



THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

Happy new year dear Catechists,

My prayers and thoughts have been with you over this sacred season, as we all celebrated the extraordinary gift from God, the birth of Jesus Christ. I hope it was a special time of celebration, prayer and some rest for all of you.

Again, we begin to prepare for 2019 for the wonderful mission that has been entrusted to us, the evangelisation and formation of young hearts and minds. Thanks once again for taking this up, for choosing to be a Catechist, for responding to the call of Jesus. It is a great responsibility and from the school you work in, the Parish that you attend and this office, we will do our best to support you.

Included in this mailout, are a number of resources that have been chosen to assist you in starting the year well. In addition, here are some further thoughts:

- Please remember to prepare for your classes. The curriculum you have is excellent and it is important that it is followed. Also contained within it are ideas on how to teach well.
- Most classes today involve simple instruction from teachers and lots of activity, group work and student presentations. So please keep your explanations as brief as possible.
- Ask for help. We want you to succeed and every challenge you face has an answer. This is true!

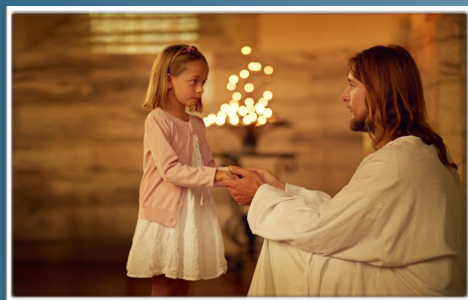
- It is ok for you to verbally discipline your students. However, if a difficult situation continues, ask advice from your teacher or coordinator
- Child Protection is always vital, hence, if you hear or see anything of concern, please report it. Also, never be alone with a student and never touch a child inappropriately.

On the next page, are some reflections from Pope Francis. In this writing, he says 'every time a man or a woman meets Jesus, they change their ways, they come back to life'. The Pope is reminding us that we need to encounter Jesus. It is Jesus who gives us life, saves us, guides us and gives us a purpose. It is this Jesus that we share with the young ones in our care. Can I encourage you to nurture this vital friendship with Christ, as He is the source of our life and makes sense when things are impossible. Let us draw near to Jesus daily.

This year will be my eighth year in this wonderful job. It has been a joy to work with you all, to visit your schools and parishes and get to know many of you. It has also been challenging. We have been and continue to go through difficult times as a Church. I sense, however, it has been a time of great purification and change, which hopefully will bring us to a place of being more like the Bride of Christ.

Thanks again and blessings,

Matt



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



St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra



Deacon Matt Ransom and the family at Christmas

In This Mailout

Child Protection - an important document that you need to read as a part of our continued professional development.

Teaching Resources - on starting the year well, some Easter resources and your teachers self reflection template.

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



To our new volunteers

Franz Carneiro Alphonso - Evatt

Brydie Daley - Ungarie, NSW



Professional Development 1

February 6, Wednesday – Temora.
February 8, Friday – Cootamundra.
February 11, Monday – Narooma.
Feb 18, Mon, – Hayden Hall,
Manuka (6.30–8.30pm inc dinner).
February 21, Thursday – Cooma.
February 22, Friday – Queanbeyan

From Pope Francis

January 6, 2019

To be clothed in the divine light of Christ, follow the example of the three magi, who put aside worldly power and success and rose to follow the star to Jesus, Pope Francis encouraged Sunday at Mass for Epiphany.

“We need to arise, to get up from our sedentary lives and prepare for a journey,” he said Jan. 6. “We also need to shine, to be clothed in God who is light, day by day, until we are fully clothed in Jesus.”

be clothed in God who is light

Today’s feast asks Catholics to imitate the magi, the pope said. “They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the centre, but bow down before the One who is the centre. They do not remain glued to their plans, but are prepared to take other routes.”

The magi, however, bowed before Jesus, offering him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh, “because the search for the Lord implies not only perseverance on the path, but also generosity of the heart,” he explained.

Then, returning to their own country, the magi went by another way, he said, adding that this happens during personal conversions too. “every time a man or a woman meets Jesus, they change their ways, they come back to life in a different way, they are renewed.”

(www.catholicnewsagency.com)

Catechists Self Reflection

NSW Catechists are now required to participate in some form of teaching reflection. This can be done by using the template in this mailout or asking a colleague or teacher to sit in on a class. ACT Catechists are welcome to participate in this, if they choose.

Working With Children Check’s and Working With Vulnerable People Card

Throughout 2019 your Children’s Check or Working with Vulnerable People Card 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;

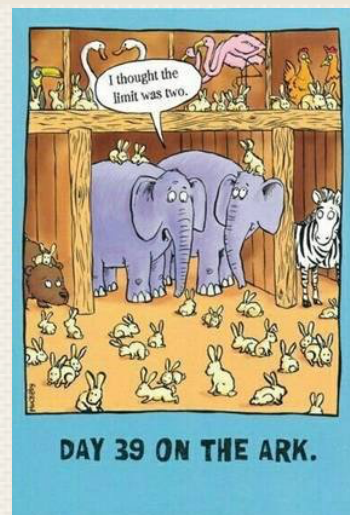
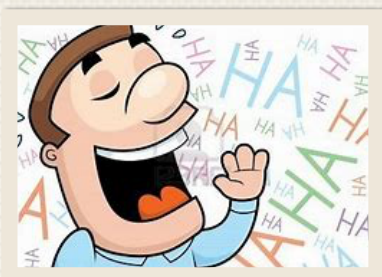
The Highly Effective Teacher
thehighlyeffectiveteacher.com

Great ideas on how to teach well



NSW/ACT Catechist Directors
with the Apostolic Nuncio

Some Humour



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Coordinator, CCD