



YEAR B: Mark

Volume16 Edition1: 2021

From the Team

Dear Catechists and friends

Welcome to 2021! Welcome to all who are new to Children's Ministry. We hope that following the call to be the *echo of God's word* in the lives of children and their families through faith formation is a rewarding one for your own life and one which will enhance your own faith journey.

Welcome also to Amanda Razon who has joined the team! Amanda is looking forward to meeting you either in person or via email—and possibly via some video connection in time!

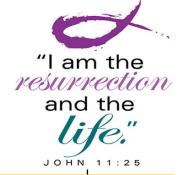
You may have noticed that the Family and Parish-Based Catechesis Office has a change of name to Family Faith Formation Team. The work of the team still focuses around the Sacraments of Initiation of Children, Family Catechesis, Liturgy of the Word with Children and Religious Education Faith Formation for children within the parish. An aspect that is highlighted in this work is faith formation for all members of the family.

The Annual Archdiocesan Catechist Commissioning Mass took place on 28 February this year at the Cathedral, presided by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan. It was a wonderful celebration with the highlight of two papal blessing recipients for many years of service in Children's Ministry in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. We congratulate and ask for God's blessing on Esther Jordan and Sr Cecilia Thi Manh De op.

If you would like to receive this newsletter or any other communication via email, please let us know. Our details are on the back of this newsletter.

With every blessing for the Season Sr Jenny Seal and Amanda Razon

Inside this edition Welcome 1 Year of St Joseph 3 Sacraments of Initiation 4-5 **Families** 6-7 **Updates and News** 8-9 Prayer and Reflection 10 Resources 11 Our Parish story 12 Formation Opportunities 12



WELCOME to our Team: Amanda Razon

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our Lenten season. I can say there were many moments of awe and inspiration during Lent, particularly participating in the Commissioning Mass in February. It made me reflect a little on my own journey that led me to being part of the Faith Formation Team with Sr Jenny.

I am an Early Years Teacher and currently work at St. John the Baptist Catholic school as a Year 1 teacher. I also have been led down a windy road of doing part time positions of being an Early Childhood Educator, Chaplain and Youth Minister over the past several years. During my time, the interactions and relationships that I have made with people across all walks of life has shaped my motivation to be doing the work that I am doing now. I look forward to the year ahead and meeting many of you soon!



EASTER—Christ, the Light of the World

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—up until we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost!

The beautiful dramatic Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night marks the beginning of Easter. On this night, we await the Master's return with lamps lit and ready to share at the same table at the rising of the sun. It is reminiscent of the adult baptisms of the Early Church when the Word of God was proclaimed throughout the night and God's goodness in salvation history was recalled. During this time, the adults who had been rigorously preparing over a few years to live as a Christian were baptised, confirmed and now able to enter and receive communion at the table of the Lord. They were, at this point, fully initiated into the Christian community. This ceremony will take All involved would celebrate the all night. Resurrection of Jesus—the Light of the World with the morning's rising sun!

Each year, our parishes celebrate the Easter Vigil which is divided into four parts:

1 Service of Light

Here, the church is in darkness, a fire is lit, the paschal candle is enthroned, the *Exultet*—the song proclaiming the Light of Christ coming into the world is sung, the whole church is lit and the people respond with a grateful 'Thanks be to God'!

2 <u>Liturgy of the Word</u>

With grateful hearts, we listen to God's goodness to his people through the readings. This is our story where the God of love comes to us in good and in difficult times. There are nine readings in the full version:

- i. Story of Creation, Gen 1:1-2; 2;
- ii. Abraham and Isaac, Gen 22:1-18;

- iii. Crossing of the Red Sea, Exodus 14:15-15:1;
- iv. Isaiah 54:5-14;
- v. Isaiah 55:1-11;
- vi. Baruch 3:9-15.32-4:4;
- vii. Ezekiel 36:16-17.18-28;
- viii. Romans 6:3-11; and
- ix. Gospel reading Mark 16:1-7

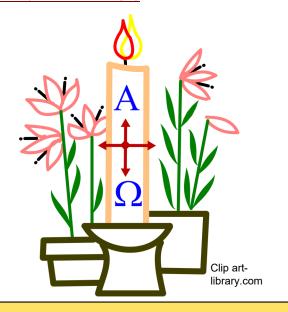
3 <u>Liturgy of Baptism</u>

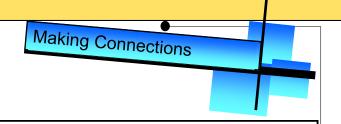
During this time the Easter water is blessed, new members are baptised, others *received* into the Church who have been baptised in other Christian Churches and the Litany of the Saints is prayed. All in the Church are then blessed with water and all renew the promises made at their baptism.

4 <u>Liturgy of the Eucharist</u>

At this point, Mass resumes for all. Everyone who has been baptised or *received* into the Catholic church share at the table of the Lord and receive communion for the first time in this community. They are all now fully initiated members and share in the life of the faith community.

For the meaningful words in the Liturgy of the marking of the Paschal Candle and of the *Exsultet* see https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1043

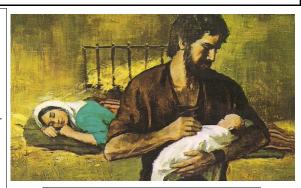




YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter *Patris* corde (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

To mark the occasion, Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph" running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The theme for the year is "Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life'.



Unknown artist: The birth of Jesus

A number of resources are being developed and regularly added to the Australian Bishops Conference website to encourage and support the celebration of the Year of St Joseph.

The resources include the Apostolic Letter, prayers and monthly reflections.

These can be found at: https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph

I wonder...who is Joseph in the scriptures?

(Extract from With a Father's Heart)

'Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence'.

'In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. Lk 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, "No prophet is to rise" (cf. Jn 7:52) and indeed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (cf. Jn 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. Lk 2:41-50)'.

I wonder...who is Joseph for you?

In his letter, Pope Francis describes Joseph as:

A father who is tender and loving, obedient, accepting and creatively courageous. He also describes him as a worker and as a person in the shadows. Pope Francis tells us that 'Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift'.

I wonder who Joseph is for each of us?

I wonder how we can live these qualities as parents and as catechists?

WITH A FATHER'S HEART

is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph" (Lk 4:22; Jn 6:42; cf. Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3)

Celebrating St Joseph as a faith community

19 March St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed

Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14,16; Rom4:13, 16-18, 22;

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24 or Lk 2:41-51

1 May St Joseph, the Worker (optional memoria)

Gen 1:26-2.3 or Col 3:14-15, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58



Sacraments of Initiation

FAMILY IDEAS

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

- Start a prayer journal using an exercise book or note book and cover and/or decorate
- Write your own prayers to God
- Ask Jesus to be with you as you prepare to receive him in your hearts through the Sacraments.
- Learn and pray prayers with your family such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, a Sorry prayer asking for forgiveness, the Apostles' Creed, Come Holy Spirit. Use these in your prayers during the week.



- Explore your favourite Morning and Night prayer.
- Search google for other prayers you may like.
- Learn the prayers from the Mass: Gloria, Holy Holy, Lamb of God
 - Search you tube for songs by Michael Mangan, Andrew Chinn and John Burland. Use these as part of your prayer or enjoyment as a family.
 - Discuss with your family about what you are looking forward to in receiving the Sacraments. Write a prayer to Jesus about this and ask him each day to help you.

https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/sacraments-297x300.pnq

- Thank God for the blessings of the day.
 - Ask Jesus to show you what were the good or poor choices you made that day at school or home.
 - Reflect on your thoughts or actions during the day the actions you took or the actions for good that you didn't take.
 - Reflect on what you could do to make up for the poor choices or what actions you can take the next time.
 - Write to Jesus about thanking him for his help during the day and asking him to help you to do better and grow close to him.
- As a family, use the *Family Liturgies* each week based on the Sunday Gospel from the following link: https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/prayer-services

Sacraments of Initiation

GOSPEL STORIES

Search youtube for gospel stories such as Zacchaeus, the Good Samaritan, the Good Shepherd or the Lost Sheep, the Prodigal Son, the First Eucharist or the Last Supper, Pentecost or the Coming of the Holy Spirit.

Share and discuss with your family.

Then, write a prayer or a reflection on the message of Jesus' story for your life at home or at school.

Search for activity sheets on the Gospel stories.

INSPIRING PEOPLE

- Reflect on people you know among your family, friends or school and write why they inspire you
- Write about or draw the wonderful gifts God has given to you
- Using google or books from your school library or the Resource Centre at Thebarton, explore Saints who may inspire you and write why in your prayer journal.
- Search youtube for video clips on the *Gifts of the Holy Spirit* and reflect which gift you would like the most in your life and why. Write your reflection in your prayer journal.
- Search youtube for clip on the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit* and write in your journal who you know who show these gifts in their lives. Discuss with your family what fruits of the spirit you see in your own

These are a few ideas to nurture the faith life of children and their families.

A pdf sheet of 'Family Ideas for Sacraments' can be found at:

https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/schools/catholiceducation-sa/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/ sacraments-of-initiation/sacrament-resource

You may like to print the pdf for your Sacrament program or you may like to take a section and reprint in your parish bulletin or online.



http://clipart-library.com/

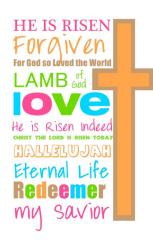
Making Connections: within the Familybecause every family matters

Family Fun Have some family fun while learning about the journey to Easter:

Follow the link and print the pages for a Family Easter Trail Hunt

https://af51dd98-adab-4c43-ba03-c87e019551a5.filesusr.com/ugd/ebdd71 f417270eb1b84f0c8dc9da63b6793d9e.pdf





Symbol of Easter?

The rabbit or bunny is used in our society as a symbol of Easter and brings a lot of delight to children. In the northern hemisphere, Easter is during spring when there is new life aplenty and this represents the new life that Jesus brings to us through his resurrection.

To make use of this symbol to help children understand the meaning of Easter, you may like to include a note from the Easter bunny referring to Jesus' Resurrection as the reason for celebrating Easter. The egg is another symbol of new life that you may like to discuss with your children.

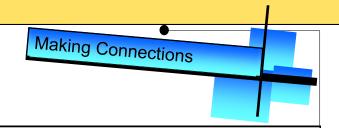
Look around in your garden and neighbourhood for other things that are springing to new life at this time. Discuss some ideas with your children about what can bring 'new life' to your family this season. Is it through the way we care for each other through our words and actions? Is it through the way we can come together as a family to pray and ask Jesus to be with you each day? Let us take some time to explore!

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

Every Sunday is like an Easter Sunday!

When we attend the celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, we remember and share in Jesus life, death and resurrection.

Jesus asks us to do this in memory of him.

We believe that Jesus is really present in our life. As a community of believers, we listen to his word through the scriptures and reflect how we can live \Rightarrow as Christians in the coming week.

We are nourished and strengthened by the prayers

and friendship of each other and through receiving Jesus, .

the Bread of Life.

- As a family, use the Family Liturgies each week based on the Sunday Gospel from the following link: https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/ our-works-and-community/family-and-parishbased-catechesis/prayer-services
- During this Easter Season, write about or draw the wonderful gifts God has given to you and thank God for all the blessings
- As a family, watch the video of *The Empty* Tomb—the story of Jesus' resurrection.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe50 LaJgWE

- I wonder which part of this story, you liked the best? Why?
- Do you really believe that Jesus loves you and knows you by your name?
- How can we tell others about God's love?

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. Let us pray together:

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.

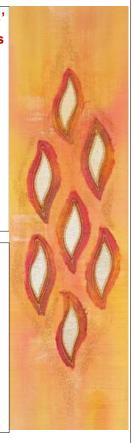
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pope Francis has announced a special **Year of the Family** from March 19, 2021 to June 26, 2022.

The year commemorates the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)

"The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures."





Updates and News

The Faith Formation Team is located within the structure of Catholic Education, South Australia. The team consists of Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc and Amanda Razon who are both part time in the office.

For those who are new to children's ministries, this office supports those engaged in the catechesis of children and their families within the parishes of the Adelaide Archdiocese. We provide resources, consultation, workshops and ongoing formation that support parish and school communities in the main areas of Family Catechesis, Sacraments of Initiation of children of catechetical age, Liturgy of the Word with Children and Religious Education and catechesis of children who attend a non-Catholic school. The team promotes the partnerships between family, parish and school. This year, we are looking at ways to integrate parent formation.

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.

Catechist Newsletters and Communications

There will be four Catechist newsletters this year called *Making Connections*. We hope that this will assist you with some formational and news items as well as resources available.

We are also hoping that we may be able to make available to you an online communication more occasionally to bring news of events or ideas that may be useful. We also communicate with parishes via the Archdiocesan e-news as needed and schools via the Religious Education Communique.

Therefore, if you have any parish news and are holding an event for children and/or families that you would like to share with others, please contact Amanda or Sr Jenny via email.

Also, If anyone in your catechist team involved in children's ministries would like to be added to our mailing list for catechist newsletter or online communications, please let us know also via email. We look forward to connecting with each of you or in any way that will enhance your ministry with children and their families.

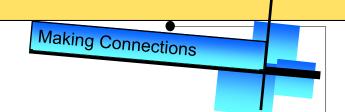
Catechist Formation, Training and Workshops

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 in 2020, face-to-face training and workshops for Catechists was unavailable. This year, 2021, we are hoping that catechists will avail themselves of getting together and building their community of support. Below are our workshop offerings to date:

A Catechist Enrichment Workshop for all catechists and for anyone interested in being involved in children's ministries. In particular, all new catechists are encouraged to attend. This will be held on **Monday 3 May 9.30 am to 1.30pm.** Please place this date in your diary and see registration details on page 12.

Sacraments of Initiation: Where to next? Workshop will be held on **Tuesday June 29 from 9.30am to 2.30pm.** Please place this date in your diary and see registration details on page 12. This is an important workshop for all involved to attend.

Liturgy of the Word with Children during Term 3. Please keep this in mind for all who haven't completed this 3 hour training. This may also be an occasion for new recruits or interest in this ministry. This training is important for those leading as it delineates the correct process for this Liturgy with children at the same time of the Liturgy of the Word during a Sunday Mass. This time is meant to be a prayerful, reflective time for the children on the gospel with appropriate prayers and responses. This process can also be utilised with children in other settings and is an opportunity for liturgical catechesis.



Updates and News

Child Protection and Children's Ministries

A reminder to all catechists, parishes and groups within the Archdiocese to be aware of and to revisit the policies, procedures and resources provided by the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Child Protection Unit https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/child-protection-unit in relation to any Children's Ministries or events.

If you are involved in any children ministries or events with children, please make sure that:

- you have completed the training through your parish or school
- your parish has completed the *Risk Assessment* for the children's ministry that you are involved in or any event that your group organises with children. The Risk Assessment can be found at: https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/ files/f/45760/Risk%20Assessment%20Checklist%20Tool.pdf

This would include all children ministries such as Sacramental Catechesis, Liturgy of the Word with Children, Religious Education and Formation of children and any other events held with children. Please be aware that it is important for adults working with children to work in pairs of adults or in clear view of another responsible adult.

Please also be aware of the *Safe Practices Online* resource which can be found at the Child Protection Unit website as well https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/_files/f/37620/Safe%20Practices%20Online%20with%20Children%20and%20Young%20People.pdf

For further information for parishes and groups support, advice or additional resources, please contact the **Catholic Archdiocese Child Protection Unit** ph 8210 8159.

Ecumenical Conference

This year the Intergenerate Conference is being held interstate in person and online on 27-28 July. The focus of *Integenerate Australia* is to raise awareness of the importance of being more "Intergenerational" in our faith communities when and wherever we meet.

You may like to explore with your parish if participating would be to the advantage of your ministry with children and their families. This could be an opportunity to reflect and glean any ideas that may be generated to suit your parish context.

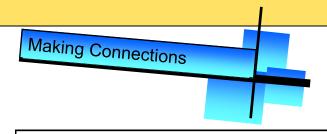
For more information visit https://www.intergenerate.com.au/events

From the General Directory of Catechesis Vatican 2020

The sowing of the Gospel

31. Having tested the ground, the sower sends out his workers to proclaim the Gospel through all the world and to that end shares with them the power of his Spirit. At the same time he shows them how to read the signs of the times and asks





REFLECTION

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

A Reading from the Gospel of St John

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).

(pause for reflection)

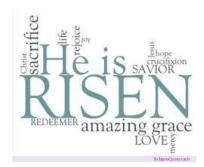
I wonder which words or phrase spoke to me?

I wonder what my response to Jesus is today as he asks me...

'whom are you looking for?'

'what does your heart desire?'

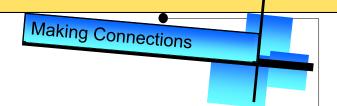
Spend some time in a quiet prayer response, reflecting and/or journaling



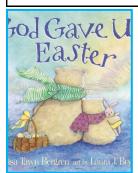
We sing with Joy:

"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!



RESOURCES

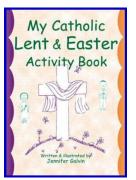


God gave us Easter

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



My Catholic Lent and Easter Activity Book

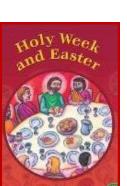
by Jennifer Galvin

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



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.



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)

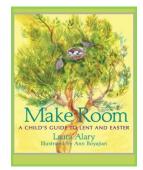
112 Kintore Street Thebarton SA 5031 T:83016869 E: cris@cesa.catholic.edu.au



The 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



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

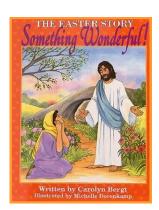
creating a welcoming space for God.

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.'



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

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, many catechists came to the 11am Cathedral Mass on Sunday 28 February together with the Catholic Education Office's Catholic Identity Team to re-commit themselves to the various ministries with children and their families.

The Commissioning Mass celebrated with the Archbishop is important as it publicly recognises the great children's ministries happening within our parishes and schools.

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 celebrated the many years of service in children's ministries within the Adelaide Archdiocese of Sr Cecilia Thi Manh De op and Esther Jordan. They were presented with a special Papal Blessing by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan (pictured below).

A very big thank you to those catechists who attended the celebration. We look forward to this important event again next year!



'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

Making Connections

Family Faith Formation Team

Catholic Education Office 116 George Street Thebarton

PO Box 179 Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

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

Amanda Razon amanda.razon@cesa.catholic.edu.au 08 8301 6110

We're on the web



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

Formation Opportunities

CATECHIST ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP Presenters: Family Faith Formation Team

When: Monday 3 May 9.30-1.30pm Where: CEO Conference Centre 116 George St Thebarton

https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-4229786

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: WHERE TO NEXT?

Presenters: Family Faith Formation Team When: Tuesday 29 June , 9.30am- 2.30pm

Where: CEO Conference Centre 116 George St Thebarton

https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-4229874

GOSPEL OF MARK FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

Presenter Fr Michael Trainor

When: Saturday 10 April 9.30am-12.30pm Enquiries/Registration ph 8130 5900

Email: infosa@sosj.org.au

Cost: Full \$25 or pension/unwaged \$20

ASPECTS OF THE HEART

Presenter Val de Brenni

When: Saturday 17 April 9.30am-4pm

Enquiries/Registration ph 8130 5900 by Friday 30 April

Email: infosa@sosj.org.au

Cost: Full \$45 or pension/unwaged \$35