"Here am I, the servant of the Lord!"

Annunciation by Jewel Soares
Year 6, Lane Cove Public School

Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Newsletter
From the Director, Robert Haddad

Dear catechists,

I hope this message finds all catechists well as you wind down your classes for 2011.

**K-6 Curriculum.** Great news! The revised K-6 curriculum is now complete and available for immediate order. I wish to thank all those involved, especially Denise Humphreys (FEO for the South), for their great work in finalising this project.

**7-12 Curriculum.** Work continues on completing the combined Year 11-12 curriculum. All that remains to be done is to insert the relevant artwork and submit the lessons for theological examination. The aim remains to totally complete Year 11-12 by late February 2012.

**New Sacramental Programs.** Great progress has been made. Reconciliation and First Holy Communion have been completed and are currently being trialled in various parishes. Confirmation has been drafted and edited and is currently with the graphic artist. Congratulations again to Denise Humphreys for her excellent work.

**‘Smartboard’ Training Room.** The new Smartboard training room is now complete and ready for use from the beginning of 2012. This facility will prove to be of great benefit to enable catechists to keep up with the latest technological innovations in education. The course for training catechists is currently being developed and will be complete before Christmas. This will include a component on how to use the COLAL K-6 Activity Books in conjunction with the new technology.

**Year of Grace/Year of Celebration.** The Bishops of Australia have declared 2012 to be a *Year of Grace*. CCD Sydney will draw on this theme for our recruitment campaign for next year with the slogan, “*Fill this place in the Year of Grace.*” In addition, plans have commenced to celebrate the launch of the revised K-6 and new 7-12 Curriculums and honour one veteran catechist for 75 years of continuous service. More details of these celebrations will be provided during the course of next year.

May all Catechists have a blessed and joyful Christmas and New Year!

Robert Haddad
From the Faith Education Officers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EASTERN</th>
<th>NORTHERN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Philomena Middeldorp</td>
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The Peace of Christmas and the joy of the birth of Jesus be with you all! It’s time to put up the Christmas tree, join the chorus of Christmas shoppers and organise the lunches or dinners to celebrate the coming of Christ. This Christmas let us all spare a thought for all those who will not feel the real meaning of Christmas [some of these will be our own students], those who will let another Christmas pass them by without change or selfless actions, those who are sick and for the poor in spirit. Christmas as we have heard and shared with many is a time for giving and not expecting to receive – how wonderful our world would be following Jesus’ birth to His selfless sacrifice.

Thank you all for an exciting and fulfilling 2011. You have all played an important role in making this year a success in the Eastern Area – no matter how big or small! In this newsletter edition I have scheduled Basic One courses in February at Malabar, Randwick, Marrickville and Daceyville (see page 6). Please keep in mind that Catechist Sunday falls on Sunday 5 February 2012. This is a great opportunity to highlight our work and to encourage our parishioners to join our growing numbers. We can never have enough catechists. The Eastern Area Coordinator Meeting for February 2012 will be held on Friday, 10 February 2012 at 10am.

I leave you for 2011 and look forward to re-acquainting in 2012. Ensure you have a break and come back refreshed in 2012. Lastly, “Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness. Live by these and you can never go wrong.”

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas. May the peace of Jesus Christ continue to flow out to your families and friends.

Robert

Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Greetings to all in the Northern Area!

You all deserve a well earned break, especially the coordinators. Please take the time before the year ends to reflect back on your lessons. Write down what worked, what didn’t, what you could change and so on. Reflection will help you grow in confidence in your teaching so it will benefit both you and your students.

This term I have continued to help develop the Interactive Whiteboard course and the Teaching Secondary SRE course. Both will be available next year (see page 7). We hope many of you will attend these courses as they will be excellent opportunities to increase your skills and classroom practices.

Congratulations to all Northern Area catechists who received awards at the Annual Catechist Mass, especially the ever growing number of student catechists who were present. Training of new students for 2012 has commenced. I am constantly seeking new opportunities for more Catholic schools in the area to join this program.

The Northern Area has the largest group at the Life Members Function this year with five of six awardees in attendance. Words cannot describe the appreciation we have for those catechists who have devoted so many hours into spreading God’s love. Thank you.

I leave you with a reflection from Blessed John Paul II on Advent: “it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ‘advent,’ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognise him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.”

Philomena

Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
philomena@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
## From the Faith Education Officers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENTRAL</th>
<th>WESTERN</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Christie</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teresa Culjak</strong></td>
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Greetings to all in the Central Area.

As we come to the conclusion of another year, I’d like to thank you all for the wonderful work you have put in as messengers of the Catholic faith in our public schools.

In preparation for 2012, please notify me if you’re interested in holding a Basic One course at your parish, or would like to attend any other courses. If you know of a high school that wants Catholic Scripture on board or a Catholic high school to join in our Student Catechist project, please let me know too. I’d also like to invite you, as we take on more schools and flourish in our work, to urge family and friends who have some time on their hands to consider becoming catechists.

This year, the area’s biggest highlight was no doubt the hosting of the Annual Catechist Mass in September. I’d like to thank all those who assisted me in the lead-up to the day and on the day itself. Thanks to readers like Bruce Missen, Diane McGrath, Jose Wierzbicki and Lorraine Impala; ushers Patricia Singleton and Helmarri Anzilierio and the many other volunteers who helped out in the hall. A massive thank you also goes to my colleagues at the CCD for all their help, the acolytes and altar servers, and in particular the Samoan Choir from the Parish of St Christopher’s Panania and June Colin-Thome who helped sort out the music over many meetings with me. Despite the rain, it was a great afternoon. I would like to congratulate all those who received awards. My apologies if I have left any of you out.

May the birth of Our Lord Jesus and the onset of the New Year fill your lives with happiness and peace, and may the Christian message be at the core of your celebrations – *Peace on earth and good will to all!*

Sarah

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Fax: 9283 5146  
sarah.christie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

As you all know, I have recently returned from my time overseas, volunteering in an orphanage just outside Medjugorje in Bosnia Herzegovina, where I lived with the children, taught English and had a lot of fun with them. It was a journey that taught me that only love can change the world.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the catechist coordinator for Smithfield, Mimi Romeo, for filling my post with the CCD while I was away. Mimi did a wonderful job looking after the Western Area and was an asset to the smooth-running of the area and the CCD’s events while I was gone.

I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to all awardees at the Annual Catechist Mass. In particular I congratulate all those from the Western Area who I’ve had the pleasure of both working with and teaching. You were in my thoughts though I was not present to share your milestones and celebrate with you.

For all new catechists and those wanting a refresher, please consider attending the Basic One Course in 2012. Topics include Classroom Management, Basic Catechism and Child Protection (see page 6).

Over these holidays, please remind family and friends to contact me if they would be interested in becoming catechists. As our area and schools, particularly high schools, continue to grow, the demand for more people to help spread the faith grows just as much.

I wish you all a well-deserved break as SRE Classes come to a close for 2011. May this time with family and friends be a time of grace as we prepare for Christmas, the coming of Jesus.

God bless you all,

Teresa

Tel: 9756 6638  
Fax: 9283 5146  
teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
By the time you read this newsletter you may have taught your final SRE class for 2011. I hope you have an enjoyable break over Christmas and come back to this ministry refreshed in the New Year. Looking back over the last twelve months these are some of the things for which I am most grateful:

- Our parish coordinators who kept things going while I was busy writing curriculum.
- The more than 40 catechists who participated in the Basic One/Two Accreditation course this year.
- The very efficient way Sutherland parish organised the Area Mass. The way catechists managed to attend on time despite the limited parking around the parish.
- The consistency of entries from our area for the Archdiocesan Art Exhibition. Art works from Brighton-Le-Sands Public School, Marton Public School, Bexley North Public School will be on display in the Crypt of the Cathedral during the Advent and Christmas season.
- The Yr 12 students from De La Salle College who continue to teach SRE to groups of 20 infant students at Burraneer Bay. These students then help mentor the next group of Yr 11 students who take over this ministry. Hopefully next year we can get students from one more Catholic high school to participate in this work.
- All the catechists who teach each week.

Congratulations to all those who participated in the various levels of accreditation this year – the Basic One/Two, Intermediate and Advanced and Catechist Ministry Certificate courses. Next year the Basic One course will be offered in Miranda CCD Centre and as many local parish groups as possible.

I hope you all have a happy and holy Christmas.

Denise
Tel: 9524 6400
Fax: 9524 6400
denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
### Accreditation Courses - Term 1, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Courses Details</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASIC ONE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Feb 6, 13, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Christ the King Parish 589 Hume Highway, Yagoona</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Feb 6, 13, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Feb 7, 9am to 3pm</td>
<td>St Therese's Parish 8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone</td>
<td>Philomena Middeldorp</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Feb 7, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Feb 7, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 58A Clovelly Road, Randwick</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern &amp; Central Feb 8, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>St Brigid's Parish 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville</td>
<td>Robert Milan &amp; Sarah Christie</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Central</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASIC TWO</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Feb 20, 10am to 12pm</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Feb 20, 30 Mar 5, 9am to 2pm</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Mar 5, 12 &amp; 19, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Our Lady Queen of Peace 11 Pittwater Rd, Gladesville</td>
<td>Philomena Middeldorp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Feb 20, 30, 12 &amp; 19, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADVANCED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 &amp; April 2, 23, 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>CCD Smithfield 8 Justin St, Smithfield</td>
<td>Teresa Culjak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Mar 12, 19, 26 &amp; April 2, 23, 10am to 2:30pm</td>
<td>Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish 6 Kerrinea Rd, Sefton</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
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Please note that the CCD bookshop closes for Christmas holidays from midday of 22 Dec 2011 and does not open until 9 Jan 2012. Online orders accepted anytime as normal, however, they will not be processed until January.
# CCD Calendar

## January 2012
- **9 Jan (Mon)**: Bookshop re-opens
- **27 Jan (Fri)**: Start of Term 1
- **30 Jan (Mon)**: 10am to 12 noon Central Area Coordinator’s Meeting; Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

## February 2012
- **2 Feb (Thurs)**: 10am to 12 noon Southern Area Coordinator’s Meeting; CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
- **5 Feb (Sun)**: Catechist Sunday
- **6 Feb (Mon)**: 10am to 12 noon Western Area Coordinator’s Meeting; All Saints Parish 48 George St, Liverpool
- **10 Feb (Fri)**: 10am to 12 noon Eastern Area Coordinator’s Meeting; Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
- **13 Feb (Mon)**: 10am to 12 noon Northern Area Coordinator’s Meeting; Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
- **22 Feb (Wed)**: Ash Wednesday

## March 2012
- **23 Mar (Fri)**: 11am to 1pm COLAL Launch; Cathedral House St Mary’s Road, Sydney

## April 2012
- **5 Apr (Thurs)**: End of Term 1
- **8 Apr (Sun)**: Easter Sunday

### Interactive Whiteboard Courses - Term 1

**Smartboard Beginners Class**
- Jan 20 (Friday)
- Jan 25 (Wednesday)
- Feb 17 (Friday)
- Mar 13 (Tuesday)

**Smartboard Master Class**
- Feb 24 (Friday)

- Classes are from **10am to 3pm** at Level 6, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street. A certificate is provided upon each course completion.
- The **Smartboard Beginners Class** is suitable for catechists who have limited computer experience and would like to use the Interactive Whiteboard in their scripture class.
- The **Smartboard Master Class** is an optional extra training for catechists skilled in computer use. Individuals who have completed the Smartboard Beginners Class or have delivered actual Smartboard lessons will find it suitable to extend their computer skills.
- A checklist of course pre-requisites can be requested via email: mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

### Catechist Ministry Certificate 2012

#### TERM 1

**Foundations of RE (MC02)**
- *Denise Humphreys*
- CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
- Saturdays 10am to 1pm
- March 3, 10, 17 & 24

**Church Teachings on Mary (MI21)**
- *Robert Haddad*
- Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
- Thursdays 10am to 2pm
- March 8 & 15

**Ministry (MC05)**
- *Robert Milan*
- Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
- Fridays 10am to 2pm
- March 23 & 30

Strict pre-booking for CCD training is essential. Please call 9390 5122 or email mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Highlights of the 2011 Annual Catechist Mass
25 Sept 2011 St Mary's Cathedral

Cardinal Pell with 50 year service awardees

Newly accredited catechists were commissioned.

Anna Ioane sung the verses of the Responsorial Psalm.

The Samoan choir from Panania sang in beautiful harmony.

Freeman Catholic College was one of four new Catholic schools in the Student Catechist program.

Former Teresians celebrated with fellow Teresian Pat Weinert for her service of 50 years.
9

A record number of parish priests concelebrated in the Mass.

Cardinal George Pell thanked Enmore Parish Priest Fr Martin Monaghan for his 20 years of service as a catechist.

Cathy Harrington of Homebush was one of 27 catechists who received the Apostolic Blessing for 20 year service.

Maryann Paterson was one of four people who completed the Catechist Ministry Certificate.

Francesca Tedesco and 20 catechists received their Certificate of Accreditation.

Marie Stanislas is one of nine Cardinal Freeman Medal awardees for 25 year service.

Dianne McGrath

Robert Milan

Photo courtesy of Catholic Weekly and Enrico Rivera Photography.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Term 4, 2011

50 yr service awardee
Sr Christina O’Connor RSJ of Punchbowl & Croydon

50 yr service awardee
Patricia Perival of Cabramatta

50 yr service awardee
Patricia Weinert of Campsie

40 yr service awardees Christine Riley of San Souci, Elisabeth Roth of Mascot, Betty Nolan of Liverpool and Sue Donovan of Matraville (apology from Rita Prendergast).

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50 yr service awardee
Sr Christina O’Connor RSJ of Punchbowl & Croydon
I am happy to announce that all revision work on Christ our Light and Life (3rd Ed.) is now complete with the release of Year 5 and 6 Teacher Manuals and Activity Books for 2012. The completion of this revision is the culmination of three years hard work by Denise Humphreys (FEO Southern Area) and her team of assistant writers, Leonie Green (CCD Wollongong) and Carol Vella (CCD Parramatta). No further revision work is envisaged.

CCD Sydney also engaged in the construction of a new Years 7-12 secondary school curriculum in parallel with the revision of the K-6 curriculum. The immediate aim of this endeavour was to

By Robert Haddad

Back in late 2004 CCD Sydney embarked on an ambitious program to introduce a new K-6 curriculum to replace the long-standing Joy For Living program. Entitled Christ our Light and Life, the objective was to produce a curriculum that would be more substantive as regards Catholic doctrine and refreshingly new as regards artwork and student activities. From 2005-2007 work progressed on this revision in earnest.

By early 2008 these dual objectives were mostly achieved; however, feedback from numerous catechists, coordinators and staff of various CCDs indicated that additional work was still needed to perfect the final outcome. Hence, in late 2008 the decision was made to further revise Christ our Light and Life with a view to enhance its overall age-appropriateness, artwork and affordability.
replace the previous *Signs of the Times* curriculum released in 1992 and which for all intents and purposes was no longer in regular use. Work on this project began in mid-2009 and has been led by Elizabeth Reeves, a long-standing catechist from the Wollongong diocese. It is hoped that Years 11-12 will be completed by late February 2012.

It is planned to have an official launch of the revised K-6 3rd Edition and new Years 7-12 programs in the presence of His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell, on 23 March 2012. Further details will be provided in due course.

Two further celebrations are planned for 2012. The first relates to the launch of the new sacramental programs for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. CCD Sydney has been responsible for drafting (thanks again Denise), editing and providing artwork for these programs. In general, the work has now progressed to trialing the drafts in various parishes. Bishop Julian Porteous will determine the date of the public launch.

Finally, the Annual Catechist Mass scheduled for 23 September 2012 will see one catechist from Sydney Archdiocese honoured for 75 years of continuous service. By any standard such a period of service is a colossal achievement and deserves to be acknowledged in a unique way in our most important annual event.

It is my hope that numerous catechists, coordinators and parish priests will join us for these celebrations, acknowledging these highly significant milestones in the history of Sydney CCD.
Join our Birthday Club and receive a 25% discount voucher for your birthday.

Use the voucher in person or email your selection. Register by ringing the bookshop on 9390 5130.

**New Resource Ideas**

**Jesus Welcomes You to the Mass**
*By Angela M. Burrin*
*Illustrated by Maria Cristina Lo Cascio*

In this beautifully illustrated book, Jesus ‘speaks’ directly to children, explaining the Mass by linking the liturgy to scenes from the Gospels.

**Let’s Sing Sing Sing! Vol I**
*By Twoby2*

A collection of songs to complement the primary school curriculum *Christ our Light and Life*.

**Let’s Sing Sing Sing! Vol II**
*By Twoby2*

**The Little Brown Book**
*By Sue and Leo Kane*

Two books on the spirituality of St Mary of the Cross in our everyday lives. Has beautiful reflections to affirm us and challenge us to grow.

**The Little Brown Book Two**
*Also by Sue and Leo Kane*

**My First Communion**
*By Angela M. Burrin with Sue Doggett*

Your First Holy Communion is very special. In this beautiful book, the author shares how much Jesus loves coming to you in the Eucharist.

**Available from**

**Sydney Catholic Books & Resources**
Ph: 02 9390 5130 Fax: 02 9283 5146
Email: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Online bookshop: www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au

Conditions apply. Birthday Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with *Christ our Light and Life, To Know Worship and Love* Text Books, Big Books, Sacramental Programs and already discounted stock. The voucher can be used within a year of the catechist’s birthday.