

Ad Clerum

July 2021

Newsletter of the
Archbishop of Sydney
Circular No. 4/2021

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

*Dear Fellow Priests and Deacons
My fraternal greetings to you all!*

It was wonderful to see you all at last month's clergy conference, and I encourage you to attend our next OFCC Zoom meeting on the 22th of July. Sr Jo Brady rsj and Prof Sandra Lynch will talk about how you can get involved with the Plenary Council. These conferences are always a great place to catch up and continue our formation as shepherds of our flocks. I think we can all agree this is never more important than during the current pandemic, when so many are searching for guidance.

Next month I will also be at the unveiling of a plaque in Barangaroo to commemorate World Youth Day in Sydney 13 years ago. The plaque has been promised for a number of years, so thanks be to God it's finally a reality!

As always please be assured of my continuing prayers for you all.

+ Archbishop Anthony

2021

dates to remember

OFCC Formation Zoom

22 July 2021 via Zoom @ 2pm

Plenary Council Zoom

Prof Sandy Lynch and Sr Josephine Brady RSJ

OFCC Formation Zoom

12 August 2021 @ 2pm

**Impact of dealing with constant sorrow
on mental wellbeing**

Br Damien Price

Clergy Conference

20 October 2021

Doltone House, Sylvania Waters

inside

Ongoing Formation

- ◆ Venerable English College, Rome
- ◆ 2021 Sabbaticals – PNAC
- ◆ 2021 - Tantar Ecumenical Institute
- ◆ Latin Course in Rome

Please pray...

For the repose of the soul of ...

Michael Bailey - RIP

20 June 2021

Former Executive Officer to the Vicar General and Chancellor

Fr Lawrence Niemierowicz SVD – RIP

9 June 2021



Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy AC – RIP

10 April 2021

For those that are sick in our community ...

Fr Paul Foley, Mons John Usher, Mons Brian Rayner, Fr Michael Butler, Fr John Alt, Fr Peter Maher, Fr Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Anthony Simari, and Fr John Snehadass who are currently unwell.

For special anniversaries occurring in June and July

I ask that you download the attached list  (July)  (August) and pray for our brother priests who have gone before us and for those who are celebrating their Anniversary of Ordination.

The new Parish of Sydney City South under the patronage of Our Lady, St Joseph and St Vincent de Paul

As posted in our previous edition of Ad Clerum, the Churches at Rosebery, Waterloo and Redfern have merged into a single Parish – the **Parish of Sydney City South**.

Please be advised of their new postal and courier address for any correspondence relating to following three churches/Parish/Priest;

- St Joseph Rosebery
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Waterloo
- St Vincent de Paul Redfern

Parish of Sydney City South

Fr Paul Smithers

Postal: PO Box 1067, Strawberry Hills 2012

Courier ONLY: Parish Office 74 Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery 2018

DIOCESE OF BROOME

The Diocese of Broome are looking for a priest or recently retired priest who would like to minister to the Aborigines

in the Kimberley for an initial period of one year. If you are interested please contact the **Vicar General's** office on **9390 5185**.

Expressions of Interest – Hospital Chaplaincies

Many priests find that spending two or three years as a Hospital chaplain – ministering to both staff and patients – is a very enriching experience, and an opportunity to meet and engage with a much wider range of people than in a typical parish. If any priest would be open to this ministry at some point in the coming years, please let me or one of the Vicars for Clergy know, so that we can plan ahead for future appointments.

Congratulations to

Seminarians, **Mark Anderson**, **Benjamin Saliba** and **Adrian Simmons** who took a step towards priesthood by being admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders recently at St Mary's Cathedral on 16 May 2021. *Please pray for these men as they enter into this new phase of their ministry.*

We welcome newly Incardinated

Rev John Macdonald who was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Sydney on 15 June 2021. John is currently the Administrator for Surry Hills Parish.

I RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS: CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Rev Tibebeselassie Abza

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg from 15 July 2021.

Rev Henry Adler

Reappointed Chaplain to the Slovak Catholic Community from 1 August 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Mr Louis Azzopardi

Reappointed Member of Committee for Ongoing Formation of Clergy from 24 July 2021 for a term of two years.

Rev Majid Al Hanna

Appointed Assistant Priest and Chaplain to the Syriac Catholic Community from 24 April 2021.

Rev Vittorio Basso CS

Reappointed Chaplain to the Italian Catholic Community from 16 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Anthony Bernard

Reappointed Chaplain to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from 15 June 2021.

Rev Peter Blayney

Reappointed Chaplain of the Catholic Bushwalking Club from 20 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Anthony Casamento CSMA

Reappointed Part-Time Chaplain to the NSW Police Force from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Daniel Drum FMVD

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Charles Borromeo and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Ryde-Gladesville from 29 May 2021.

Rev Stephen Drum FMVD

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Charles Borromeo and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Ryde-Gladesville from 29 May 2021.

Rev Richard Ddumba

Appointed Assistant Priest of All Hallows, Five Dock from 3 August 2021.

Rev Lenard Ina

Reappointed Chaplain to the Syrian Catholic Community from 1 May 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Peter Joseph

Reappointed Chaplain to the World Apostolate of Fatima Australia from 1 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Daniel McCaughan

Appointed a Member of the Catholic Development Fund Advisory Board from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Daniel Meagher

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of All Hallows, Five Dock from 16 June 2021.

Rev Menardo Mercene

Reappointed Migrant Chaplain Consultant to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 17 May 2021.

Rev Gregory Morgan

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Katherine Labour, Gympie from 13 August 2021 for a term of six years.

Rev Vladimir Novak OFM

Reappointed Chaplain to the Croatian Catholic Community from 1 May 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Marek Okarma CSMA

Reappointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park from 1 June 2021.

Rev Pierluigi Passoni

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Motor Vehicle Plan Committee from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Ruwan Premaraja

Appointed Part-Time Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Patrick, Kogarah from 11 June 2021.

Rev Emmanuel Seo

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Michael, Meadowbank from 1 July 2021 for a term of six years.

Rev Eric Skruzny

Reappointed Rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary from 9 May 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Epeli Qimaqima

Reappointed Director of Vocations from 1 June 2021 for a term of one year.

Rev Christopher Slattery

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Motor Vehicle Plan Committee from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Daniele Sollazzo FMVD

Appointed Chaplain to Macquarie University from 1 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Anthony Trafford

Appointed a Member of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Pastoral Team from 10 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Rev Jonathan Vala

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parishes of All Saints, Liverpool and St Therese, Sadleir Miller from 27 July 2021.

Rev Reinaldo Vassoler

Reappointed Chaplain to the Portuguese and Spanish Catholic Communities from 1 July for a term of three years.

Rev Matthew Velliyamkandathil CRS

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parishes of St Joseph, Moorebank and St Christopher, Holsworthy from 1 July 2021 for a term of six years.

NON CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Ms Jennifer Abood

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Investment Committee from 23 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Simao Alcada Oliveira Da Silva

Appointed a Member of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Pastoral Team from 10 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Patrick Bugden

Reappointed Chair of the Priests' Retirement Foundation from 13 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr William d'Apice

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Finance Council from 23 June 2021 for a term three years.

Mr David Furlong

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Ms Mary Karras

Reappointed a Member of the Committee for Catholic Immigration from 6 August 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Geoff Laing

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Ms Helen Macfarlane

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Glenn McLachlan

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Michael Moore

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Reappointed a Member of Archdiocesan Motor Vehicle Plan Committee from 1 July 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Simon Napoli

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Antonio Piccolo

Appointed a Member of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Pastoral Team from 10 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Mrs Maria Rita Piccolo

Appointed a Member of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Pastoral Team from 10 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Prof Hayden Ramsay

Reappointed a Member of the Senate of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 1 June 2021 for a term of three years.

Mr Dominic Sullivan

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Property Committee from 27 March 2021 for a term of three years.


ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY


CAS Clergy Retreat St Joseph's Centre, Baulkham Hills 26 September to 1 October 2021

The date has now been set for the next CAS Clergy Retreat. It will be held at the St Joseph's Centre in Baulkham Hills from Sunday evening, 26 September to Friday afternoon, 1 October 2021.

Fr John Armstrong, Spiritual Director to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, will lead this retreat. More details will be given later in the year.

The cost of the retreat will be \$400.00 for the week and will be invoiced to you once you have registered. The Chancery will pay for retired priests wishing to attend. If you wish to register you can do so by clicking on the link below.

This will be a great opportunity to come together physically to pray and renew our hearts during this Pandemic 



CAS Annual Clergy Retreat 2021

St Joseph's, Baulkham Hills, 33 Barina Downs Road, Norwest
from Sunday evening 26 September to Friday 1st October 2021
Spiritual Director: Fr John Armstrong
\$400 per person for the week. Retired priests will be looked after by the Chancery
You will be invoiced on registration.
Note: The centre does not supply soap. Please remember to bring your own soap.


* Required

If you have any queries regarding the retreat please feel free to contact **Maria Cavallaro** on maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org or myself on kelvin.lovegrove@sydneycatholic.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Bollettino from the Vatican

Stay up to date with the latest news from the Vatican 

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia

The Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Centre offer opportunities to discern What is God's Inviting us to in 2021. Click on the link: 

Sharingtheword.info

As we all know, it is important for our ongoing formation that we spend some time keeping abreast of theological, spiritual, and pastoral reading.

I would like to bring to your attention an e-library with theological material (full text books and articles) freely available to anyone with internet access at www.sharingtheword.info

This resource is the work of former Veech librarian Hans Arns. It is thoroughly catalogued according to subject, keywords and author.

It might be useful in sourcing material to expand your reading in subject areas of interest to you.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

St Vincent's Health Check

If you have not had a health check-up in some time now might be the time. Please contact the **Vicar General's** office on **9390 5185** for contact details to book in your next health check.



Fr Chris Higgins from Enmore Parish

Fr Chris Higgins at Enmore has a parishioner who is seeking the donation of a tabernacle and a monstrance that are not in use to send to the Pacific nation of Tuvalu, where the parishioner is helping to refurbish a church.

For Chris is also seeking a stand or support for a statue of Our Lady to be carried on during our May Fatima Rosary walk.

If you can help Fr Chris please contact him on **9557 1815** or email him at admin@enmoreparish.org.au.

From the Liturgy Office

The Liturgy Office has access to many interesting books. Have a look at what they have by clicking on the link  Download the instructions to get started 

Mental Might 3

Clergy Social & Emotional Wellbeing (Mental Health)

We should never forget the great gift that comes with being people of Faith - that the world is full of Mystery and Wonder. They can be our greatest sources of Hope and Renewal.

*Dr Robbie Lloyd
Research & Project Officer
Justice and Peace Office*

Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

Go Make Disciples Update

Dear Fathers,
In recent months, the Parish Renewal Team has been at work supporting the inspiring efforts taking place in parishes that are seeking spiritual renewal by focusing anew upon Jesus' Great Commission, a renewal which *Go Make Disciples* seeks to support. This has included supporting the renewal strategy led by Fr Michael McLean and the Parish Pastoral Council of **St Mark the Evangelist at Drummoyne**, the work of Fr Tadeusz Seremet and his Parish Pastoral Council at **St Luke the Evangelist in Revesby**, and the work being led by Fr Paul Smithers at **Parish of Sydney City South**, as this community now plans for the future of its united mission in Redfern, Roseberry and Waterloo.



Come, Follow Me: Discipleship Retreats

Sunday 13 June saw parishioners from over twenty parishes gather at St Mary's Cathedral for the first of our *Go Make Disciples* retreats: **Come, Follow Me, led by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia**. Some of the participants are currently serving within groups and ministries in their parish and others discerning how they can serve. The group explored the meaning of discipleship and how we are being called by the Lord to serve Him in bringing the Good News to others. Participants learned of next steps they could take including ways to serve in their parishes, upcoming leadership formation and other opportunities to grow and serve in Sydney. Two more retreats are open to your people - on 26 June (Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills) and 17 July (Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield). If you would like to engage your parishioners more deeply in serving in your parish please personally invite them to register.

Flyer attached: **Discipleship Retreats** 

'Parishes for Mission' Days – new dates added

New dates have been added for parishes wishing to sign up for a **'Parishes for Mission' Day which are now being offered on 3 July (Revesby), 7 August (Liverpool), 21 August (Surry Hills) and 11 September (Miranda-Sylvania)**. These reflection and planning days will help form your leaders in the mission of the parish, share principles and strategies for parish renewal, and lead the group through a process for effective pastoral planning and implementation of your pastoral plan. By the end of the day you will have made significant process in articulating a vision for mission in your parish, identifying strategies to bring that vision to life, and begin to identify particular actions and resources available to implement those strategies. Contact me to register your interest in attending: elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org or **0436 52 99 46**.

Flyer attached: **Parishes for Mission – NEW DATES** 

Christ-Centred Leadership: a formation series for those serving in your parish

On Tuesday evenings in August, the Parish Renewal Team is offering an online leadership formation series for all serving in parishes and those seeking to serve. Led by the Asia Co-ordinator at The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Fr David Braithwaite SJ, the series will focus upon basics in Christian leadership and how we can grow as people who lead others to Christ.

3 August: *The Wounded Servant: The Foundations of Christian leadership*

10 August: *Leadership for Mission: Responding to Christ's Sacred Heart*

17 August: *The Recollected Leader: The Spiritual Practice of Making Better Decisions*

24 August: *Love that Risks: Creating Communities of Growth and Innovation*

Bishop Richard Umbers will attend the first evening to introduce Fr Braithwaite and pray with those attending the series. Please invite anyone currently serving in your parish or those who you would like to draw into a leadership role.

Flyer attached: **Christ-Centred Leadership** 

With prayers for you and your parish communities.

Pax,

Elizabeth Arblaster

Parish Renewal Manager

Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org

0436 52 99 46

PLENARY COUNCIL

News from the Plenary Council Working Group

Sydney Archdiocese Clergy Gathering for Reflection on Plenary Council

On Wednesday 26th May a group of priests gathered at the Polding Centre to engage in the discernment process that has been chosen to facilitate dialogue, reflection and discernment during the Plenary Council process. The process is one described as "Spiritual Conversation" and was led by Br Ian Cribb S.J.

Br Cribb led the participants to reflect on scripture and consider what the Holy Spirit is saying and then to share their thoughts and impressions. The process then moved into group sharing, where each member was encouraged to listen to one another and share their insights. Further reflection occurred and the group considered what the common theme was.



■ Fr Erick Niyiragira CP, Fr Michael McLean, Fr Dominik Karnas CSMA

The process was totally inclusive with all members having the opportunity to share and to listen to each member of the group. It involved faith sharing but can also help facilitate discussion on issues that we don't agree about;

we can engage together recognising and respecting that the Spirit might be speaking through each of us.



■ Br Ian Cribb SJ and Fr Peter Smith

The process will be used in group discussion at the Plenary Council Assembly in October and the gathering gave all participants an insight into the process as well as a good methodology for discernment in parishes. Br. Cribb recommended a YouTube clip: “Introduction to Spiritual Conversation” by Fr. John Dardis S.J.  that might appeal to parishioners interested in this methodology.

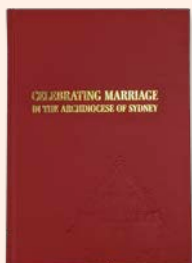


■ Fr Erick Niyiragira CP, Fr Michael McLean, Fr Dominik Karnas CSMA, Fr Son-Lam (Remy) Bui, Fr Eduardo Orilla, Fr Michael de Stoop, Bishop Terry Brady

A reflection day for Parish Ambassadors will be held on July 3. If any parish does not have ambassadors and would like parishioners to attend, please contact **Sr Jo Brady** at jo.brady@sydneycatholic.org

*Bishop Terry Brady and Prof Sandra Lynch
Co Chairpersons of the Sydney Archdiocesan
Plenary Council Working Group*

Red Book Pastoral Tip No. 7




Wedding papers. These should always be left in the parish office of the Church or place where the wedding took place. Visiting priests should never take original wedding papers back home. Some visiting Chaplains may need the wedding information for their community records. A copy could always be provided to the celebrant for this purpose.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact Paula Mortel in the Tribunal.

Fr Julian B Wellspring EV JV

Plenary Council Website

What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change? For all your Plenary Council needs and resources, please go to this website 



CLERICAL FUND NOTICES

Please submit your claims to the Clerical Fund for approval and processing. We would appreciate, where possible, electronic submission to clergy@gmail.com

Clerical Fund Management Committee Meetings for 2021:

- 02.09.2021
- 14.10.2021
- 09.12.2021

Claims should reach us two weeks prior to the meeting date, otherwise they may be held over until the next meeting. Please email or phone the office **02 9390 5166** with any query in regard to claims.

2021 AGMS - CLERGY REMUNERATION SYSTEM CLERICAL FUND

The 2021 AGMs for both the CRS Clerical Fund are scheduled for Thursday, 28 October 2021 at the Liverpool Catholic Club. Invitations will be sent closer to the date.

Supply

To help cover our priests in parishes and to allow them to plan sabbaticals we are in search of men who are able to help out in the parish with supply.

We are also looking for priests who are able to celebrate weddings on weekends all over the Archdiocese.

If you are able to help please fill in the form: 

Can you celebrate Mass in another language?

We often have calls asking for priests who can say Mass or minister to people in a foreign language outside those languages that are supplied by our foreign chaplains.

This may be Mass but it also includes visiting the sick, the Last Rites, Marriage Preparation, and general pastoral care.

We are currently working on a register of clergy who can say Mass in a language other than English.


If you are able to help please send an email with your name and the language you can say Mass in or fill in the form below.

Google form here: 


Important News about WWCC renewal

Please note this important information from the Office of the Children's Guardian:

PERSONAL DETAILS MUST BE UPDATED


Everyone who holds a Check is now legally required to update their contact details, including any name or address changes, within three months – just like your driver licence. And like your licence, penalties will apply for people who don't update. Updating your details is simple – go to  and follow the directions. You can even find your Check number here if you don't have it to hand.

Office of the Children's Guardian

For information and to renew your WWCC number click here 

Please advise the Chancery when you have updated your WWCC number.

Sabbatical considerations

Please find below some Sabbatical options that may be of interest. Please click on the link below for a full list of recommended Sabbatical options for you to consider, both locally and overseas 

Italian Institute For Classical Studies

Lingua Ecclesiae is the first intensive summer Latin course specifically designed for ecclesiastics.



Students will be hosted at the Casa per ferie Mater Mundi, run by the Augustinian Sisters of Divine Love. Pedagogical activities are accompanied by the daily celebration of the Liturgy.

To favor the students' rapid and solid learning, all courses are conducted directly in Latin, just like all other daily activities: Latin is the only language of communication within the residence throughout the entire month of stay.


Pedagogical activities are subdivided into those that are part of the curriculum (where participation is required) and those that are optional.

The Lingua Latina course is structured in three classes: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced.


The students will be required to take an entrance test in order to be placed in the more appropriate group.

Click here:  for more information or here  to download the brochure.

Institute for Continuing Theological Education Pontifical North American College – Rome

Please click on the link to find out what the PNAC is offering for Sabbaticals in 2021 

Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2021 

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY

Winter is here!

With colder periods arriving Gas heaters are likely to be in use

Do you get headaches in winter when using heaters?
Dizzy? Have you had your gas heater serviced?

Faulty or poorly maintained gas appliances can produce
deadly carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer, so beware of
the potential risks in using some forms of gas heating.

Gas heaters must be certified and should be serviced
every two years or in accordance with the
manufacturer's instructions.

If you suspect a fault, have the heater serviced or
replaced.



As a general rule - Keep everything a minimum of **one metre** away from your heater!

Your Parish WHS A Team

See the Parish Intranet Site
for all your WHS needs:
sydarch.org.au/parish



Agency News

for July 2021

From CCD

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE)

Thank you for your recruiting efforts that have seen over 200 new SRE Catechists trained so far this year.


General recruitment: three 90-second recruitment videos are available to show parishioners 

Personalised calls: We find parishioners belong to catechist teams because they love what they do and also these teams with their clergy regularly encourage others who may be ready now or later to join this parish outreach. We recommend highlighting a parishioner's gifts and asking them to 'serve' the Lord (not simply help) as their God-given time and talents are given for mission. More advice is available from your CCD Faith Education Officer and the CCD recruitment pack.


Catechist Coordinator meetings

CCD is holding the usual mid-year regional meetings with Coordinators from late June-July. As always, clergy are also most welcome to attend – your Catechist Coordinators have the details.


Parishes for Mission Days

Please remember to invite your Catechist Coordinators to Parishes for Mission planning days so that 'the other half' of students who receive Catholic religious education in public schools continue to be well supported 

Children's Preparation for Sacraments

To run online groups and/or guide parents to pray and work through the Gratia Series Children's Activity Books at home, PowerPoints with voiceovers/scripts and practical recommendations are available to download 

Pope Francis' initiative

In March last year, Pope Francis approved the new Directory for Catechesis with its practical pastoral recommendations; and on 10th May announced his Lay Ministry of the Catechist initiative. A summary and Archbishop Fisher's welcome of this development appears online 

CCD Sydney will host a Catechist Ministry Conference (live-stream TBA) in response to Pope Francis' motu proprio that builds upon what previous Popes, particularly since Pius IV (in 1571), have expressed recurrently: the importance of clergy leading, upskilling and resourcing the laity's involvement in ongoing catechesis for mission.

On behalf of your CCD team, thank you for supporting your Catechists and all your Parish families with school-aged children.

*Doug Mawhinney, CCD Parish Catechist Support
Tel. 9307 8330 | office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au*

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS) create environments that enable the youngest of children to flourish in all areas of learning and development, particularly in nourishing their spiritual lives, as we engage their religious imagination and introduce them to the treasures of Catholic tradition.

We utilise the principles of 'Godly Play' in conjunction with teachings of 'scripture and prayer' and 'seasons of the church' to impart sacred stories, liturgical lessons and religious traditions to our young children. SCECS has partnered



with Australian Catholic University to deliver training in the principles of Godly Play to our Early Childhood Educators. This two-part training taught by Maureen Hemmings provides them with the tools to deliver religious and spiritual experiences through story, specifically for children 3-5 years of age.

“We have made a commitment that all educators employed within Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services are inducted and receive professional learning in the principles of Godly Play, to build their understanding of the Catholic mission and faith and ensure that this is part of the daily curriculum for the children of all our services. As our staff become familiar with the principles of Godly Play, we will invite families to share these experiences as they support and nurture their child’s faith development.”

- *Franceyn O’Connor, CEO, SCECS*

“As stipulated in the Early Years Learning Framework, spirituality is intricately interwoven and interrelated with



■ Our Prayer Table at St Therese Preschool and Long Day Care Sadleir Miller.

children’s physical, personal, social and emotional being. Whilst spirituality is acknowledged in policy, there is a lack of discussion in the early childhood sector. Training in principles of Godly Play enables us, as educators, to understand that a child is an emotional being that feels, a rational mind that thinks and a spiritual being that wonders, creates and imagines,

manifesting their holistic spiritual experience through play. The training has taught us to convey the word of God in a creative, effective and meaningful way thereby strengthening the children’s spiritual relationship with God.”

- *Anitha Arul, Director, St Therese Preschool and Long Day Care Sadleir Miller*

If you would like to know more about our training, or to enquire about our services please contact us at scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au.

From CatholicCare



Centacare prepares school leavers with a disability ready for work!

For many school leavers with special needs the pathway into the world of work can seem difficult and challenging at times for both the student and their family. Thanks to Centacare’s School Leavers Program (SLES) young people with a disability can get job ready and all the support they need, through a personal approach that builds on their strengths.

Centacare in Belmore offers a fresh start for many school leavers with special needs and an exciting pathway to becoming job ready. The Centacare School Leavers Program (SLES) is run from Centacare’s purpose-built facility, offering work and life experience.

The energy at Centacare is contagious and students like Tom, who came into the program after completing high school at Trinity Catholic College in Auburn bring their enthusiasm and dedication which inspires the whole Centacare community. Tom has autism and every day he is growing and developing his skills and confidence. Centacare’s Executive Manager, Brad Burridge, says for parents and students thinking about getting job ready, the choice of where to go is often a difficult one.

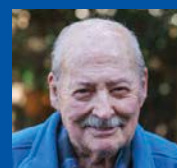
“The job market today is very different to what it was in the past, and SLES ensures that we continue to be innovative.” Brad says.

“The SLES program has a track record of getting the best out of a person, identifying their goals and providing the pathway to a student actually achieving them.”

SLES training manager, Sandra Younes, says the program focuses on what the student is most passionate about. Work experience at Centacare is a key part of the program. To keep the SLES students work skills up to date, there’s a new training department, as well as life skills training, teaching in domestic, budgeting and financial skills, travel training, numeracy and literacy. TAFE certificates in retail are also part of the program.

Live life to the full!

CatholicCare



CCareline 131819
CatholicCare.org

“The students that come to SLES are at the centre of everything we do,” says Sandra. “It’s about them reaching their potential and tapping into things that they didn’t maybe know about themselves, or things that they weren’t really sure that they could do, like going to the gym.”

“A lot of them are really hesitant just to go to the gym, because they’re not sure how to use the equipment, or what people will say if they see them on a treadmill, for example. So we brought the gym here. What we’re trying to do is to create a one-stop shop for them, like a home away from home.”

According to Tom’s father Paul, SLES has offered a fresh start and a pathway towards a brighter future for Tom.



Tom has spent the past couple of years at Centacare’s SLES program. After previously being unsure of his future work options, now thanks to SLES he has found his feet. He also enjoys his passion for dancing inside Centacare’s purpose-built dance studio and wants to work in retail.

“We became involved with SLES and had Tom involved through his school, Trinity Catholic College in an aspect class with the Autism Spectrum Association,” Paul said.

“When Tom was in an aspect class, they did work experience here at Centacare and he loved it,” Paul said.

“He loved the fact that he was able to do something that was meaningful, that he was able to do tasks and get a result out of it. So that’s how we learnt about Centacare and the SLES program.”

“We are really trying to shape different experiences for them, but to also tick those job ready goals so we can get them ready for the professional world,” says Sandra.

“I love my job. It’s the best job I’ve ever had to be honest. I really enjoy just seeing how they’re a different person when you first meet them and then after spending a couple of months here, they transform into the best version of themselves.”

if you know someone who might be interested in taking part in Centacare’s SLES program or you want to find out more, call CCareline on **13 18 19**.



Companions Matter - Connecting with those most vulnerable in our community

CatholicCare’s Companions Matter program was established in 2020 as a pilot community chaplaincy program at St Mary’s Parish, Erskineville.

This new program provides a wide range of support for some of those most vulnerable in our community such as,



■ Father Peter Carroll.

those re-entering the community after leaving prison and other isolated and vulnerable people who are on the margins of society.

According to CatholicCare Chaplaincy Manager, Father Peter Carroll, Companions Matter is an accompaniment program to enable opportunities for establishing practical restorative pathways that provide healing and hope. The key to the effectiveness of Companions Matter is walking alongside those who may have nowhere else to turn.

Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer.

To learn more about becoming a foster carer register for one of our upcoming online information sessions:

- Wednesday, 31st March, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
- Wednesday, 28th April, 12.30pm – 1.30pm

To register call

Family Spirit
FamilySpirit.org

✉ connect@familyspirit.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

Tell us about your work with prisoners and those who are on the margins?

I've worked in prison chaplaincy for 16 years, working mostly at Long Bay Prison, as well as some support at a women's prison and a remand centre. Most of the time I work directly with the inmates saying mass, holding meditation and positive growth programs, as well as any other support they need.

A lot of it is one-on-one work to help create positive change in people's lives. Perhaps they may still be coming to terms with their imprisonment or dealing with the issues that brought them to prison in the first place. Most inmates know they can trust a chaplain.

Then in the community I work a lot in Sydney's inner west, where there is quite a large public housing area, with many homeless people and others who are in need of support.

What I find in these communities, and in the prison population, is that many of those we support are poor, vulnerable and marginalised, and some have little education. They may also lack social connections and engagement with others, which is often why some people end up in prison a lot of the time.

How does the Companions Matter program help individuals build connections in the community?

What we need to understand is the biggest reason for people reoffending after leaving prison is when they are vulnerable and alone, and when they feel disconnected from their community.

Reoffending is a horrible thing for our society. Every time there's an offence there is a victim. The best way to avoid more victims is to stop the risk, and the greatest way to stop the risk is to support those people when they are most vulnerable.

The Companions Matter program provides that valuable support when they have no one else, as an early intervention technique to avoid people reoffending and to avoid more victims. Its aim is to ultimately help them live a better life as they transition back into the community.

How does the program help?

We offer programs where people can connect, where people can be educated and receive practical tips about how to make positive choices, as well as workshops to help people deal with issues like self-esteem, anger and depression. They are all goal-orientated so people can make progress as they continue through the program.

It's about having love and compassion, but also being non-judgmental. Many people I work with inside and outside of prison have been judged by society and by others, so when they meet someone who's not going to do that, it's refreshing and life-changing for them.

What is involved in becoming a companion for those in need?

Volunteer companions offer support in a variety of ways, including helping people to attend courses, workshops or seminars, and morning teas. It's not a friendship, it's a companion relationship or a professional relationship with boundaries. Companions are like a safety net, walking alongside someone so they feel connected and have a sense of belonging.

Companionship can continue outside of these gatherings as well with other activities such as a weekly phone call, coffee or a walk, if the client and volunteer wish to do so.

Take action!

CatholicCare's Pastoral Services team is looking for volunteers who would like to offer companionship to those most vulnerable in our community:

- People who are socially isolated due to age or chronic illness
- Patients who need support post-hospital release
- People working through addiction
- People post trauma, grief and/or loss
- Migrants and refugees
- People who have been caught up in the criminal justice system
- Those who are vulnerable and isolated in other ways

If you are interested in becoming a companion that matters, please contact **CatholicCare's Pastoral Services** team on **13 18 19**.

*Roza Vukovich
Community Engagement Manager*

Development and Fundraising Office

Imagine a Catholic App which provides the faithful with the latest and best formation resources the Church has to offer.

Imagine providing parishioners the opportunity to find all available Masses and Reconciliation times at the touch of a screen.

Imagine providing Catholics a way to financially build their Church from the comfort of their living room.

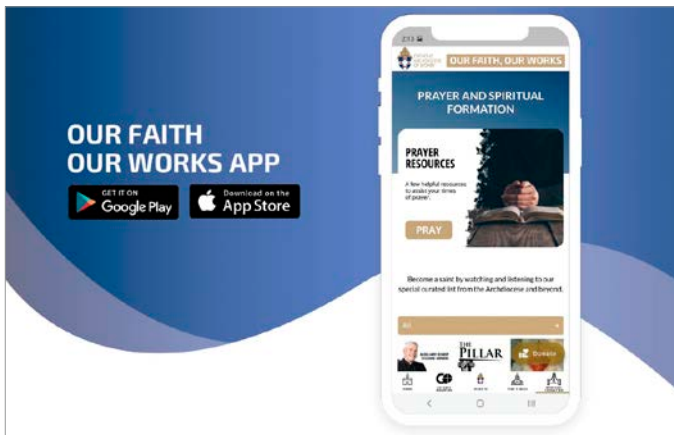
Well, imagine no further! The comprehensive 'Our Faith Our Works' app is here to serve Catholics across Sydney, and beyond.

This app provides rich resources, including the famed 'Bible in a Year' podcast, spiritual meditations with Fr John Flader, 'Go Make Disciples' parish resources, and so much more.

Whether in the living room or on the road, parishioners can locate their nearest parish and access all available Masses, any time of day.

Building parishes has never been easier. Whether responding to a parish appeal in a pew or on their couch, faithful Catholics can now set up monthly regular donations to their parish, using a PCI-compliant and secure donation gateway.

Encourage your parishioners to download the 'Our Faith Our Works' app – available through the App Store and Google Play – soon. Provide them the spiritual recharge to help outreach and grow your parish community!





Safeguarding

Children’s Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021


The Children’s Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021 (the Bill) seeks to amend the Children’s Guardian Act 2019 (NSW) by creating a regulatory framework that will require child-related organisations in NSW to comply with the NSW 10 Child Safe Standards.

The Safeguarding Office has developed two fact sheets to assist with your understanding as to how this will impact child-related roles. The fact sheets are also available for

download from the Safeguarding Office’s website  or click here 

Upcoming Training Schedule

Please click on the link for Upcoming Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity training schedule.


Upcoming Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity: 

*Anna Sammut
Safeguarding Officer - Training and Development*

Safeguarding Bite No. 41



Self Care Plan

It is important to take care of yourself and to Self Care. The Safeguarding Office has developed a Self Care Plan for you which you can download 

The Safeguarding Team

