Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
Archdiocese of Sydney

Art Competition
Entries from Year 5 and 6 students
Dear Catechists,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I prepare myself to assume the role as Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, commencing Monday, November 3.

My association with the CCD goes back many years and has taken many forms. My first encounter was as a young student in Greenacre Primary School in 1973, receiving catechism from Sister Patrick of motor-mission. Later, while a student in Punchbowl Boys High School I was taught by other catechists, including Mrs Pippin (1977) and Mr Farrugia (1980-81). I can assure all our readers that these catechists, and others whose names I cannot recall, all planted important seeds that would germinate in later years. In my professional life, I taught catechism in Forest Lodge and Glebe primary schools in 2002 and during 2004-2007 assisted the CCD in writing and editing the new *Christ Our Life and Light Series* K-6, as well as teaching a number of courses for catechists.

I come from a background that was not originally in education. As an undergraduate student I studied Law at Sydney University. However, very soon after graduating I began a career teaching religion and history at St Charbel's College, Punchbowl (Years 7-12). There I remained for 15 years (1990-2005), also carrying out the roles of Year Co-ordinator, REC, and Assistant Principal. Since 2006 I have worked as Convener of the Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Sydney and as Tertiary Chaplain of all university chaplaincies in the Archdiocese. In view of these roles I acquired further tertiary qualifications in Theology, Philosophy, and Religious Education.

I come to the role as Director with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. As a former student in public schools, I intimately understand the need to reach out to all Catholic students wherever they may be to impart to them our beautiful Catholic faith. The ‘New Evangelisation’ in the post-World Youth Day era will definitely include the work of catechists, as we endeavour together to expand into those remaining primary and secondary schools still beyond our reach. It will therefore be a high priority of my directorship to still further increase the number of catechists, to encourage young people of university age or thereabouts to enter the ranks, and to produce a new Year 7-12 syllabus by the end of 2011.

As a final comment, I wish to thank, firstly, the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, for trusting me with this very important position, as well as Anthony Cleary and Robert Milan who both admirably served the CCD respectively as Director and General Manager since mid 2004.

God bless you all in your great work,

Robert Haddad
Greetings to all and welcome to the final term in what has been an eventful and exciting 2008.

Yes, Christmas is around the corner and the experience of World Youth Day has left us with unforgettable memories, life changing experiences and fruits to last. The CCD was more than honoured to host the World Youth Day Cross and Icon on Holy Thursday in March as well as to have had an exhibition stand at the Vocations Expo in Darling Harbour.

Personally my experience of WYD has been nothing short of inspiring and the well mannered behaviour of the pilgrims stands out in my mind. The pilgrims of the world showed that enjoyment can be achieved without reference to any other means.

My highlighted events apart from the Vocations Expo were the Stations of the Cross which was very moving, the vigil and the final Mass. Having my family around made the experience even more meaningful. I would like to extend a word of congratulations to all involved in the WYD organisation and to thank His Eminence George Cardinal Pell for the successful bid in winning the WYD event for Australia.

With the new Term also comes the announcement of our new Director. As you all may be aware the CCD was restructured when Mr. Anthony Cleary was promoted to the CEO with the creation of a General Manager role, as a result the Archdiocese has decided to rollback to the original structure and remove the General Manager role replacing it with the Directorship.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Robert Haddad on his appointment to the position of CCD Director. Robert comes to the role with a wealth of experience ranging from 16 years of Secondary Religious Education; Master degrees in Theology and Religious Education; a degree in law and along with being the Convener at the Catholic Chaplaincy a the University of Sydney. Robert has also taught Catechist Ministry Certificate courses. Robert’s primary objective will be to convene the formulation of a Secondary program which will follow from the recently completed Christ Our Light and Life primary curriculum series and will be based on the To Know Worship and Love. I look forward to working with Robert and welcome him onboard, Robert is scheduled to begin Monday 3 November and will be the special guest speaker at the coming Life Members Mass and Luncheon to be held on Friday 21 November [see this issue of the Newsletter for more details.]

As I take a step back from the role of General Manager I would like to thank all my staff, all the catechists, catechist coordinators and parish priests for their support and prayers. I wish all involved in the Catechetical Apostolate all the very best in their work and a most blessed, holy and safe Christmas and I look forward to a prosperous 2009 not only for the CCD as an organisation but for all family, friends, parish priests, catechists, students and their families. I will see you all in my regular Newsletter column under Faith Education Officer for the Concord Area.

Yours in Christ!
Robert Milan
General Manager (Acting)
The Bankstown Area has undergone some instability over the past year with Mrs. Josephine Elias on maternity leave and with Miss Claudia Sadaka moving on to pursue another opportunity. However, all rocky times come to an end and the CCD looks forward to the commencement of the next Faith Education Officer who will commence on the 1 December 2008. During Term 4 the courses to be held around the Bankstown Area will be facilitated by Mrs Josephine Elias to whom we are grateful in her part-time capacity in offering her services.

Catechists from the Bankstown Area can be assured of the support of our new Director Mr. Robert Haddad who will take on the role from the 3 November. During this time any issues can be directed to Mr. Robert Milan who will commence fulltime duties as a Faith Education Officer of the Concord Area from the 3 November.

The CCD would like to thank all catechists and their coordinators from the Bankstown Area for their support and patience and would like to extend joyous, blessings and restfulness during the Christmas Season and towards a prosperous 2009.

Coordinators and catechists will find the dates for coming courses, events, orientations, coordinator meetings and Catechist Sunday for both this remaining term and for the early part of 2009.

The CCD would like to leave you with a reflection on our Lady’s ‘Yes’ through the Angelus as given by Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day 2008:

 dear Young Friends,

In the beautiful prayer [The Angelus]..., we reflect on Mary as a young woman, receiving the Lord’s summons to dedicate her life to him in a very particular way, a way that would involve the generous gift of herself, her womanhood, her motherhood. Imagine how she must have felt. She was filled with apprehension, utterly overwhelmed at the prospect that lay before her.

The angel understood her anxiety and immediately sought to reassure her. “Do not be afraid, Mary…. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Lk 1:30, 35). It was the Spirit who gave her the strength and courage to respond to the Lord’s call. It was the Spirit who helped her to understand the great mystery that was to be accomplished through her. It was the Spirit who enfolded her with his love and enabled her to conceive the Son of God in her womb. … During the Old Testament, God revealed himself partially, gradually, as we all do in our personal relationships. It took time for the chosen people to develop their relationship with God. The Covenant with Israel was like a period of courtship, a long engagement. Then came the definitive moment, the moment of marriage, the establishment of a new and everlasting covenant.

As Mary stood before the Lord, she represented the whole of humanity. In the angel’s message, it was as if God made a marriage proposal to the human race. And in our name, Mary said yes. In fairy tales, the story ends there, and all “live happily ever after”.

In real life it is not so simple. For Mary there were many struggles ahead, as she lived out the consequences of the “yes” that she had given to the Lord. Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce her heart. When Jesus was twelve years old, she experienced every parent’s worst nightmare when, for three days, the child went missing. And after his public ministry, she suffered the agony of witnessing his crucifixion and death. Throughout her trials she remained faithful to her promise, sustained by the Spirit of fortitude. And she was gloriously rewarded….we too must remain faithful to the “yes” that we have given to the Lord’s offer of friendship. We know that he will never abandon us. We know that he will always sustain us through the gifts of the Spirit. Mary accepted the Lord’s “proposal” in our name. So let us turn to her and ask her to guide us as we struggle to remain faithful to the life-giving relationship that God has established with each one of us. She is our example and our inspiration, she intercedes for us with her Son, and with a mother’s love she shields us from harm.

Taken from Pope Benedict’s visit to WYD Sydney 2008
Dear Catechists,

So many WYD stories have been shared and happy memories linger of the week we hope will prove a turning point in the history of the Church in Australia. Everything seemed to go so smoothly and well. People could not help but be touched by the presence of so many joyful young pilgrims and the Vicar of Christ in our midst. I hope and prayer that these happy memories last and sustain us as we journey, optimistically into the future.

I encourage you all to approach the young people in your parishes and invite them to consider undertaking the rewarding and enjoyable apostolate of being a catechist. It is surprising and very encouraging the response received when you invite people personally to get involved. Being on the CCD stall at the WYD Expo, I was impressed by the interest shown in the catechist apostolate.

Many people simply are not aware of the work we do and its great potential and when they hear, they are very eager to get involved if they can.

A number of university students from Sydney and Notre Dame University attended the two Basic accreditation courses run in Term 3 in the city. The Intermediate Course was also held at Maroubra.

In Term Four both the Intermediate and Advanced courses will be run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for 5 weeks.

**Intermediate Tuesdays 21, 28 Oct, 4, 11, 18 Nov, 10am – 2pm (Polding Centre)**

**Advanced Wednesdays 22, 29 Oct, 5, 12, 19 Nov, 10am – 2pm (St Brigid’s Marrickville)**

A reminder that there are a number of Catechist Ministry Certificate courses available in Term Four.

I will be running the **Theology of the Body** course at

- **Hoxton Park**
  - Mondays 20, 27 Oct. 3, 10 17 Nov. 10am – 2pm
  - and at **Oatley**
  - Thursdays, 16, 23, 30 Oct. 6, 13 Nov. 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Planning is already underway for next year. The city **co-ordinators meeting** to start the year will be on Monday 9 February 10 am - 12.30pm. Orientation Meetings and a Basic course will be

Mary Carolan  
Faith Education Officer  
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Email: mary.carolan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Time has flown-by in a flash and Term 4 will be even quicker. Our perception of time is interesting since time is always constant and we all have the same allocation of time. However it does show how busy we can be and that we do not notice time go by. The most important aspect of time is that we make the most of it as what we lose we can never get back.

Term 4 begins with the announcement of our new Director in Mr. Robert Haddad who through his passion for religious education, qualifications and experience is a prized asset for the CCD as an organisation. I look forward to working with Robert going forward.

Term 3 has ended with another successful Annual Catechist Mass and I would like to thank and congratulate all those who have received awards from the Concord Area. Recipients from the Concord Area include: Mrs. Elisabeth Dimmers from St Anthony’s Marsfield who received the Cardinal Freeman Medal for 25 years of service; Mr. Lance David Brooks from St Paul’s Parish Dulwich Hill who was presented the Apostolic Blessing for 20 years for service; and Mrs. Margaret Bradbery and Ms. Mimi Jane Rivera who successfully completed studies in Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses as run by myself and subsequently were accredited and commissioned by Bishop Julian Porteous.

Now that I am relieved of the General Manager duties I am in a flexible position to resume my Faith Education Officer duties and I look forward to catching up with as many coordinators as possible over the coming months. I will be distributing, towards the end of September to early October, Catholic Mission Materials and miniature Catechism Compendiums which are to be distributed to all catechists in the Concord Area. I would like to also remind all Coordinators that the Statistics for 2008 should have been sent in by the agreed date of 12 September, any outstanding statistics need to be in ASAP.

The coming term brings two major events being the Catechist Gathering which features Brother Julian Quinlan and Mr. Andrew Chin. Both these presenters are worth the prize of admission to any event so don’t miss out. [Check details this issue of newsletter].

The 2008 Life Members Mass and Luncheon is on again in November and nomination forms have been sent and should have all been received by the time you receive this edition of the newsletter.

In this issue of the Newsletter you will notice a number of dates have been booked for Term 4 including a Basic course at Holy Spirit North Ryde. In planning ahead I have booked the entire Basic, Intermediate and Advanced program for 2009.

Note that a new Basic Level I course will commence in 2009 which will feature topics such as Child Protection, Classroom Management, Teaching COLAL and Teaching Resources. This new course will run for 9 hours and will be the first part of the entire Basic Accreditation course The Basic Level II will be run over 15 hours and will contain both theological/faith and practical components. The first of these will be at Sacred Heart Parish Mosman [see current issue for details.]

If any parish or clusters of parishes would like me to run this Basic Level I program which may be held over two days, are welcome to liaise with me and we can organise suitable days.

Orientation and Coordinator Meetings have been scheduled for 2009 along with Catechist Sunday falling on 1 February 2009 as well as the Area Mass being in May and to be held at the Mosman Parish.

On a final note I would like to extend to all those in the Concord Area my best wishes for the festive season and may the birth of Christ bring peace, love, joy and fulfilment for the coming new year.

God bless you all and have a well deserved break.

Concord Area
Term 3 was once again the cold and flu season with the usual worry about finding someone to take the class for a sick catechist. I have been pleasantly surprised by the level of enthusiasm shown by students after WYD. The students had many stories to tell about the pilgrims, the celebrations and the Pope. One catechist mentioned that her students all seemed to identify that these big events were organised by ‘their’ Church. This was a good time to use the lessons in Christ Our Light and Life curriculum dealing with the Church structure, e.g. Lesson 35 in Year 4, Our Parish Our Church, has a WYD theme and asks students to name their parish priest, Bishop and Pope.

The student as learner. research shows that the more actively involved a student is in a learning experience, the more he/she learns. Think back to when you learnt to drive a car or use a computer. It is rare for a student to report about their day at school saying, ‘We listened to a very interesting lecture today.’ They are more likely to say, ‘We did something very interesting in science today’. So if you, as the teacher, spend the class time giving a lecture, the students will retain very little. If at various times during the lesson the students are require to write something down, they will retain more. If in the course of the lesson the students are engaged in an activity, they will learn even more.

This term I needed the year 5/6 catechists to learn how to help their students enter the Archdiocesan Art competition. The learning experience I choose was to invite John Charadia, the CEO Creative Arts Advisor, to come to Miranda and show us how to teach an art R.E. lesson in a 30 minute time frame. John did this by giving us a sheet of paper and we were not only shown ‘how to draw’ but we also ‘had to draw’. We watched as ellipses and lines became Mary and Joseph, then shepherds and wise men. More ellipses and lines became trumpets and drums. Then it was our turn. John encouraged those of us who felt we could not draw. At the end of the session fifteen catechists felt empowered to help their year 5/6 students participate in the Christmas Story Art Competition. I have been visiting year 5/6 classes to help with this project. Being one of John’s less capable students, I have been impressed by the way some the students have managed to turn ellipses and lines into impressive sketches. Hopefully some of the students will go home and say, ‘We did something interesting in scripture today.’

Pictured are catechists who attended our day of reflection at Caringbah. The Gift of Each Moment was the theme of the catechist retreat held at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Caringbah on Friday 1 August. The catechists were invited to first listen to sacred scripture and then spend quality time in silence listening to God. They were then asked to form small groups of 2 or 3 and share the fruits of this listening with each other.

Before we know it Advent and Christmas will be upon us. Pope Benedict reminds us that ‘as we prepare to celebrate the Savior’s birth let us keep our Christian traditions to the fore. Let the lights of our streets and the candles of our churches remind us that God is with us, born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary; he is the light of our lives and of the world! With Mary let us, in awe, await his coming!’

Finally I would like to congratulate all those who participated in the various levels of accreditation this year – the basic, intermediate, and advanced and ministry certificate courses. Perhaps your coordinator can organise for one of these courses to be run in your parish in 2009. I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or e-mail if you need help.

Denise Humphreys
Faith Education Officer
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email: denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Welcome to Term 4! Greetings to all in the Western Area! It is a new Springtime here in Sydney for the Church. World Youth Day may have ended but the seeds are growing and indeed are becoming glorious fruit. Countless testimonies I have heard of young people entering into the priesthood, religious life, stories of conversion...I'm sure some of you have testimonies of your own. God is at work!

I’m sure we all have experiences that have touched our hearts this year in the classroom too. One that touched my heart was in a disadvantaged and troubled school. The students tell me there are fights every day. The Holy Spirit inspired me with a plan. This class which is usually very difficult to control were all on their knees, silent as I taught them to pray, to pray the Rosary. I bought in an icon of Our Lady and after class a young boy approached me and told me that Our Lady loved him and the more he looked at her, the more she smiled at him.

Is this not the building of the new civilisation of love? You are the builders, you are the catechists who are on the building team! You have been chosen to be the builders of a new humanity – the bridge between the tabernacle and the street.

Many catechists took part in our Western Inservice held at All Saints Parish, Liverpool. All were in good spirits as Br Julian made us dress up for parables, sing and dance whilst showing us his handy resources which are available to all catechists. Your Coordinator will be able to tell you where they are kept at your parish. Kathleen Flemming from CCER also presented a session on Child Protection which was quite informative.

Busy lives and work can make it very difficult to attend Accreditation Courses during the day. So, why not join us for an Advanced Accreditation Course to be held at John the Baptist Parish Hall, Bonnyrigg on Monday evenings? This is a great opportunity to learn your faith by finding out what happened to the Apostles and the Church after Pentecost? What was the Reformation? Vatican II? All this and more will be discussed. Don’t miss out! Please contact me on 9390 5122 to register your interest.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all women to prepare their hearts for the coming of Our Lord this Christmas by attending a special day of preparation at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa for Mary Day. It will be held by the “Fraternis” (see page 9 for more details) I hope to see many of you there.

The pilgrimage to Italy is still going ahead for the next Easter holidays. (See page 9 for more details)

It is to you, that our dear Lord has entrusted the young. You like Mary have been chosen and filled with the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus to the world. You like Mary have had many struggles as you lived out your “yes” to the Lord this year as a catechist. May Our heavenly Father reward you as he rewarded Mary by giving you the gift of His son Jesus in a new way this Christmas.

Thank you for your “yes” and see you again next year as we continue to be builders of a new humanity, the civilisation of love!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Teresa Culjak
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9724 9024 Fax: 9724 9069
Email: teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
The Marian Community of Reconciliation (MCR) is a community of consecrated laywomen (also known as the “Fraternas”) from Peru. Invited by the Cardinal to live in Sydney they have taken up positions in leading the RCIA program and the chaplaincy of UNSW. Sensitive to the signs and challenges of our time, their charism concentrates on their four main apostolic mission areas of evangelisation of culture, youth ministry, promotion of the family and solidarity with the poor and most needy.

They have a special love for our Lady, and try to live in imitation of her hence were delighted to lead our next Mary Day in Term 4. The theme of the day will focus on preparing for Christmas. The day of reflection will be held on Friday 12 December 2008 at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. Mass and Confession will be available. Please bring a Bible, pen and paper and a plate to share for lunch.

Mary Day’s are a great opportunity to come together as women to share and learn what it means to be an authentic Catholic woman.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Viva Italia

*$5235 (excluding taxes and levies)

The CCD is off to Italy inviting you to join us on pilgrimage as we discover the graces of Italy and the beauty of our Catholic faith. If you have always wanted to go on pilgrimage but never knew how or who with, this is the perfect opportunity to do so.

The cost is *$5235 (excluding taxes and levies) which will include a chaplain to accompany us, tours, guides, entry fees, transport, accommodation, breakfasts and dinners!

Departing Sydney on Easter Monday 2009, the tour will start in Venice and continue through Padua, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo and Roma! These extraordinary places are specially chosen for their holiness, saints and miracles.

I invite each of you to carefully consider if the Lord is calling you. If money is an issue, don't let that stop you. It didn't stop the Papua New Guineans coming to WYD and it shouldn't stop you either. I would encourage you to work as a parish community and fundraise together. It will be an unforgettable experience!

We have had much interest from Catechists. For this pilgrimage to go ahead we must have more than 25 people. The pilgrimage is open to all associated with the Catechist ministry. (This includes family) A detailed itinerary, price and booking form have been included in this newsletter for more information.

* These prices are subject to change
ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS SNAPSHOTS 2008
CHRISTMAS STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Year 2 Student Home Activity Book

There are 10 stars hidden in the nativity scene. Can you find them?

Student Activity Page

Dear God,
you are holy and kind.
You sent us your only Son
to guide us.
Help us to be like the Wise Men.
Help us to follow the star
that will lead us to Jesus.
Amen.
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Year 4 Student Home Activity Book

When Jesus was born many people had a part to play. Some announced Jesus’ birth, some people cared for him while others came to worship him. Some of these people are listed below but their names are scrambled. Rearrange the jumbled letters and you will find out who they are. Once you have done this complete the mystery message.

M E H E L E T H B
R Y M A
N I N P E E K E R
A R E S C A S G A U U T U S
G E A N L
I L B R G E A
P S O H J E
D R E O H
S E W I N E M
B L E S T A
S S E P D E R H H
S U J E S

To Remember:
We call Jesus ‘Emmanuel’.
God is with us.

Lord Jesus,
Help us to see more clearly who you are and what you have done for us. We celebrate your birth with great joy and happiness. May we truly believe that you are God with us.

Amen.
CROSSWORD NUMBER 8
From Advent to Christmas

Across
3. This gathering of information about the population took place during the birth of Jesus.
6. These appeared to the Shepherds and told them of the birth of the Saviour.
8. Another word for deliverer and used as a title for Jesus.
9. What is the name of the town where Jesus was born?
11. What type of transport did Joseph and Mary use?
12. This appeared in the night sky.
14. What type of clothes was baby Jesus wrapped in?
16. Who was the king of the Jews when Jesus was born?
17. Who did Mary visit when she found out she was pregnant with Jesus?

Down
1. Word meaning "God with us"
2. Who was warned in a dream that the baby Jesus was in danger?
4. A place where Jesus born and where horses are kept.
5. Mary and Joseph were told by this person that there was no room at the inn.
7. These came to visit the baby Jesus with their sheep.
10. Jesus, Mary and Joseph fled the town because ________ _______ babies were being killed.
13. Mary and Joseph fled to which country for the safety of Jesus?
15. These three men who visited Jesus were also known to be what?
Christology (MI11)  Robert Haddad  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Thursday & Friday, 9am to 2pm  
October 2, 3

The Call to Holiness (MC04)  Robert Milan  
Polding Centre, Level 6  
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Fridays 9.30am to 2.30pm  
October 17, 24, 31

Theology of the Body (MI15)  Mary Carolan  
Hoxton Park  
Mondays 10am – 2pm 20, 27 Oct. 3, 10 17 Nov  
Oatley  
Thursdays, 12.30pm – 2.30pm 16, 23, 30 Oct. 6, 13 Nov.

Church History (MI12)  Denise Humphreys  
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road Miranda  
Fridays, 11am to 2pm  
November 7, 14, 28, December 5

The Eucharist (MI19)  Robert Haddad  
(Priorly known as “The Year of the Eucharist”)  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Thursday & Friday, 9am to 2pm  
November 13, 14

The Fathers of the Church (MI10)  Robert Haddad  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Monday & Tuesday, 9am to 2pm  
November 24 & 25

NB: Catechist Ministry Courses require a minimum of 10 students to run.

ACCREDITATION COURSES 2008

Basic Accreditation  
Concord Area  
Holy Spirit Parish  
191 Cox’s Road, North Ryde  
Mondays 9:30am to 1.30pm  
Oct 20, 27 Nov 3, 10, 17

Bankstown Area  
St John of God Parish  
2 Alice Street, Auburn  
Fridays 1pm to 4pm  
Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec 5

Intermediate Accreditation  
Bankstown Area  
St Felix’s Parish Centre  
550 Chapel Road, Bankstown  
Wednesdays 11am to 2pm  
Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec 3

City Area  
Level 6 Polding Centre  
Tuesdays 10am – 2pm  
21, 28 Oct, 4, 11, 18 Nov

Advanced Accreditation  
City Area  
St Brigid’s Parish Marrickville  
Wednesdays 10am – 2pm  
22, 29 Oct. 5, 12, 19 Nov

Western Area  
John the Baptist Parish Hall, Mount Street, Bonnyrigg  
Monday Evenings, 6:30pm – 9:30pm  
October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24 December 1

Sutherland Area  
CCD Centre 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda  
Mondays 10am to 2pm  
20, 27 Oct, 3, 10, 17, 24 Nov, 1 Dec
Mary Day
A retreat for women
Friday 12 December 2008
10-2pm
Theme: Preparing for Christmas
Mount Schoenstatt,
230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa
Please bring a Bible, pen, paper and
plate to share for lunch
Family and Friends welcome

Craft and Resource Day
TERM 4
Sutherland-St George Area
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
Monday 10am to 1pm
10 November
Books On The Move will attend

Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

Monday
13 October 2008
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe
From 10:30am to 1:30pm

Brother Julian Quinlan,
From Advent to Christmas

Andrew Chin,
Speak My Word
RSVP is essential for catering purpose
please contact the Polding Centre
(02) 9390 5122

Life Members’ Mass & Luncheon

Friday November 21 2008
Mass 10:30am
St Joachim’s Lidcombe
Luncheon 12 midday
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe

Further details will be sent to all Life Member Award recipients and Parish Catechist Coordinators early in Term 4.

Term Three solutions

Across
3. Lion
5. Paul
6. John
8. Twentyseven
11. Mark
13. Inspiration

Down
1. John the Baptist
2. Eagle
4. Matthew
7. Ox
10. Synoptic
12. Cana

Accreditation to Teach Religious Education through the Catholic Adult Education Centre
3 Keating Street Lidcombe
Attendance is at classes or by correspondence.
See website www.caec.com.au for full details
or phone 02 9643 3660
## DIARY DATES FOR 2009

### Coordinator Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bankstown Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 February</td>
<td>Polding Centre Level 8, Br John Taylor Room, 133 Liverpool Street Sydney</td>
<td>10am-12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 9 February</td>
<td>Polding Centre Level 8, Br John Taylor Room, 133 Liverpool Street Sydney</td>
<td>10am-12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concord Area</strong></td>
<td>Friday 6 February</td>
<td>Polding Centre Level 8, Br John Taylor Room, 133 Liverpool Street Sydney</td>
<td>10am-12:30pm</td>
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<td><strong>Sutherland-St George Area</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 3 February</td>
<td>CCD Miranda Centre, Kiora Road Miranda</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 2 February</td>
<td>All Saints Parish, 48 George Street, Liverpool</td>
<td>10-12:30pm</td>
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### Orientation Days

<table>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bankstown Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 16 February</td>
<td>Kingsgrove Parish, 10am—12pm</td>
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<td>Friday 20 February</td>
<td>Auburn Parish, 10am—12pm with Mass at 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>City Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 16 February</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 10am-12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concord Area</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 10 February</td>
<td>St Ambrose Parish Hall, Cnr Stuart &amp; Queen Streets Concord West</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
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<td>Friday 13 February</td>
<td>Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Cox’s Road North Ryde</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
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<td><strong>Sutherland - St George Area</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 4 February</td>
<td>CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
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<td>Friday 6 February</td>
<td>St Thomas More Parish, Bay St Brighton –Le- Sands</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Area</strong></td>
<td>Monday 16 February</td>
<td>Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, 230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
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DIARY DATES FOR 2009

Term One Accreditation Courses
Term One 2009

Bankstown Area
Basic Accreditation Course
Beverly Hills Parish
2 Yarallah Place Beverly Hills
Friday 10am – 1pm
13, 20, 27 Feb, 13, 20, 27 March, 3 April

City Area
Basic Accreditation Course
Level 6 Polding Centre
Wednesdays 10am – 2pm
25 Feb, 4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1 April

Concord Area
Basic Accreditation Course
Holy Spirit Cox’s Road North Ryde
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6
Monday’s 9:30am-1:30pm

Basic Level I – new course 2009
Sacred Heart Hall
23 Cardinal Street Mosman
9:30am-12:30pm
Wednesday February 4

Sutherland Area
Basic Accreditation Course
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Road Miranda
Mondays 10am – 2pm
9, 16, 23 Feb, 2, 9, 16, 23 March

Western Area
Intermediate Accreditation Course
Our Lady of Victories
Horsley Park
Mondays 6:30pm – 9:30pm
16, 23 Feb, 2, 9, 16, 23 March

Term Two 2009
Accreditation Course
Concord Area
Intermediate Accreditation Course
Holy Spirit Cox’s Road North Ryde
May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8
Monday’s 9:30am-1:30pm

Term Three 2009
Accreditation Course
Concord Area
Advanced Accreditation Course
Holy Spirit Cox’s Road North Ryde
July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Monday’s 9:30am-1:30pm

Term Four 2009
Accreditation Course
Concord Area
Basic Accreditation Course
Holy Spirit Cox’s Road North Ryde
October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Monday’s 9:30am-1:30pm

Catechist Sunday 2009
Sunday 1 February

Catechist Sunday Mass 2009
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
23 Cardinal Street Mosman
Friday 22 May 2009
12noon

Annual Catechist Mass
Sunday
27 September 2009
2pm
St Mary’s Cathedral
BOOK REVIEWS

Some old and some new favourites!!!

Christmas gifts for everyone.

Catechists

get your orders in early to avoid
disappointment.

1. Build a Picture Advent Calendar  RRP $ 6.95
2. Paper 3D Nativity Set           RRP $ 1.00
3. Fabric Christmas Stocking       RRP $ 7.95
4. Joy Nativity Scene              RRP $ 24.95
5. Faith Nativity Scene            RRP $ 24.95
6. Fabric Velcro Advent Calendar   RRP $ 10.00
7. Christmas Tree Ornament - Holy Family  RRP $ 5.95
8. Christmas Tree Ornament - Infant Jesus  RRP $ 5.95
9. Holy Family Water Ball          RRP $ 10.95
10. Believe Banner                 RRP $ 10.00
11. Resin Nativity Scene           RRP $ 5.50

Sydney Catholic Books & Resources
Tel: 9390 5130 Fax: 9283 5146  www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au
On the Nearness of Our Lady

“Mary's Purity Makes Her Infinitely Close to Our Hearts”

LOURDES, France, SEPT. 14, 2008 (Zenit.org). Vatican translation of the address Pope Benedict XVI gave in Lourdes upon the 150th anniversary of the Virgin Mary's apparitions.

Dear Pilgrims, dear brothers and sisters!

Every day, praying the Angelus gives us the opportunity to meditate for a few moments, in the midst of all our activities, on the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. At noon, when the first hours of the day are already beginning to weigh us down with fatigue, our availability and our generosity are renewed by the contemplation of Mary's "yes". This clear and unreserved "yes" is rooted in the mystery of Mary's freedom, a total and entire freedom before God, completely separated from any complicity with sin, thanks to the privilege of her Immaculate Conception.

This privilege given to Mary, which sets her apart from our common condition, does not distance her from us, but on the contrary, it brings her closer. While sin divides, separating us from one another, Mary's purity makes her infinitely close to our hearts, attentive to each of us and desirous of our true good. You see it here in Lourdes, as in all Marian shrines; immense crowds come thronging to Mary's feet to entrust to her their most intimate thoughts, their most heartfelt wishes. That which many, either because of embarrassment or modesty, do not confide to their nearest and dearest, they confide to her who is all pure, to her Immaculate Heart: with simplicity, without frills, in truth. Before Mary, by virtue of her very purity, man does not hesitate to reveal his weakness, to express his questions and his doubts, to formulate his most secret hopes and desires. The Virgin Mary's maternal love disarms all pride; it renders man capable of seeing himself as he is, and it inspires in him the desire to be converted so as to give glory to God.

Thus, Mary shows us the right way to come to the Lord. She teaches us to approach him in truth and simplicity. Thanks to her, we discover that the Christian faith is not a burden: it is like a wing which enables us to fly higher, so as to take refuge in God's embrace.

The life and faith of believers make it clear that the grace of the Immaculate Conception given to Mary is not merely a personal grace, but a grace for all, a grace given to the entire people of God. In Mary, the Church can already contemplate what she is called to become. Every believer can contemplate, here and now, the perfect fulfilment of his or her own vocation. May each of you always remain full of thanksgiving for what the Lord has chosen to reveal of his plan of salvation through the mystery of Mary: a mystery in which we are involved most intimately since, from the height of the Cross which we celebrate and exalt today, it is revealed to us through the words of Jesus himself that his Mother is our Mother.

Inasmuch as we are sons and daughters of Mary, we can profit from all the graces given to her; the incomparable dignity that came to her through her Immaculate Conception shines brightly over us, her children.

Here, close to the grotto, and in intimate communion with all the pilgrims present in Marian shrines and with all the sick in body and soul who are seeking relief, we bless the Lord for Mary's presence among her people, and to her we address our prayer in faith:

"Holy Mary, you showed yourself here one hundred and fifty years ago to the young Bernadette, you 'are the true fount of hope' (Dante, Paradiso, XXXIII:12).

Faithful pilgrims who have gathered here from every part of the world, we come once more to draw faith and comfort, joy and love, security and peace, from the source of your Immaculate Heart. Show yourself a Mother for us all, O Mary! And give us Christ, the hope of the world! Amen."