



# THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

Dearest Catechists,

As I write this to you, our daughter Ruth has just given birth to their second child. It is a very exciting and tiring time for the family and they are doing well. Little Gabrielle was baptised at one month of age and we found it to be a beautiful and emotional time. Watching the baby become a Catholic and thinking about how the faith was being passed on, was a significant moment for all.

Passing on the faith. This is one of the things that we do, don't we as catechists? Passing on this beautiful 2000 year old tradition to the young ones in our care. At times I do hear some of you say "is it making a difference?", and this is a good question to ask. Perhaps though, the answer is to trust the fruit into the hands of Jesus. Pope Francis recently said to Catechists regarding this 'This is our beauty and our strength, if we go out to bring his Gospel with love, with real apostolic spirit, with (confidence), He walks with us, goes before us.' ([catholicherald.co.uk](http://catholicherald.co.uk))

Recently I had the opportunity to catch up with many of you at our Professional Development days which are always great times of prayer, sharing, information and celebration. The shorter time frame seemed to suit most, with many positive comments coming through the evaluations. One of our catechists, who is not Catholic said "*I really appreciate the*

*years of support and encouragement from the Catholic Archdiocese*".

The approved curriculum that we use is specifically aimed to meet the student's appropriate mental, emotional, social and spiritual maturity. This content, combined with your preparation should ensure an engaging lesson for the children and an enjoyable one for you to teach. If this is not happening, it may be worth thinking through what is going on, perhaps having a chat to someone, or contacting me. There is often a simple solution to an issue that may be happening in class.

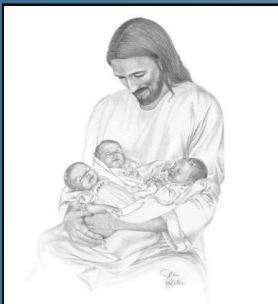
Current teaching methods, encourage students to explore content and activity. Hence, as voluntary teachers we are not required to do too much talking. Most of our instruction should be brief, guiding the students through the curriculum, activities and encouraging them to share answers.

Are you happy with the environment that you are teaching in? Is it conducive to learning? If not, it may be worth asking for an alternative venue. Having been a teacher, I'm conscious that schools often have spare classrooms, library 'break out areas and meeting rooms that could be used.

Thanks again for all you that you are doing for the Gospel.

Blessings,

**Matt**



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



St Peter and Paul's Cathedral, Goulburn



Deacon Matt Ransom

## In This Mailout

Flyers for 'The Living Word'  
**FREE** daily reflections, Encounter e-news and some ideas on teaching well.

**Teaching Resources** - Are focused on Saint Benedict, who historians say, by his Christ centred life and prayerfulness, saved Western Civilisation.

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

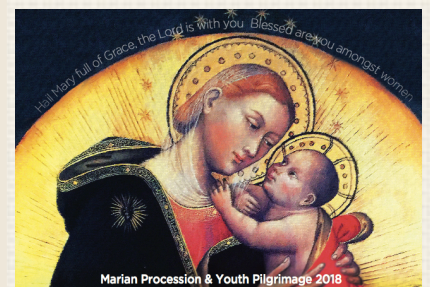


## To our new volunteers

Jan Ganderton - Bodalla

Sr Stephanius (MC) - Queanbeyan

## Claim the Date



Marian Procession - October 14

Contact us on;  
02 6239 9832 or  
[matt.ransom@cg.org.au](mailto:matt.ransom@cg.org.au)



## From Pope Francis

### On Abortion

"I've heard that it's fashionable, or at least usual, that when in the first few months of pregnancy they do studies to see if the child is healthy or has something, the first offer is: let's send it away," the pope said June 16, referring to the trend of aborting sick or disabled children.

This, he said, is "the murder of children...to get a peaceful life an innocent [person] is sent away... We do the same as the Nazis to maintain the purity of the race, but with white gloves... It's an atrocity but we do the same thing," he said, according to Italian media. Pope Francis spoke to members of the Forum of Family Associations, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

### *It's an atrocity*

His words on abortion came just days after his home country of Argentina voted June 14 in favour of a bill that would legalise abortion as early as the first 14 weeks of pregnancy... The pope, the paper reported, said it is "painful" to think that society would accept the killing of children simply because they are sick or disabled, but this is the current mentality. In his lengthy speech, which centered on human rights, Pope Francis not only emphasised the importance of the family, but also the right to life, beginning in the womb.

([www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com))

## The 2020 Plenary Council

*The Plenary Council... it's a time to discern, decide and act. If we do that under the influence of the Holy Spirit, things will change in unexpected and hope filled ways*  
(Archbishop Mark Coleridge)

[plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## Working With Children Check's

Throughout the year your Children's Check may need to be renewed. Could you please notify us when this occurs and remember that you must not work with Children unless the details are current.



## Great Websites

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

### CRUX

[www.cruxnow.com](http://www.cruxnow.com)

Latest Catholic news from around the world



Archbishop Christopher with our Cathedral Catechists

## Some Humour

