



# THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

## Greetings

Dearest Catechists,

Blessings to you and your loved ones.

This edition of our newsletter is being written from beautiful Tumut, having just visited Franklin Public School and soon to continue with other events. It is always a great privilege to call in on your classes, meet the children, teachers and Principals. You are all making a huge impact.

In one of the classes that I was taking today, the classroom teacher had so many questions to ask about faith. When talking with our Catechist at Franklin PS, Maria Long said 'this teacher is always like this. She is searching, grasping. She is so close to believing.' This led to such an exciting conversation, where we chatted about

the impact that the Catechists are making, even upon the teachers who are supervising. During these times, I also get the opportunity to speak with School Principals. At this school, the Principal was very enthusiastic about the work of our volunteers, genuinely!

Don't underestimate the great work that you are carrying out. At present we have 220 Catechists teaching 2,500 children regularly, the ministry you carry out is significant in the Kingdom of God. For myself it involves a lot of travel, but it is certainly worth it. The work car I travel in is just about to clock over 25,000km for the last eight months.

Can I bring your attention to three significant events coming up in the final months of the year. The

Catechists Retreats with Sr Judy Bowe are for you and your friends. These will be excellent days of prayer, formation and celebration. Our end of year Masses are an opportunity to gather together and give thanks to Jesus for all that He has done through you. Finally, the Marian Procession is growing and developing. It is an opportunity to gather with our Archbishop and all Catholics to journey with Mary to the Heart of Jesus. We do this at beautiful St Clement's Monastery at Galong.

We hope you are blessed by this mailout and the contents in it. People continually tell me how grateful they are to receive it, and as always, we are open to adding or changing the contents. Just send us your ideas.



*Let the little children come to me  
(Mtt:19.14)*



St Patrick's Gundagai



Blessings, **Matt**

Deacon Matt Ransom,  
(with the enlarged family)

### In This Mailout

**Teaching Resources** - Are focused in this mailout on St Augustine, one of the great heroes of Christianity.

**Youth Magazine** - Thanks to the producers of 'Kingdom Revelator' for this great resource.



**To all our new volunteers**  
Keith and Patricia Grofos  
Adaminaby, NSW

### Claim the Date

Retreat Days with Sr Judy Bowe

**September 2** - Sacred Heart  
Primary School Hall, Pearce,  
**September 9** - St Patrick's  
Gundagai, Church Hall.

**September 23** - St Joseph's  
Church, Merimbula  
10-4pm. BYO lunch to share

Contact us on;  
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## From Pope Francis

In a message to the International Catechetical Symposium, the Pope Francis points out that “being a catechist is a vocation of service in the Church, that has been received as a gift from the Lord and must in turn be transmitted.”

He goes on to say that the catechist walks with Christ, therefore is not a person who starts from his own ideas and tastes. He or she looks for the Lord and that searching makes their heart burn... The Pope adds that “this quest to make Jesus known as supreme beauty leads us to find new signs and forms for the transmission of the faith.”

### *the catechist walks with Christ*

The means may be different, the Holy Father underlines, “but the important thing is to keep in mind the style of Jesus, who adapted to the people around him in order to bring them the love of God.” The Pope continues that, it is necessary to know how to “change” and adapt, in order to transmit God’s message even though the message itself is always the same.

Finally, Pope Francis encourages catechists taking part in the symposium to be joyful messengers, guardians of good and beauty who shine in the faithful life of the missionary disciple.”

([www.news.va](http://www.news.va))

## DVD

Enclosed is a powerful DVD showing a special Christian unity event featuring our own Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Once you have viewed it, could you please lend/ give it to your local Priest.

## Catechist Celebration Masses

The Dates are:

**October 13** - Sacred Heart, Cootamundra (12pm)

**November 28** - Sacred Heart, Pearce, ACT (6.30pm)

**December 3** - Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Narooma (9.30am)

**December 10** - St Patrick’s, Cooma (10am)



*Holy Hour at Immaculate Conception, Tumut*

## Great Websites

There are many excellent websites for Catechists. In this section, we will feature some of them;

### **The Catholic Weekly**

[www.catholicweekly.com.au](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au)



## A Funny Joke!

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there’s a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says: ‘What the hell was that all about?’

