



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

YEAR A: Matthew

Volume 15 Edition 2: 2020

From the Team

Dear Catechists

Welcome to the second edition of Children's Ministry for 2020.

In this brief Newsletter, and while all official catechetical and church related ministries are still on hold, our goal is just to touch base with you. We are thinking of you and praying that you may be able to continue to show the face of Jesus wherever you are and in whichever form better suits your present and local circumstances.

We are learning that physical distancing does not mean distancing people socially. As we experience the uncertainty and worrisome reality of this Virus, Parish and School communities are finding creative ways to keep in touch with the families in their midst, especially the most vulnerable at this time, including the elderly, and the disabled. Another positive learning of the current times, has been to be able to enjoy some extra time with family and, in some cases, slow down the pace of life to enjoy doing things we often can't do because of lack of time.

As you might know our office has been creating weekly Gospel reflections for families with children to be done at home in the absence of Masses and Liturgy of the Word with Children. These can be found on our Diocesan website: <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/prayer-services>. Also, in the middle section of the Southern Cross, you will be able to find a two pages insert on Prayer during this time: [The Southern Cross news online](#). We hope you have been able to use some of these resources at home, for your personal use and disseminating them to other families in your community. Any feedback you might be able to offer would be really welcomed and if you have any other suggestions or ideas we would love to hear from you.

We all deserve a pat on the back for the creativity and endurance shown during these trying times. At this stage we are asked to continue to persevere in faith and prayer in the hope that soon we will be able to find a way to defeat the virus or at least learn to live with it. Let's pray that the suspensions of normal church operations due to COVID -19 will lead to an increase in our desire for God.

With the current situation, we are called to find new ways of being a Christian community. Parents are to be encouraged to continue nurturing their children's faith by sharing stories of Jesus with them. Sacrament preparation will resume at some point in time but the faith needs to remain alive.

Please contact us with your needs; we will be available via email/phone to support you in any way that is possible.

With blessings, Elena Moffa and Sr Jenny Seal

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WELCOME ARCHBISHOP PATRICK



**Welcome to you, Archbishop Pat,
from all the Catechists of the Archdiocese!
We wish you an abundance of blessings
in your ministry with us
and we look forward to meeting with you.**

We warmly welcome Archbishop Patrick O'Regan to our Archdiocese.

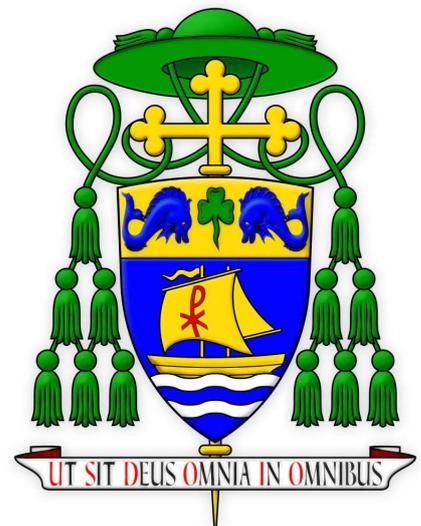
Archbishop Patrick O'Regan was born in Bathurst in New South Wales, one of four children. He grew up in the village of Perthville, located approximately 5 kilometres south of Bathurst. He was educated at St Joseph's Primary School, Perthville and St Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, The Archbishop commenced study for the priesthood at St Columba College, Springwood and later at St Patrick's College.

He was ordained as a priest at St Michael and St John's Cathedral in Bathurst on 2 September 1983 and served as an assistant parish priest in parishes in Lithgow, Cowra, Orange and in Bathurst. During 1994 and 1995, he commenced higher studies at the Institut Catholique, Paris. He returned to Australia, initially to Orange, before being appointed as a parish priest in Wellington. He completed his higher studies in France during 2001 and 2002 graduated with a Licentiate in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology returning to Australia in 2003 as parish priest of Blayney. In 2008 he was appointed as Diocesan Administrator in the Diocese of Bathurst and then became a Diocesan Chancellor to 2009, the Dean of the Cathedral in 2010 and concurrently as the Vicar General in 2012.

He was appointed Bishop of Sale in December 2014 with his episcopal consecration on the 26 February 2015.

He is currently a member of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

As we are aware, he was appointed as the ninth Archbishop of Adelaide by Pope Francis on 19 March 2020. We welcome Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and look forward to meeting him.



WELCOME ARCHBISHOP PATRICK

Excerpt from the Media Release March 19, 2020 by the Australian Bishops' Conference

Bishop O'Regan said his appointment comes at a critical moment for Catholics in Adelaide and across the country.

"With Adelaide set to host the first assembly of the historic Fifth Plenary Council of Australia later this year, this is an exciting time for the Archdiocese of Adelaide," he said.

"I look forward to playing my part alongside the people of the Archdiocese in welcoming to Adelaide the Church from right across Australia."

Bishop O'Regan said tonight's announcement comes on a special day.

"As someone who has a deep Josephite spirituality, it feels quite fitting – even providential – that Pope Francis has chosen today, St Joseph's feast day, to call me to this new mission," he said.

"I will certainly be asking St Joseph to intercede for me and for the Church in Adelaide."



Future Directions

In time, we hope that we will all have an opportunity to meet Archbishop Pat and share of the wonderful work and important ministry in which you are all engaged with such care and enthusiasm to bring God's love to children and their families.



You may find inspiration from the following link of Bishop Pat's address to the Diocesan Assembly of the Sale Diocese in September 2019. His message is pertinent to us now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkJXNwRHN4&feature=share&app=desktop>

MARY, WOMAN OF FAITH

Living as a Jewish woman of faith, Mary was open to the Holy Spirit in her life from a young age.

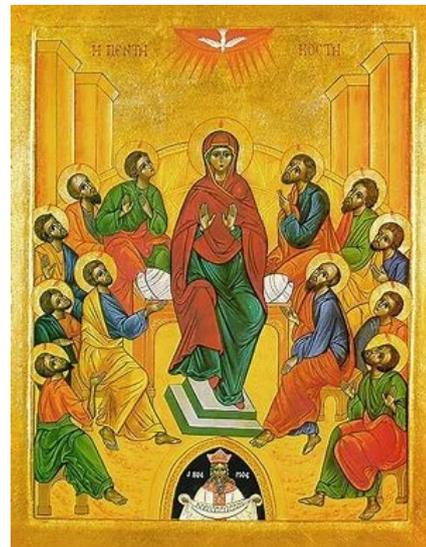
In the New Testament, we meet Mary in the narratives where the angel Gabriel appeared to her to speak to her of God's choice of her to be the mother of Jesus. After wondering about this call, Mary offered the gift of herself: 'Behold, the handmaid of the Lord'.

Mary is seen to often 'ponder these things in her heart', reflecting upon the wonders God has done in her life and through her life and listening to his call in the situations she found herself.

Mary would have done this on the journey to her cousin Elizabeth. Here, Mary was the first missionary of God's love as she carried the child in her womb and went to help her older cousin Elizabeth. Mary listened to the spirit of God in her life which moved her to mission.

This was an essential part of Mary's life from then on: the art of listening and pondering in her heart—as she journeyed with Joseph to Bethlehem and to Egypt and then back to Nazareth each responding to the circumstances in which she found herself in.

We are all called in difficult times such as Mary journeying with Jesus throughout his life and on the way to the cross and crucifixion, and through the grief and confusion of the early church. Mary would have witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit with great joy and how the message was proclaimed to all people. May we be inspired by the life of Mary in our own lives. **May we be inspired by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to us this Pentecost as we continue to be missionaries of God's love to the children and families we minister.**



Theology and Symbolism

The pattern for this icon is very old, conforming to Byzantine traditions dating from before 800 AD. Mary and the Apostles are touched by "tongues, as of fire" as the Holy Spirit shown as a dove accompanied by fire descends upon them, transforming a group of frightened people into bold proclaimers of the Good News.

The Apostles are shown gazing heavenward in poses of surprise and apprehension. They all have halos of gold surrounding their heads. Halos are used in iconography to identify saints. Gold, being a metal that doesn't corrode, is used to symbolize Divine light.

Mary is shown in her traditional garb of a dark red homophorion (a combination veil and cape) over a blue dress. Three stars grace her homophorion that symbolize her virginity, before, during, and after Jesus' birth. She gazes toward the viewer with hands raised in prayer, her dignified manner in sharp contrast with that of the twelve Apostles.

Below Mary is a man with a long beard, crowned head, and bearing a cloth holding twelve scrolls. The Greek letters identify him as Cosmos, "the world." He is a symbolic representative of the world's multitudes gathered together in Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks at the time of that first descent of the Holy Spirit. He is in a walled-off dark place, the world without faith. His crown is the rule of sin and he is aged by the sin of Adam. The scrolls represent the teaching of the Twelve Apostles,

CATECHIST PRAYER PAGE

The prayer I have decided to share with you in this newsletter comes from Archbishop Gregory O'Kelly SJ. It is the prayer of entrustment of Australia in these times of need to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title of Mary Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all people, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This action and this prayer was approved by the Australian Bishops at their Conference not long ago.

The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians is normally the 24th May but because that is a Sunday in Eastertide, this year it is transferred to Monday 25th.

At the conclusion of the Mass of Instalment in St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Monday 25th, the new Archbishop of Adelaide, Most Rev Patrick O'Regan DD will read this prayer of entrustment of the Archdiocese to Immaculate Mary Help of Christians. Parish priests may wish to pray the same prayer at their private or online Masses on the same day.

Restrictions may have been eased to a small degree by then and some people may be able to be present, we pray. We must await further government directions. In any case the priest in his parish can recite the prayer of entrustment on behalf of all, for the sake of the people of Australia.

(You will note the use of the word "entrustment" rather than "consecration". This reflects a theological discussion. God is the only being to whom one might be consecrated – as in consecrated religious, consecrated churches. In his later years Pope Saint John Paul II began to use the word "entrustment" in place of consecration, a practice followed largely by his successors. We consecrate ourselves to God, and entrust ourselves to Our Lady).

One of the first acts of the first official gathering of Bishops in Australia in 1844 was to declare Mary Help of Christians the patroness of Australia, hence this entrustment is a repeat of that act.

Prayer of Entrustment of Australia

to the Immaculate Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all of your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time. We implore your intercession especially for the protection of nurses and doctors and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us Mother of God and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign in triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you! Amen



Making Connections: Within the Family ...

Raising Hearts and Minds



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.





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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 for families with children.

Parents/Caregivers/Catechists are advised to open the various links and use them as they judge appropriate to the needs and age of their child/ren.

Some suggestions are:

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

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

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

<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

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>

A VERY INSIGHTFUL BLOG FOR PEOPLE IN MINISTRY FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY INSTITUTE:

7 WAYS TO MINISTER IN TIMES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

<http://ym institute.com/7-ways-to-minister-in-times-of-social-distancing/>

News & Events

INSTALLATION MASS
FOR THE NINTH ARCHBISHOP OF ADELAIDE

Most Rev Patrick O'Regan

Monday 25 May 2020, 10.30am (ACST)
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Live streamed on www.adelaide.catholic.org.au
or replayed on Channel 44 at 5.30pm (ACST)



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We're on the web

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

As Churches continue to be closed and public Masses prohibited, the Archdiocese of Adelaide is providing live streams of Mass to support the faithful during this time.

Daily Mass live streaming from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 12 noon, beginning with Regina Caeli and Mass at 12.10pm. Principal Celebrant: Fr Arul Dev

[Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au)



PLEASE complete the contact sheet which we emailed as an attachment with this Newsletter. It will help us enormously in updating our records and keeping in touch with you. THANK YOU!

SACRAMENT PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION

Please note that Parish Sacrament Preparation Programs are suspended in all Parishes in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. These will resume when the current situation is resolved.

All 2020 Confirmation dates have had to be cancelled. Parishes will be advised when the process can resume.

Things that can be done in the meantime:

- Contact families to ask how they are coping.
- Alert them to the various resources available for families in support of the ongoing faith formation of their children.
- Reassure them of your prayers for them
- Encourage them to pray as a family.

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 Gospel reflections with a focus on children. Families can use these at home to reflect on the Gospel each Sunday.

The following is the link on the Archdiocesan website: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/prayer-services>.