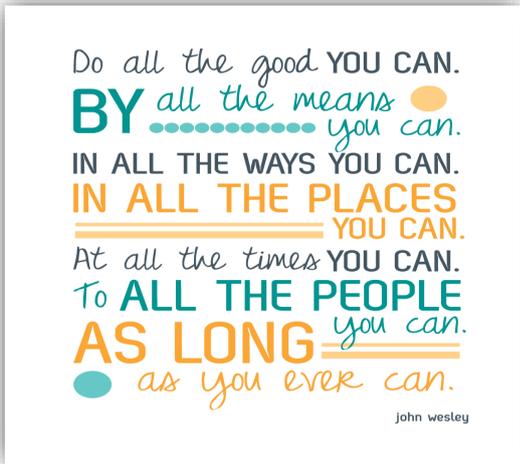
Catholic Resource & Information Service
P: 8301 6869 E: cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

The *Serenity Prayer*, written by the American theologian *Reinhold Niebuhr* (1892–1971).

As we reflect on how to move forward into a “new normal” in our current state of disruptions, this prayer is still very relevant as it encourages us to trust in the goodness of our loving God and have the courage to think outside the box to create new beginnings.

God grant me the serenity
 To accept the things I cannot change;
 Courage to change the things I can;
 And wisdom to know the difference.
 Living one day at a time;
 Enjoying one moment at a time;
 Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
 Taking, as He did, this sinful world
 As it is, not as I would have it;
 Trusting that He will make things right
 If I surrender to His Will;
 So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
 And supremely happy with Him
 Forever and ever in the next.
 Amen.



Office for Family & Parish Based Catechesis

Catholic Education Office
 112 Kintore Street
 Thebarton

PO Box 179
 Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Elena Moffa Ph: 08 8301 6110/ 0414 993 429
 elena.moffa@cesa.catholic.edu.au

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




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

7 Daily Prayers

 Pray for Love God help me to love as you have commanded me to love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	 Pray for Peace God surround me with your peace. 1 Peter 5:7
 Pray for Others God I pray for others to receive you in their life. 1 Timothy 2: 1-5	 Pray for Forgiveness God if there is anything I have done wrong, please forgive me. 1 John 1:19
 Pray for Guidance God show me what you want me to do today. Jeremiah 42:3	 Pray for Protection God keep your hands of protection around me. Deuteronomy 31:6
 Pray for Faith God help me to believe you will meet all of my needs. Mark 11:24	