



THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

Dear Catechists,

Recently I had the opportunity to meet an extraordinary Priest, Fr Tom Uzhunnalil. Fr Tom has become well known, because he was kidnapped by ISIS three years ago and survived eighteen months as their hostage. In addition, when he was captured, three Missionaries of Charity sisters, who he worked with were martyred, shot along with some workers.

Fr Tom, spoke to a group of us, sharing these terrifying events and how he survived. He said that at the very beginning of the incident, he prayed, putting all that was happening in God's hands and trusting Jesus. Even if this meant death. As Fr Tom was transferred from place to place, he said it was prayer and the prayers of others that strengthened him. Fr Tom said to us all the time 'God answers prayers'.

What I found when Fr Tom spoke to us, was a person who was totally given over to Jesus. He had found a deep peace in Him and was living this out. Fr Tom even said that he came out of this profound time of suffering with no psychological concerns.

For us as catechists, it reminded me again of why it is so important for our young ones to know Jesus. It was Jesus who sustained Fr Tom and gave him great strength. It is this very same Jesus who is available to the students in our classes and

can give them hope throughout their lives. Also, for us, this same Jesus is with us. Let us reach out to Him and continue to do so, especially when things are difficult.

Continuing with this focus on faith, in this mailout you will find an infographic on 'faith and belief in Australian schools'. This is based on reputable data and shows, amongst other things, that a significant majority of Australians believe that schools should be places where faith and belief are explored. When we combine these facts with the excellent results from the NSW review of SRE, it can be seen that the work of catechists is needed and valued.

As we enter the second half of 2019, I can ask you to carry out a brief analysis of your class. How are they going? How are you? Are there any areas that you are worried about? At times you might find yourself with a classroom that is not working, or with a difficult student. There are a number of things that can be done to resolve these issues. If you need assistance, please talk with your coordinator, Parish Priest or myself. Please call out if you need help.

Thanks again for your wonderful mission,

Blessings,

Matt



'Let the little children come to me' Jesus



St Joseph's Delegate, NSW.



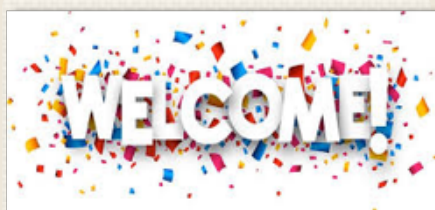
Deacon Matt Ransom with Fr Tom (he has the glasses on!)

In This Mailout

St Benedict - This great saint has his feast day on July 14. There are teaching resources that may be useful for you.

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

Other Resources - a prayer puzzle for use with your students, an 'infographic' on faith and belief in Australia and suggestions on classroom management.



To our new volunteer

Michelle Francis - Cathedral



2019 Marian Procession

Come and join over 500 pilgrims on this day of prayer, festivities and celebration.

Sunday, October 27
St Clement's Monastery, Galong,

From Pope Francis

The Feast of Corpus Christi

“Every year the feast of Corpus Christi invites us to renew the wonder and joy of this wonderful gift of the Lord, which is the Eucharist,” Pope Francis said at the Angelus prayer June 23.

“The Eucharist is the synthesis of the entire existence of Jesus, which was a single act of love for the Father and his brothers,” he said. It is “the sacrament of His Body and His Blood given for the salvation of the world.”

renew our ‘amen’ to the Body of Christ,

The feast provides an opportunity for the Church to focus on Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist, which Pope Francis stressed should be welcomed “with gratitude, not in a passive, habitual way.”

“Whenever we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist, we must truly renew our ‘amen’ to the Body of Christ,” the pope said, urging that this “amen” should come from the heart.

“It is Jesus, it is Jesus who saved me, it is Jesus who comes to give me the strength to live. It is Jesus, Jesus alive,” Francis said of the Eucharist in a departure from his prepared remarks.

www.catholicnewsagency.com

Updated Curriculum

The Christ Our Light and Life multi aged level curriculum, has been updated and is available for free on the Amazing Catechists website.

2019 Catechist Awards

Our end of year celebrations are always a very special time when we give thanks to God for all that He has done in and through us. An important aspect of this time, is the giving of awards. You will find a list of awardees, and if for some reason your name is hasn’t appeared, please contact us.



Great Websites

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

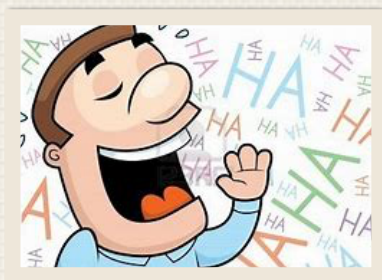
Melbourne Catholic Youth

<http://www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources>



Fr Tom with the Missionaries of Charity

Some Humour





Amazing
CATECHISTS

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