



Ad Clerum

November 2021/22

Newsletter of the
Archbishop of Sydney
Circular No. 8/2021

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

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

So we come to the end of another year – and what a year it's been, with the longest lockdown yet for our city, and a renewed push for euthanasia in parliament.

We continue to pray that our politicians will hear the voice of the Spirit and reject this latest euthanasia Bill. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers on this important issue!

As we come to terms with both of these issues, and the many others that surround us, the approaching Christmas should spark us with a renewed sense of hope, happiness, and relief.

On that note, I'm very pleased to announce that Lights of Christmas will go ahead this year. Each year, the Archdiocese works closely with our sponsors to produce this free public event to bring hope to the Sydney community during the Advent season.

This year's event will be the first major public event after the recent lockdown, so I pray it will be a good one. On Opening Night there will be musical performances from local musician Tommy Francisco, the Sydney Street Choir and our own Cathedral Choir. I invite you and your parishes to join in this festival from 7.15pm on the 9th of December, to welcome in the new season and new liturgical year together. Please contact Tim Goonan, Event Manager on 9390 5322 or tim.goonan@sydneycatholic.org for more information, should you need it.

I also very much look forward to our annual clergy gathering on the 10th of December. It's always good to catch up and check in with each other, but it's all the more important – and enjoyable – to do so this year, after so long apart, and after so much has been asked of you, as shepherds for your flocks. I hope to see you all there!

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

+ Archbishop Anthony

2021

dates to remember

OFCC Formation Zoom on the Liturgy Office
25 November 2021 @ 2pm

**Episcopal Ordination of
Bishop-Elect Danny Meagher**
8 December 2021 at 7pm
at St Mary's Cathedral

Lights of Christmas
9–25 December 2021
St Mary's Cathedral Square

Archbishop's Advent Gathering
10 December 2021 @ 3pm
St Mary's Cathedral Precinct

All Day Clergy Conference
3 March 2022
Doltone House, Sylvania Waters

**Twilight Clergy Conference
plus Vianney Dinner**
19 May 2022
Venue to be confirmed

All Day Clergy Conference
4 October 2022
Venue to be confirmed

inside

Ongoing Formation

- ◆ Venerable English College, Rome
- ◆ 2022 Sabbaticals – PNAC
- ◆ 2022 - Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please pray...

For the repose of the soul of ...

Mr Henry John Murphy - RIP 18 November 2021

Father of Rev Dominic Murphy OP, the current Parish Priest of Forest Lodge, Pyrmont and Broadway.

Bishop William Wright – RIP 13 November 2021

Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. Former Parish Priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Mr Józef Karnas RIP 10 November 2021

Father of Rev Dominik Karnas CSMA, the current Parish Priest of Horsley Park.



Rev Renato Paras – RIP 26 October 2021

Emeritus Parish Priest of St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill and the first Chaplain to the Filipino Catholic community in Australia and New Zealand.

For those that are sick in our community ...

Fr Peter Christie, Fr John Iacono, Fr Steve De Bono, Mgr Frank Coorey, Fr Michael Butler, Fr John Alt, Fr Peter Maher, Fr Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey, Fr Michael Kelly and Fr John Snehadass who are currently unwell.

For special anniversaries occurring in August and September

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

Appointment of new Auxiliary Bishop, Fr Danny Meagher

My warm congratulations to Father Danny Meagher on his appointment by Pope Francis as auxiliary bishop of Sydney. His appointment will be very warmly received by the priests and people of Sydney.

I have worked with Fr Danny for many years. He was one of my chief collaborators working on World Youth Day in 2008 and back then I observed the very determined and practical, 'can do' man behind the spiritual priest.

One of my first tasks as Archbishop was to confirm his appointment as Rector of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd and he conducted his task with learning, confidence, charm and firmness. In my view he truly grew in the job and in his time there the seminary was a happy and holy

place where young men were well nurtured and formed. He gave a great gift to the Church in Sydney and beyond in the many zealous and fruitful priests who came forth from the seminary in his time—and many of these sung his praises to me.

Fr Danny has had a very broad experience as a priest. In addition to being a seminary rector, he has ministered in the parishes of Mt Pritchard, Mosman, Gymea, Hoxton Park, Carnes Hill, North Leichhardt, Broken Hill, Penshurst-Peakhurst, Strathfield and Five Dock as a truly good shepherd.

He has also served on the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors and Trustees of the Archdiocese, and the Boards of the Catholic Weekly and CatholicCare. He has been a fellow and councillor of St John's College in the University of Sydney and a member of the Charitable Works Fund Appeals Tribunal, the Committee for Ongoing Formation of the Clergy, and the Commission for Ministries and Orders.

That he has achieved so much in his first 25 years as a priest is a tribute to his generosity as a man who gives his all for his Lord, his Church and the task at hand whatever it is. We can look forward to great things in the next 25 years!

It is a sign of his determination to "get to work" in building up God's kingdom that he is ready to be ordained bishop so soon, on 8 December 2021 at 7pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

It is with enthusiasm that I welcome him to the College of Bishops and look forward to working beside him in the Lord's vineyard.

... We thank Fr Henry Adler SVD for his ministry to the Archdiocese.

Fr Henry has been helping as an Assistant Priest at Mosman, Beauty Point, Clifton Gardens and Neutral Bay for almost 2 year and has ministered as the Chaplain to the Slovak Catholic Community for the past six years and will continue. We wish Fr Henry all the best as he moves to ministry in the Diocese of Wollongong in the New Year.

For our Deacons being Ordained to the Priesthood

Please pray for **Deacons Rafael Silva Galicia** and **Anderson Gallego Rodas** who will be Ordained to the Priesthood by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Mary's Cathedral at 7.00pm on 3rd of December.

For our Seminarians transitioning to the Diaconate

During the next couple of months some of our seminarians are preparing to transition to the Diaconate:

Adrian Simmons on 23rd November at 6pm at Christ the King, YAGOONA;

Benjamin Saliba on 27th November at 10:30am at St Felix, BANKSTOWN; and

Ben Gandy on 4th December at 10:30am at St Benedict's, BROADWAY.

If you would like to be part of these special celebrations please click on the link below to help assist us with seating arrangements for clergy on the respective days (to ensure all COVID measures are observed).

Please click on the link to register: 

Mark Anderson and **Michael Kasiita** will be Ordained to the Diaconate on 30th November @ 6pm at St Aloysius, CRONULLA. Please note that Cronulla parish are making their own arrangements with clergy attendance and will communicate to all you directly soon.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they prepare for these important steps in their faith journey.

I RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Rev Jacek Cichy

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of St Anne's, Strathfield South.

Rev Paul Van Chu

Re-appointed Chaplain to the Vietnamese Catholic Community from 14 December 2021 for a term of 3 years.

Rev Denis Minns OP

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of St Mark, Drumoyne from 5 November 2021.

Rev Marek Okarma CSMA

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park from 9 November 2021 until 31 January 2022.

NON CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Mr John Leotta

Re-appointed Director of CatholicCare Sydney Limited from 12 November 2021 for a term of 3 years.

Dr Sandra Lynch

Re-appointed a Member of the Curia from 1 December 2021 for a term of 2 years.

Mr Gregory Mackay

Re-appointed Director of CatholicCare Sydney Limited from 7 November 2021 for a term of 3 years.

Sr Ailsa Mackinnon

Re-appointed Director of CatholicCare Sydney Limited from 14 November 2021 for a term of 3 years.

Ms Madeleine Mattera

Re-appointed Director of CatholicCare Sydney Limited from 6 November 2021 for a term of 3 years.

ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY

Archbishop's Pre-Advent Clergy Gathering in St Mary's Cathedral Precinct.

The Archbishop will host the annual Pre-Advent Clergy Gathering in St Mary's Cathedral Precinct. The event will commence at 3pm with registrations and refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.

The program will be similar to last year, about which evaluations were positive.

The date is later than hoped. We are aware of the demands on clergy in Advent. Unfortunately, with COVID-19 delaying the start of the Higher School Certificate exams, the original date became unavailable. We apologise for any inconvenience.

The Program will begin with the Archbishop's review of the year, including an assessment of the progress of the 10 Point Clergy Wellbeing Plan. We then will move to the Crypt for a Penitential Liturgy, during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. The Liturgy will finish with Benediction.

The evening will culminate with the Advent dinner in the Cathedral Hall.

The Cathedral COVID Plan limits numbers for the Cathedral Hall and Crypt and you will be required to be double vaccinated to attend. Registrations are essential.

Please right click **HERE** to register before 24 November 2021.

ENQUIRIES: Maria Cavallaro: 9390 5888
maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org.

More information will follow as plans are finalised.

The event will provide the first opportunity for Sydney clergy to gather in person at the close of a demanding year. Please try your best to join us.

Are you interested in training to be a Pastoral and Professional Supervisor?

Transforming Practices Inc. offers training in Pastoral Supervision with a particular emphasis on developing reflective practice along with supervision skills. This training is particularly helpful for those who have at least five years' experience in pastoral ministry, lay or ordained, and have been in regular supervision during that time themselves. It is not for everyone. If you are seeking a Graduate Certificate that may become part of a Diploma or Master's you may want to consider another training body.

Transforming Practices runs a quality bespoke program that exceeds the requirements for accreditation with the Australian Association of Supervisors (AAOS) and includes an opportunity to join the community of practice that is Transforming Practice Inc. when you have successfully completed your program.

Training to be a Pastoral Supervisor with Transforming Practices Inc. begins by participating in a Portfolio of Learning Day, followed by preparing your own Portfolio of Learning. Those whose portfolios demonstrate reflective capacity may then take part of the training programme.


The Portfolio of Learning is a unique feature of the Transforming Practices Inc. training program and is specifically designed to build on, and develop the individual's skills and experience. Training includes 3 two-day Modules on Transformative Learning, Ethical Practice and Theological Reflection incorporating the application of theory to supervisory practice. Some trainees may benefit from additional course work in supervision theory. After successful completion of the modules trainees begin to offer supervision while receiving regular supervision on their practice.

The next Portfolio of Learning Day will be held, on Zoom, on Friday November 26.

If you are interested you are invited to contact the registrar, **John Collins** via email john.collins@cis.catholic.edu.au for more information.

The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University

The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University is pleased to announce applications are open for CCS Postgraduate Scholarships and Bursaries in Catholic Theology/Catholic Studies for 2022/23. A summary of the awards is below.

We would especially like to draw your attention to the two Louis Lafosse PhD Scholarships, both 3 year awards including full-fees (at UK level), plus a maintenance allowance at the UK Research Council's national rate (full-time rate £15,609 in 2021-22). Applications are open to both full-time and part-time candidates. Full details including eligibility criteria and an application form are available at [Funding - Durham University](#) 


The closing date for applications for the Louis Lafosse PhD Scholarships is Sunday 27 February 2022. All other applications are open until 22 May 2022.

Recommended online retreat options for clergy who are interested can be accessed here: and

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 Invitation 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.

Cenacles of Prayer for Clergy

For over 40 years priests have been meeting in Sydney in cenacles of prayer.

They began in the Blessed Sacrament chapel in Haymarket in 1980, and have been successively based in Surry Hills, Parramatta Cathedral, St. John's Park, the Slovenian

church in Merrylands, MSC Monastery, Kensington, and, till lockdown, in St. Bernadette's, Carlton.

They have now moved to zoom and are hosted from Canberra by Fr Emil Milat. This means priests can join from anywhere.

The name "Cenacle" comes from the room where Mary and the Apostles waited and prayed for the coming of the Holy Spirit. These cenacles consist of a short invocation of the Holy Spirit, a rosary, prayers for the intentions of the Pope, a reading and an act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It takes about 40 minutes and, when it was live, was usually followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and snacks.

The December priest's cenacle will be held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021 at the usual time of 1.30 pm at St. Bernadette's, Carlton and will be hosted by Fr Gabriel Ballawig. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

Archdiocesan Parental Leave Policy

Further to the note that was circulated on 10 September regarding the Archdiocesan Parental Leave Policy, those who wish to view the policy – which was approved by the Council of Priests and decreed by me [Archbishop] on 3 November – may do so through the following link:

To access this you will need to use the usual **username: caosyd** and **password: bede77**

Lights of Christmas

The Lights of Christmas will run from 9 to 25 December 2021. For more details please download the attached poster or click on the website link

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.

Mental Might 7

Listening to our First People to better understand the Land we live on is a great way to tap into the Spirit of Place, and hence refuel our Wellbeing.

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

CCD SRE UPDATE

Immediate Return of SRE where possible.

The Department of Education has advised that SRE 'Scripture' classes may now return in public schools (from 8 November). Schools are actively contacting parishes to arrange SRE classes for the remainder of Term 4. Refer to the Agency Section for more information on page 10.



Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

The re-opening of our churches in past weeks has enabled many families and communities to begin to regather, with the Advent and Christmas seasons also now within view.

Respecting the various situations in which people may still be, our Sydney Centre for Evangelisation has continued to offer online opportunities for spiritual formation and training while preparing for in-person events before the year's end. This includes the Feast of Christ the King on the 21 November which will see the annual celebration of World Youth Day in the diocese at St Mary's Cathedral in anticipation of the WYD pilgrimage to Lisbon in 2023.

As the task of rebuilding and regathering in community opens up before us, we are encouraged by the spiritual hunger and the yearning for community and new ways of living that have arisen as the silver-lining of this challenging time. As shared by McCrindle Research recently, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic more Australians are thinking about God, praying and thinking about the meaning of life (McCrindle, Australia's Changing Spiritual Climate).

As Elizabeth shares below, next year will see our intended "Parishes for Mission Days" which will open in-person opportunities for clergy, parish teams and lay leaders to break open the vision and strategies of Go Make Disciples for their community life. It will also see the launch of a new Catholic Women's Network within Sydney to bring together existing groups and open up opportunities for mentoring, a focus on supporting marriage and family as a critical expression of parish life and holiness, formation for men and fathers, and the further growth of support for parish sacramental coordinators and RCIA coordinators which commenced this year.

Reflecting on one of the foundations of evangelisation, there will also be workshops on leadership, support for gift discernment at a local level that is critical to leadership and volunteerism in the parish, and offerings for Lent and Pentecost to support a growing culture of formation in Sydney.

Thank you for your faithful service and witness throughout these challenging months and please be assured of our prayers and support in your parish and ministry.

With every good wish,
Daniel Ang

Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

From the Parish Renewal Team:

Bishop Robert Barron, Dr Mary Healy and Fr Jacques Philippe Address the faithful of Sydney

By the time this issue of Ad Clerum goes to print, Bishop Robert Barron will have launched our new monthly online event 'Reclaiming Evangelisation: How Jesus Great Commission Will Renew Our Parishes'.

To support and engage our faithful in the work of parish renewal the series seeks to educate and convince that our communities are renewed when we seek to live more fully the mission given to us by Our Lord to call and form disciples. The series will also unpack how we can practically implement that in our parishes.

The series will continue in 2022 with an address by Dr Mary Healy, an international speaker and a professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit on Saturday 12 February, and Fr Jacques Philippe, author and preacher at retreats and missions throughout the world, on Wednesday 23 March.

Each talk will be followed by Q&A with the speakers as well as the by the opportunity for small group discussions.

We would be grateful if you could invite your parishioners to this series; flyer attached.

Read more here. Spaces are limited and registration essential.

Advent Companion and Advent Group Workshops coming soon

After the positive feedback about this year's Lenten Companion, the Parish Renewal Team has developed an Advent companion for our parishes: Rejoice! Receiving and Sharing the Gift of the Good News. The resource contains the Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day, reflections from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Professor Tracey Rowland and others, questions for discussion groups, and other resources for Advent. The resource will be available for download mid-November on the Go Make Disciples webpage.

By means of supporting parishes and building up leaders, the Parish Renewal Team have been offering online workshops on how to lead an Advent group in person or

online. These workshops have been very well attended, with additional workshops being offered in the weeks ahead. If you would like to know more please contact me.

'Parishes for Mission' Days

Now that the lockdown has come to an end we are in the process of contacting all parishes whose 'Parishes for Mission' Day had to be rescheduled, to find a convenient date to proceed with the day. 'Parishes for Mission' Days lead your Pastoral Council and other leaders through a process of learning more about the pastoral reality in your area, principles of parish renewal, how to create a vibrant vision for mission in your area, strategies for its implementation, and access to resources to assist. If you have not signed up yet and would like to be part of a day in 2022 please let us know.

Arete Missionary Leadership subsidies

Recently we made an offer for you to participate in a pilot program to subsidise parishioners to attend the Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership course 'Foundations in Missionary Leadership'. Thank you for your response to this offer. We are in the process of finalising candidates for the course and look forward to sharing new with you of those who will be participating in this pilot program in 2022.

As ever, if you have any questions or feedback about any ways we can support you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Pax,

Elizabeth Arblaster

Parish Renewal Manager

Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org

0436 52 99 46.

Red Book Pastoral Tip No. 10



Clergy are reminded it is essential to make sure any couple making a wedding booking is asked if either party has been married before. Problems are arising because this basic question is overlooked and close to wedding it is discovered a party is not free to marry. Best pastoral practice avoids this situation.

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

Fr Julian B Wellspring EV JV

PLENARY COUNCIL

News from the Plenary Council Working Group

The Plenary Council Working Group has now been appointed

Plenary Council Assembly

We await the papers from the First Assembly which should be with us by mid November. These papers will form the basis for reflection on the questions for the Synod of Bishops.


The Plenary Council and the Synod of Bishops

The Plenary Council and the Synod of Bishops processes overlap and will continue to be interlinked in many ways in the coming months. Given the overlap the Plenary Council Working Group has now been appointed has also been appointed as the Sydney Archdiocese's Synod consultation support team.

- Many Synod questions have already been raised during previous diocesan Plenary Council consultations. We encourage you to use this relevant material from the diocesan Plenary Council reports and group and individual submissions to avoid repetitive discussions and feed this information through the online portal.
- The PCWG is synthesizing responses already received during the consultation, listening and feedback phase from the Archdiocese to feed into the diocesan report
- The first fruits of the Plenary Council Assembly 1 will be available shortly. The Australian community will be invited to read these papers and reflect upon the Synod questions in the light of these outcomes. They will then be invited to submit any feedback they wish to provide through the online portal. More information and clearer instructions on how this process will unfold will be provided in the coming weeks.

Our approach for the consultation will be low key aware that there is a certain fatigue following the Plenary process. Some suggestions for parishes could be having coffee conversations to discuss the Synod questions. The discussion guides have been prepared for both group and individual reflection.


The timeline for feedback from the Bishops has been extended from April 2022 to August 2022 so we are waiting on a new timeline.

All information relating to the Synod is available from this site: 

We shall keep parishes informed as new information becomes available. If I can assist in any way please contact me at jo.brady@sydneycatholic.org

*Sr Jo Brady, Plenary Council Liaison Officer
On behalf of Bishop Terry Brady and
Sandra Lynch, Co-Chairpersons,
Sydney Archdiocesan PCWG*

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

Collections and Offerings

As lockdown continues, please provide creative opportunities for parishioners to contribute generously towards Parish First Collections, both during lockdown and as we emerge from lockdown.

Reminder about payment of monthly stipends: They are paid on the last day of the month at the place where a priest is assigned. The payment should not be paid in advance, especially as the conditions of Government support are changing quite quickly.

Clerical Fund Claims

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

- 09 December 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 (**9390 5166**) with any query in regard to claims.

2021 AGMs - CLERGY REMUNERATION SYSTEM AND CLERICAL FUND

The 2021 AGMs for both the CRS and 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 below: 

Can you celebrate Mass in another language?

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 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 

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 2022 

Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2022 

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

THE LAST WORD:



WORK HEALTH & SAFETY

THE ARCHDIOCESE INCIDENT NOTIFICATION PROTOCOLS HAVE CHANGED WHERE ANY INJURY OR ILLNESS THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE TREATMENT AS AN INPATIENT IN HOSPITAL IS TO BE NOTIFIED TO THE CHANCERY (REGARDLESS OF AN OVERNIGHT STAY OR NOT)



Your Parish WHS A Team

**See the Parish Intranet Site
for all your WHS needs:**

sydarch.org.au/parish



Agency News

For November 2021

Special Religious Education (SRE)

Immediate Return of SRE where possible

The Department of Education has advised that SRE may return to schools during this Term 4 (from 8 November).

This development was unexpected, even by the Department, given NSW's evolving 'reopening'.

Schools are actively contacting parishes to arrange SRE classes for the remainder of Term 4.

Parish clergy and catechist coordinators have been emailed a *Return of SRE Guide*. Click here to download the Guide 

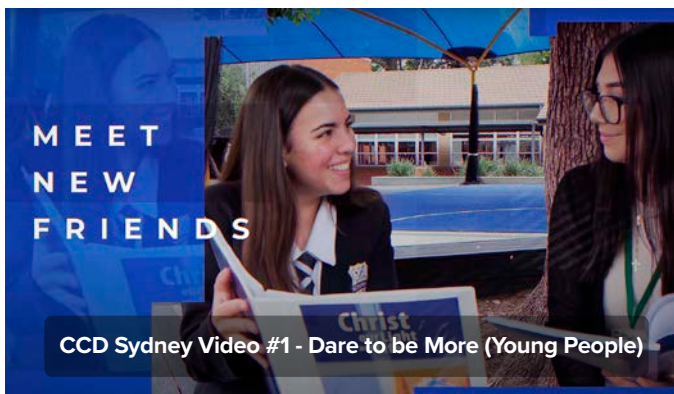
The Guide outlines what clergy and catechist coordinators are asked to do. In brief, present Catechists with the current vaccination requirements and health recommendations for them to advise you of their availability. Catechists who are unable to return can help in other ways.

Where SRE classes cannot return due to lack of Catechist availability or local school situations, CCD will provide recommendations for SRE Student Activity Books to be sent home with students, along with a template to tailor a "parish-linking" SRE Update for parents to also contain your Christmas Mass times, sacramental prep notices and Year 6 Certificates that link to Sydney Catholic Youth.


Your parish's CCD Faith Education Officers are available to assist with queries.

Vital catechist recruitment

Three 90-second Catechist recruitment videos to play before or after Masses: 



Online Sacramental Preparation

Gratia Series children's activity book PowerPoints with voiceovers/scripts are available to help run online groups and guide parents at home: 



Thank you for your prayers and constant support of 'the other half' of our Catholic families in public schools. St Joseph, pray for us.

Doug Mawhinney | Director CCD Sydney
office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Please click on the link to download the poster 

From CatholicCare



Talking Children in Out of Home Care – What do they need?

Sadly, as many as 45,000 children in Australia are unable to live with their birth family and in Sydney alone, each month there are approximately 155 requests for safe homes for children and young people. These statistics highlight the need for high-quality care and passionate foster carers. Currently, the greatest need is for carers for children aged eight to 14 years.


CatholicCare recently held a webinar panel discussion, where we talked to three experts about what children in Out of Home Care need and how foster care can transform their lives, as well as the lives of carers.

Joined by two of Family Spirit's Foster Care experts, Emma Healy and Renae Edwards, and foster carer, Dave Noble, the discussion provided inspiring and thought-provoking insights into the careful and thoughtful process of matching children in need with high-quality foster carers and the ongoing support and training required to help ensure that children thrive in their new homes.


Dave is an advocate for the closely managed matching process that he went through at Family Spirit before being connected with Sam* and believes that it is an integral part of helping ensure the child and carer can establish an effective relationship.

Family Spirit are seeking more carers like Dave – capable, adaptable, and willing to take on children who are most in need. There are various types of care including:

- **Immediate:** A few days, often at short notice
- **Part-time:** A few days, or regular weekends to provide support for carers and the young people in their care
- **Short-term:** From a few months to two years
- **Long-term:** Until a child reaches 18 years, or is adopted from foster care

You can watch a recording of the webinar discussion at this link  and if you think you know someone that might

be able to help, sometimes an encouraging word from their priest can make all the difference.

Please ask anybody who is interested in finding out more to contact Family Spirit by calling CatholicCare's CCareline on **13 18 19**, emailing admin@familyspirit.org or they can visit the website 



Living Well, Dying Well – the most important conversation you've never had

Most of us will live a long life and die of age-related illnesses. As a result, we put off thinking or talking about death and dying. But what about those who face the diagnosis of a serious and life-limiting illness, or their loved ones? How do we carry on in the knowledge that they may soon be gone, how do we support them and ourselves?



Centacare provides work for people with an intellectual disability.

Our friendly and hardworking team deliver services to businesses, parishes and private residences across Sydney from cleaning, gardening, assembly work, packing and mailing out services.

Contact us now to support Centacare staff and obtain a quote.

Call CCareline to find out more


CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

 connect@catholiccare.org

 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

As a community, it's time we started talking about death and dying and how we support those who are journeying towards their final days.

The Living Well, Dying well website:  is a helpful resource for people with life-limiting illnesses, their families and anyone supporting others in their final stages of life.

Living Well Dying Well is a collaboration of Catholic parishes and agencies working with palliative care services to provide these resources, and also looks to enhance these community services through the provision of volunteers to accompany sick people and their families, and offer them a range of additional supports beyond the clinical aspects of dying.

"While we no longer live in such proximity, Christians are still called to be a community of care. The launch of Living Well Dying Well marks an important step along that path." Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP.

Living Well Dying Well is thus a Catholic program which aims to enhance the journey of people who are sick and may be approaching their end of life. It seeks to form a caring and compassionate community around these people, support them more fully, respond to their needs and help their families with any of the care that is needed.

As a proud Living Well Dying Well collaborator, Mark Phillips shares the drive behind this significant community focussed initiative.

"Living Well Dying Well is the promotion of a Christian approach to death and dying that will assist people to have less fear of death and to regard it as a normal part of life. Our hope is that people die in a state of grace, reconnected with God and at peace with others.

"We also see significant benefit in having community-based accompaniment that provides compassionate care for people and their families and friends through to the end of life." Mark Phillips, CEO CatholicCare Sydney

Living Well, Dying Well is a collaboration between Catholic Healthcare, St Vincent's Health Australia, Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria, Grief Care, CatholicCare Sydney, CatholicCare Broken Bay, and the University of Notre Dame.

Visit livingwelldyingwell.org today to find out more about volunteering in the community, and how to help us remove the stigma and fear surround death and dying.



The best next step for school leavers with an intellectual disability

For many students in their final year of school, the prospect of finding work can seem daunting, particularly for students with an intellectual disability. Thanks to Centacare's School Leaver's Employment Support (SLES) by CatholicCare, these young people can access training, and develop skills that will help them both secure and retain employment.



Centacare offers a welcoming and encouraging start for school leavers and an engaging pathway to becoming job ready. The program is run from their recently renovated training facility in Belmore, and offers a broad range of courses that fall under the pillars of Work. Learn. Connect.

The energy at Centacare is fun, kind and lively, and students like Tom (pictured), who has autism, are there every day, developing their skills, relationships, and confidence.



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Centacare's Executive Manager, Brad Burridge, says that for parents and students thinking about the future, the choice is often difficult.


"The job market today is very different to what it was in the past, so we make sure our School Leaver's program continues to be innovative," says Brad.

"We lead with what the participant is most passionate about, building toward solid foundations in all key areas of Work. Learn. Connect. To make sure we are up-to-date with current work practices, we tap into the simulated work-training environment developed with our business partners: Flexco, Artistic Den, GNB Industrial Power, and Save on Shave.

The Life Skills training teaches participants fundamental skills in managing domestic duties, financials, travel, numeracy, literacy and also covers composing a resume and interview techniques," says Brad.

"The students that come to SLES are at the heart of everything we do," says Illy, Director of Disability Services. "It's about them reaching their potential and tapping into things that they didn't know about themselves, or that they weren't sure were possible, like going to the gym or even running a café."

According to Tom and his father, Paul, Centacare's School Leaver's Employment Support has offered a fresh start and a pathway towards a brighter future for Tom.

If someone you know would like to find out more about the program they can visit  or to arrange a tour of Centacare and meet the Educational Team please ask them to contact us on: **13 18 19** or email connect@centacare.org.

 | *80 Years of Caring*
Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS)

St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care Service: Enrolments are Now Open!

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS) have concluded the construction phase of their brand new, state of the art early childhood facility located in the vibrant sub-



■ Toddler's room pictured above. Photo: Alphonsus Fok.

urb of Rosebery. St Joseph's Preschool and Long Day Care is the first Catholic Early Childhood Service catering for newborns in the Sydney Diocese, and is expecting to fill its nursery very quickly.

St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care opened its doors to its first ever orientation week, with an impressive number of families taking the opportunity to privately tour the new service. The session provided families with a unique experience, tailored to the parents and their child. The children had the opportunity to start building a connection with their new service.

Families showed great excitement as they made their way through the open and airy spaces, appreciating the raked ceilings, exposed timber doors and walls. These characteristics are purposeful; visually and physically connecting the children to the outside natural environment. Families expressed great appreciation for the exquisite outdoor environment featured in the children's outdoor play areas. These features give meaning to the notion of 'the environment as the third teacher.'



The long day care service has begun building its partnership with St Joseph’s Parish and school, with Fr Paul Smithers and Mr. Bernard Ryan having visited the facility on a number of occasions. Fr Paul Smithers have been actively working with SCECS throughout the recruitment process to appoint the service Director, whilst Mr. Bernard Ryan has begun managing the setup of the neighbouring primary school. Collectively, we are very excited by the prospect of building a community of learners built upon the mission and teachings of the Catholic Church.

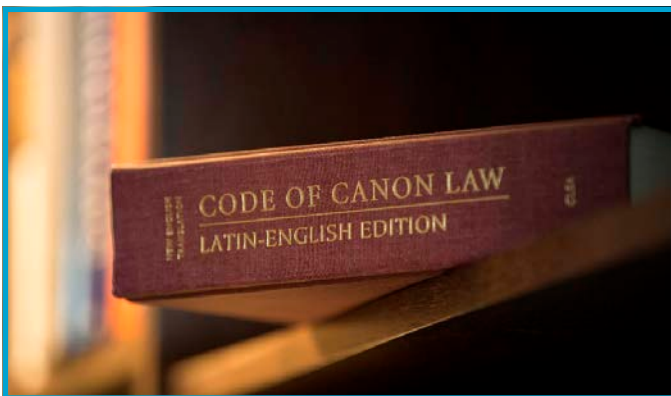
SCECS will be offering a second orientation week this month, due to the huge success of their first orientation week in October. If you know of any families that may live or work in the surrounding suburbs, feel free to spread the word. All families are welcome.

If you would like to explore the possibilities of having an Early Childhood Service as part of your Catholic community, please reach out to Franceyn O’Connor, Chief Executive Officer of SCECS (franceyn.oconnor@syd.catholic.edu.au).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Recruitment Process

With Parishes beginning to open again the Safeguarding Office wants to remind everyone about the Safeguarding Recruitment Process. Evidence from the Royal Commission highlights how poor recruitment practices allowed perpetrators to enter into organisations to harm children it also showed how volunteers are a soft entry point into any organisation.



In order to play our part and help protect the Children and Young People within in the Archdiocese, it is important to follow the below Safeguarding Recruitment Process when engaging volunteers in child-related work:

1. Conduct Interview and Reference Checks – templates can be downloaded here
2. Obtain a Working With Children Check and verify it online through the Office of the Children’s Guardian website

3. Ensure volunteer reads and sign the Archdiocese Code of Conduct for Working With Children – can be downloaded here
4. Ensure volunteer has completed the Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Induction Training – volunteers can register for the Online Safeguarding Induction Training here

Please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Office if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Safeguarding Recruitment Process.

Office of the Children’s Guardian Annual Report

The Office of the Children’s Guardian Annual Report was released in late October and the report reviews the first full year of the Children’s Guardian Act 2019. The Office of the Children’s Guardian regulates 30,000 organisations and 1.8 million workers and volunteers across NSW.

Below we have provided you with some of the Working with Children Checks and the Reportable Conduct Scheme findings from the Office of the Children’s Guardian Annual Report. This information is based on 2020-21 period:

Working With Children Check’s

- 400,855 Working With Children Check applications were processed, of these applications 45% were new applications and 55% were renewals.
- The Office of the Children’s Guardian received 258 notifications from prescribed bodies, including the Department of Communities and Justice and NSW Police.
- 46,934 WWCC applications returned police or workplace misconduct records which required further consideration.
- 42992 individuals were granted a WWCC clearance where they had no records relevant to the safety of children.
- 434 applicants were automatically disqualified from working with children
- 3508 individuals were referred for Risk Assessments due to the records relevant to the safety of children
- 552 interim bars were imposed on individuals WWCC
- 82 WWCC’s applications were refused or cancelled.

Reportable Conduct

- 1896 Reportable Conduct notifications were made to the Office of the Children’s Guardian
- Children aged between 13 and 15 years and between 1 and 6 years were the highest represented age groups in

notifications, each accounting for approximately a quarter of alleged victims.

- Of notifications involving children aged 13 to 15 years, 43% involved alleged conduct towards them of a sexual nature, while 35% involved alleged assault.
- Of notifications involving children aged 1 to 6 years, 44% involved alleged assault, while 26% involved allegations of neglect.

If you would like to read the Office of the Children’s Guardian Annual Report please click [here](#)



Anna Sammut

Safeguarding Officer - Training and Development

Safeguarding Bite No. 45



2021 Self-Assessments

Parish, Agency and Chaplaincy Self-Assessments are now be due back.

Please send your completed Self-Assessments to safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their Self-Assessment

