

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

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

I would like to thank all of you who attended our Advent Clergy gathering at the beginning of the month. As always, it was a great opportunity to get together in a spirit of fraternity, to wrap-up the year and ready ourselves for Christmas and the new year. I also extend my thanks to the many who joined me at St Mary's Cathedral for the funeral of Mons. Bill Mullins, a senior priest of the Archdiocese and much loved figure in the chancery.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Purpose Conference 2023, the first Archdiocesan-run youth festival. It was a wonderful expression of the vibrant faith of our young people. As well as Mass, they had the opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, hear from inspirational speakers and connect with other young people alive with the fire of the Holy Spirit. A big thanks to all who played a part in this wonderful event.

As we move from Advent to Christmas and the joyful arrival of Christ the Prince of Peace, we continue to keep in our prayers those suffering as a result of conflicts throughout the globe. May the God of hope who fills our hearts with His unwavering comfort, console all of those impacted by war, violence and hatred.

I pray that the infinite yet tiny God, the vulnerable yet all-powerful God, the ancient yet newborn God, will bring you and all your loved ones renewed hope and energy for the year ahead this Christmas. Hold Him to your heart as He holds you to His.

God bless you all! Merry Christmas!

*As always, please be assured of
my continued prayers for all of you!*

+ Archbishop Anthony

2023/2024

Dates To Remember

Christmas at the Cathedral

from 14 to 25 December, St Mary's Cathedral

Vad Legislation and ACBC document, "To witness and to accompany with Christian Hope"

ZOOM on

1 February 2024 at 2pm

Clergy Afternoon Retreat

23 February 2024, St John Bosco, Engadine

Clergy Formation: People Management

5 and 6 March 2024 (2 day course)

St Martha's Leichhardt

*(Please note these dates have changed
from previous Ad Clerum)*

Live In 2024 Clergy Conference

8 to 11 April 2024, Novotel Wollongong

Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2024

29 April – 1 May – S1 (Varroville)

12 – 14 August - S2 (Mulgoa)

4 - 6 November – S3 (Varroville)

(Please note S2 date and venue has changed)

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Ongoing Formation

- ◆ 2023/24 Sabbaticals - PNAC
- ◆ 2023/24 - Tantur Ecumenical Institute
- ◆ St Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, Canada
- ◆ Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis, Rome

PLEASE PRAY...

For the repose of the souls of all our deceased clergy and especially for:

Mr Alberto Landa Tenen - RIP

Father of Fr Gustavo Criollo, Administrator of Auburn Parish
1 December 2023

Mrs Christine McCarthy – RIP

Mother of Fr James McCarthy, Parish Priest of Cronulla, and the wife of John McCarthy KC, Chair of the Archdiocesan Anti-Slavery Taskforce
29 November 2023

Mr John Caraciol D'Cruz – RIP

Father of Fr Ronny D'Cruz, Assistant Priest of Pagewood Parish
13 November 2023

Rev William Mullins - RIP

Former De La Salle Brother. Former official of the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education. Oldest incardinated priest of the Archdiocese. Assistant Secretary at the Archdiocesan Chancery
16th November 2023

Rev Kenneth Sargent - RIP

Former Parish Priest of Bondi Beach, Miranda and Woollahra
28 October 2023




Rev John Alt - RIP

Former Parish Priest of Meadowbank and Lidcombe
27 October 2023

For those that are sick in our community...

Mgr Anthony Doherty, Mgr Vince Redden, Mgr John Usher, Fr Thanh Nguyen, Fr Joseph Aikkaramattam, Mgr Frank Coorey, Fr Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey and Fr Michael Kelly who are currently unwell.

For special anniversaries occurring in December, January and February

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

I RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS:

Rev Lewi Barakat

Appointed Administrator and Acting Dean to St Mary's Cathedral, Administrator of St Philip Howard Parish, Norfolk Island and Sacred Heart Parish, Darlinghurst from 1 January 2024 for the duration of the Dean's sabbatical leave.

Rev Joti Bilowalu CM

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Vincent's, Ashfield from 24 January 2024.

Rev William Chow

Appointed Part-Time Chaplain at Bankstown Hospital from 21 September 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Reginald Chua OP

Reappointed Chaplain to the University of Notre Dame Australia until 29 March 2025.

Rev Ronny D'Cruz

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Pagewood from 4 November 2023.

Very Rev Michael de Stoop

Reappointed Rector the Seminary of the Good Shepherd from 1 January 2023 for a term of three years.

Very Rev Dominic Dinh

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg from 1 November 2023 for a term of six years.

Rev Zeljko Evetovic

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Caringbah from 4 November 2023.

Very Rev Peter Kwak

Appointed Dean of the St George Deanery from 1 January 2024 for a term of three years.

Rev Emmanuel Lubega

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Kingsgrove from 18 November 2023.

Rev John Macdonald

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Peter, Surry Hills from 1 May 2023 for a term of six years.

Rev Mani Malana

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of the Holy Family, Menai from 1 December 2023 for a term of six years.

Rev Benjamin Saliba

Appointed Assistant Priest at the Parish of St Mary's Cathedral from 1 January 2024.

Very Rev Sebastian Savarimuthu

Appointed Dean of the Concord Deanery from 1 January 2024 for a term of three years.

Rev Mr Adrian Suyanto

Appointed Deacon at the Parish of St Aloysius of Gonzaga, Cronulla from 16 December 2023.

Rev Mr Likisone Tominiko

Appointed Deacon at the Parish of the Holy Family, Menai from 2 December 2023.

Very Rev Julian Wellspring

Reappointed a Member of the Senate of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 1 December 2023 for a term of three years.

NON-CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Ms Lisa Bartak

Reappointed ex officio Chair of the Archdiocesan Sponsorship Committee from 9 November 2023.

Ms Rebecca Davies

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Sponsorship Committee from 9 November 2023 for a term of three years.

Ms Loretta Di Mento

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Risk Committee from 17 November 2023 for a term of one year.

Ms Monica Doumit

Reappointed a Member of the Senate of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 1 December 2023 for a term of three years.

Sr Susanna Edmunds OP

Appointed Dean of Studies at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd from 27 January 2022 for a term of five years.

Ms Karen Hope

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Finance Council from 1 January 2023 for a term of three years.

Professor Emerita Margaret Mary Kearns

Appointed a Trustee of the Trustees of the Catholic Aged Care Sydney (TCACS) from 23 November 2023 for a term of three years.

Mr Anthony Kendrick

Appointed Coordinator of Human Formation at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd from 1 December 2023 for a term of three years.

Dr Sandra Lynch

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Curia from 1 December 2023 for a term of two years.

Mr Samuel Mikhael

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Sponsorship Committee from 1 January 2024 for a term of three years.

Ms Helen Morassut

Reappointed an ex officio Member of the Archdiocesan Sponsorship Committee from 9 November 2023.

Professor Marina Pasic

Appointed a Director of the Board of Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Early Childhood Services Ltd Company from 1 January 2024 for a term of three years.

Hon Barbara Perry

Appointed a Trustee of the Trustees of the Catholic Aged Care Sydney (TCACS) from 23 November 2023 for a term of three years.

Ms Fiorella Spagnolo

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Sponsorship Committee from 9 November 2023 for a term of three years.

Professor Cate Thill

Reappointed a Director of Sydney Catholic Schools Limited from 11 September 2023 for a term of three years.

ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY

Zoom on Vad Legislation and ACBC document, *“To witness and to accompany with Christian Hope”*

1 February 2024 at 2pm

Euthanasia was legalized in NSW on 28 November. It is important that we understand how the legislation works

and how we can best respond. A conference via zoom link will be held on 1 February 2024, at 2pm for ninety minutes. There will be time for:

- A short briefing on the legislation;
- How Catholic aged care facilities have responded;
- Discussion regarding how we might best offer pastoral care to those considering euthanasia, with reference to the recent ACBC document, *“To witness and to accompany with Christian Hope”*.

Please do come along if possible. Difficult pastoral situations are sure to arise in the coming months and years and we need to be prepared to offer pastoral care that is compassionate, clear and faithful.

Clergy Formation Programme for 2024

The Ongoing Formation of Clergy Formation for 2024 is looking to be another year of great opportunities clergy.

Live In 2024 Clergy Conference

8 to 11 April 2024

Novotel Wollongong

Please note these dates in your diaries, as all priests ministering in our parishes and agencies are expected to attend this important gathering. If you anticipate any other commitments arising on these dates, please move the commitments or arrange for a supply priest (e.g. from a religious congregation) to cover you.

Registrations should be open before Christmas.

Find Rest for Your Soul: An Afternoon Retreat.

We will start the New Year off, with an opportunity to step out of busy parish life and connect in with God at **Find Rest for Your Soul: An Afternoon Retreat**. This year Fr John Armstrong, will lead the afternoon with the theme being **“Always busy about many things... come to rest awhile.”**


This draws on the Transfiguration of how we seek to meet God both in the activities of each day and the cloud of unknowing.

The afternoon allows us time aside to listen to the voice of God through the prayer of Lectio Divina, quiet time, adoration, and Evening Prayer. Building on the text of Mark 9.2-10 we will explore how to meet God who says, This is my beloved son, listen to him.

The Emmanuel Community will accompany clergy during the afternoon. The afternoon retreat will be held at St John Bosco at Engadine.

The programme for the afternoon will be as follows:

- 2.00pm Afternoon Tea and Gathering
- 2.25pm Welcome and Prayer
- 2.30pm Reflection led by Fr John Armstrong
Silence
- 3.30pm Exposition
- 4.30pm Reconciliation
- 5.15pm Reposition
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer
- 6.15pm Pre-Dinner Drinks
- 6.30pm Dinner

You can register now by clicking on the link: 

Clergy Formation Training Programme:


This year we started our Clergy Formation Training Programme to help newly appointed Administrators and Parish Priests (and some not so new) understand better their administrative duties and responsibilities. The modules added in 2023 were Finance and People Management.

In 2024 we continue to grow this programme and have added Governance and Change Management.

Worklogic’s Conversations that Matter and Professional Conduct in the Workplace with Samantha Edwards will once again be offered to clergy.


The training dates to put in your diary are as follows:

DATE	CLERGY TRAINING	LOCATION
5 and 6 March	People Management (2-day course)	St Martha’s Leichhardt
5 June	Conversations that Matter (Worklogics)	St Martha’s Leichhardt
12 June	Professional Conduct in the Workplace (Worklogics)	St Martha’s Leichhardt
6 and 7 August	Governance (2-day course)	St Martha’s Leichhardt
1 October	Change Management	St Martha’s Leichhardt
8 and 9 October	Finance A & B	Venue TBC
12 November	Sacraments: Marriage workshop	St Martha’s Leichhardt

If you are interested in any of these courses, please click here  to express your interest.

Other formation opportunities offered this year, will include our:


- Live In Clergy Conference from 8 – 11 April.
The registrations and final details will be out very soon.
- Intercultural Clergy Programme 2024 (See Link below for dates).

The full calendar to date is attached here  You are invited to take a look and place any of these courses in your diary for 2024.

If you would like to be part of any of these formation sessions please register your interest via the provided links (where available) or contact **Maria Cavallaro: 0466 486 101** or maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org

*Fr Paul Monkerud
Chair, Ongoing Formation of Clergy Committee*

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation Scholarship Opportunity


The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation is once again offering a scholarship for study in the 2024-25 academic year. For more details please click on the link 

Ponticia Universita Gregoriana



The Pontificia Universita Gregoriana is inviting clergy and lay leaders from the Archdiocese to the Renewal Programme for Missionaries in 2024.

Please click here  for further information.

Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies St Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, Canada

St Augustine's Seminary in Toronto is launching their Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies. The Licentiate has been approved by the Dicastery for Culture and Education. For more information please click on the link 

Recommended online retreat

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 


Cenacles of Prayer for Clergy

You are invited to the Cenacles of Prayer for Clergy It takes about 40 minutes and is followed by fellowship with tea,


coffee and snacks. The cenacle is held on the second Wednesday of the month at St. Bernadette's, Carlton at 1.30pm and is hosted by Fr Gabriel Ballawig. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

Christmas at the Cathedral


Please find attached a flyer  for the Christmas at the Cathedral event from 14 to 25 December 2023 for you to start advertising in your parish.

Who Needs a Working with Children Check?

Following further discussions within the Safeguarding Office in response to parish concerns, and given new advice from the Office of the Children's Guardian, we have been able to refine the list of persons in parish roles who require a WWCC. The Government is now emphasising that the WWCC applies to those in 'face to face child related work'. Accordingly, we have now determined that readers/lectors, and collectors and wardens, no longer require a WWCC. Please see the attached form for the revised listings. Note that those volunteers who no longer require a WWCC do not have to engage in formal safeguarding training and induction etc, though obviously there should be suitable local 'induction' processes for all our employees and volunteers. In some cases, it may be appropriate to conduct other background checks on employees or volunteers (e.g. *the National Criminal Check*) which are quite straightforward (*and do not bring with them all the associated requirements of the WWCC system.*). If you have questions about this change, please contact the Safeguarding Office 



Clergy Donations for Funerals

The Council of Priests recently discussed the new context in which donations are commonly being made to clergy officiating at funerals and requiem masses. A discussion document and commentary have been prepared by the Clergy Remuneration System for consideration in the Deaneries. This is an important new issue, now that funeral directors are commonly requiring invoices prior to payment of any donation to the church or clergy, and for this and other reasons, it is likely that such donations will need to be managed through the payroll system. Please discuss this matter in your deaneries as a matter of urgency, so that your representatives are in a position to contribute to future consideration at the Council of Priests

 and 


Euthanasia - A Guide to Pastoral Care

The ACBC has just published this timely guide for clergy, pastoral ministers and carers, and for family members who are faced with the situation of people, perhaps their own loved ones, who are considering euthanasia or assisted suicide (*which have now been legalised in NSW*). This guide outlines principles of pastoral accompaniment and conscience formation which will be of assistance to priests in many different contexts.

Please make this document, or the link to it, available to your parishioners  And the internet link 

The Dubia Response: - Freemasonry

As you may be aware, in response to a query from the Bishop of Dumaguete in the Philippines, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith published a note on 13th November 2023 reaffirming that ‘active membership in Freemasonry by a member of the faithful is forbidden, because of the irreconcilability between Catholic Doctrine and Freemasonry.’ The note further refers to the 1983 Declaration on Masonic Associations, which states that ‘[...] faithful who enrol in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.’

The Note can be found here 

Insurance update

Effective from 30 September the Archdiocese has purchased a group personal accident insurance policy which provides cover to all incardinated clergy (retired and in ministry) and all non-incardinated (including religious) who have an appointment within the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

This policy is designed to replace the complementary personal accident policy previously provided free of charge by CCI. The policy provides for 24/7 worldwide cover for personal accidents and injury.

Lee Chandler
Deputy Director of Finance

A WORD FROM THE VICAR FOR CLERGY, FR MICHAEL MCLEAN

I have been a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney for over forty years and have worked in all aspects of Parish and Diocesan life. For two years I was on loan as a priest in the Diocese of Armidale.

I have always enjoyed my priestly work and the collaboration within the Deaneries and across the Archdiocese.

I have worked with many students for the priesthood, with colleagues as Deacon, Priests and Bishops and is a great joy for me to be appointed to assist the clergy of the Archdiocese.

Please feel free to contact me on the evclergy@sydneycatholic.org or my mobile on **04 0789 7038**. If these fail, you can always call the **Parish of St Marks Drummoyn 9181 1795**.

Fr Michael McLean
Vicar for Clergy

Approval of Acts of Extraordinary Administration

The Archdiocesan Finance Council and College of Consultors assist the Archbishop in fulfilling his canonical and civil responsibilities in respect of governance and the temporal goods of the Archdiocese. These governance bodies meet regularly throughout the year: the meeting dates are below.

Any acts of extraordinary administration requiring Archdiocesan approval are presented to the AFC prior to their submission to the CoC.

Any such acts need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance of any AFC meeting to enable them to be adequately reviewed prior to circulation.

The Parish Support & Development team are available to assist you with the preparation of acts of extraordinary administration.

Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting dates 2024

13 February

19 March

16 April

28 May

2 July

15 October

12 November

10 December

College of Consultors meeting dates 2024

15 February

17 April

3 July

19 September

13 November

Michael Digges
Executive Director, Administration & Finance


Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

This month marks our inaugural Purpose Conference, held at Rosebank College, Five Dock, for youth and young adults in our schools, parishes and chaplaincies. Led by Sydney Catholic Youth, we expect 1,500 young people to attend with thanks to our priests for encouraging participation, offering Confession and their ministry throughout.

Following the conference, there are also opportunities for parishioners and families in the first months of the new year, included below. These dates will be of note for parish diaries and calendars, with an online calendar of Sydney Centre for Evangelisation initiatives in 2024 to be sent to parishes in due course. Our thanks to the parish priests who completed the survey from our Parish Renewal Team, identifying local needs we can continue to support in 2024. For now, every blessing for the coming Advent and Christmas seasons.

Daniel Ang
Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation


An Evening with Christopher West: Male and Female He Created Them – January 2024

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation and the Theology of the Body Institute warmly invite you, your parishioners and families to ‘An Evening with Christopher West – Male and Female He Created Them: Rediscovering Authentic Masculinity and Femininity’ event to be held at All Saints, Liverpool. For more information and to register, please see: 


Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend - February 2024

‘Of Life and Love’ is the Archdiocesan marriage preparation course that assists engaged couples to understand more deeply the sacramental nature of marriage.

The first Marriage Preparation weekend of the new year will offer formation from marriage experts, practical wisdom from married couples, and opportunity for discussion and prayer.

The course will take place on the 24-25 February 2024 at St Luke’s Revesby (*no overnight stay*). More information and registration details at 

Rite of Election – February 2024

Next year’s Rite of Election will be held at St Mary’s Cathedral on Sunday 18 February. Please confirm the attending number of catechumens and candidates from your parish, their respective godparents and sponsors, and the expected number of clergy attending as soon as possible at the following link: 

For assistance or any questions, please contact Simon Yeak within the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation at **simon.yeak@sydneycatholic.org** or at **0427 536 356**.

Equipping Parishes for Mission with Alpha – February 2024

Come and explore how Alpha can equip and support renewal and mission in parishes, providing new opportunities for people to encounter Christ.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. This day coaching is perfect for those who are new to Alpha, or as a refresher. Individuals as well as parish teams are encouraged to come along.

Date: Saturday 24 February 2024


Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: St Martha’s

Address: 38 Renwick St, Leichhardt NSW 2040

The day will include:

- Understanding the New Evangelisation
- The what and why of Alpha
- Small group facilitation and team training
- Retreat coaching
- How to form an Alpha team in your parish
- The power and art of invitation
- Promoting Alpha in your parish
- Morning tea and lunch

For more information and to register go to 

Didaskō Adult Faith Formation – March, April & May 2024

In response to requests that we have received for faith formation, we have partnered with the University of Notre Dame Australia who are delivering a series of online short courses.

All parishes are encouraged to sign up for a special offer by gathering a parish group in person, either in the parish hall or in a parishioner’s home. The group, after participating in the online session, can continue the discussion and share refreshments together, enhancing the learning experience and building community.

The next course, God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology, will be presented by Chris Wolter.

Dates: Mondays 4, 11, and 18 March 2024


Time: 7:30pm – 8:45pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

The remaining topics are:

- Christology (*Mondays 15, 22 and 29 April 2024*)
- Moral Theology (*Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 May 2024*)

- Cost (per short course): \$35 per person (*plus booking fees*)
- \$100 per Parish Group - unlimited number of participants gathered in-person (*plus booking fees*)

See the **Didaskō** webpage for full details and to register: 

Chancery Relocation: New Postal Address

As you are aware, the Chancery is relocating to Leichhardt from September 2023. In anticipation of that move, there has been a change of postal address. All mail that would normally be sent to the Polding Centre should now be addressed to:

**Locked Bag 5040
Alexandria NSW 2015**

Mental Might 24


When things feel totally overwhelming, that's just the time for friends and colleagues to be your best support, so know it's safe to ask for help.

Dr Robbie Lloyd

Research & Project Officer, Justice and Peace Office

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 

CLERGY REMUNERATION SYSTEM NOTICES

THANK YOU to all clergy for your ongoing support of the System throughout 2023. Thank you especially to those who are making concerted efforts to facilitate giving by parishioners to the First Collection. Parishioners need to be encouraged to contribute via many and varied methods. Consider offering ongoing credit card/bank transfer payments for both the First and Second Collections; this offers some preparedness for uncertain times and is helpful to maintaining financial stability.

CHRISTMAS DUES: Please use the Advent Season to publicise the Christmas Dues. You can do this by placing Dues Envelopes where they are accessible and in line of

sight, dedicate a Tap-and-Go machine to the Christmas Dues or place signage on a collection basket. Christmas Dues Envelopes are available to order from our office (**9390 5166**).

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR PRIVATE HEALTH COVER:

- Active incardinated clergy are covered under the CRS's Private Health Fund Policies. You need to contact the office (**9390 5166**) immediately, if you do not have a current policy.
- For all those with a policy, the office is unable to operate your policy on your behalf, please be aware that you are responsible for keeping your policy up-to-date, this includes change of address, email etc.
- We do not receive information on your policy, and so are unaware of possible issues; if you receive an email from your health fund, please refer it to our office as soon as possible so any situation can be rectified.
- We encourage AHM members to register online for ease of claiming, updating and familiarising yourself with your policy.

*With blessings for Advent and Christmas Seasons,
Board of Management, Clergy Remuneration System
& Clerical Fund Management Committee*

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:

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/Formation considerations Engaging Your Faith

Engaging Your Faith is a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College, including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si’*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion: 

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 and formation in 2023/24.

Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link:  to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2024.

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY


AGENCY NEWS

For December 2023

CCD UPDATE

“Share Christmas Joy” resource hub


CCD has family activities and craft ideas available for Advent and Christmas.

Click here  to download the “Share Christmas Joy” flyer (pictured opposite) should you wish to print handouts for your parishioners, place in your bulletins or provide a webpage link to the CCD resource hub (*webpage screenshot below*).

Parish Priest

“Welcome to SRE” Letter

As many parishes do, I recommend you write a Term 1 Welcome Letter to parents who have chosen Catholic SRE for their children in your local public schools. It can include **Sacramental Preparation dates** or a link to your webpage information.

Samples of a SRE Welcome Letter and SRE-linked sacramental prep info are provided here: 

Please include your SRE Catechist Coordinator in sacramental prep planning so that registration invitations are received in time by Catholic families with children enrolled in public schools.

Word of God / Catechist Sunday – 4 February 2024

Thank you for your efforts that resulted in 310 new public school SRE Catechists being recruited in 2023.

Catechist Sunday is a main recruitment time, which most Parishes celebrate on the first Sunday of February.

This enables new recruits to be trained in time for the early-mid Term 1 start of public school Special Religious Education (SRE) classes.

Catechist Sunday liturgy and recruitment recommendations will be provided mid-January, as arranged with your SRE Catechist Coordinator, along with:

- Awards to present for 5, 10 and 15 Years of Service (*require your signature prior to presenting*)

- For 20, 25, 30 and 40 Year Service Awards presented in the Cathedral on 19 November, you may wish to re-present these awards on Catechist Sunday to recognise your long-serving SRE Catechists in your local community.

Catechist Sunday fits well with the Pope’s **Word of God Sunday** pastoral initiative. May it provide another opportunity to thank your parishioners who also help to make Jesus known and loved: children’s liturgy, youth group, sacramental, public school catechists, teachers and parents who are now also called “first catechists” in the Pope’s Directory for Catechesis.

SRE Teacher Declaration

The NSW Department of Education requires their employees or volunteers to declare that they have no criminal convictions or pending court cases that would make them unsuitable to work with children.

These declarations extend beyond the scope of WWCCs and replace what used to be called the Prohibited Person Declaration.

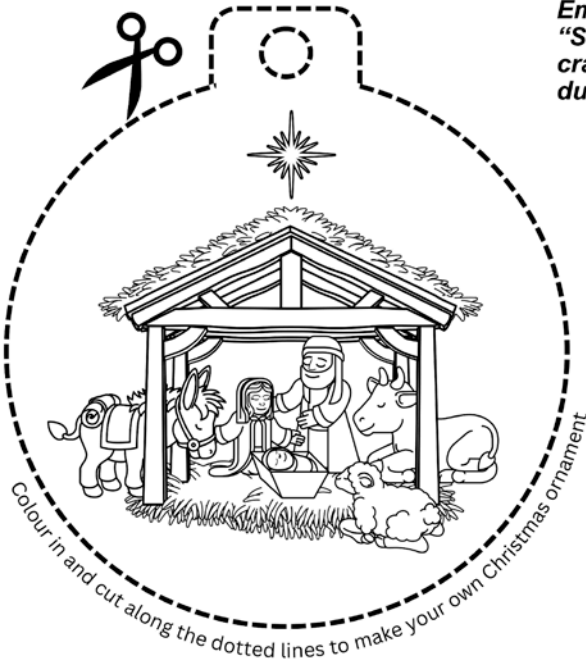
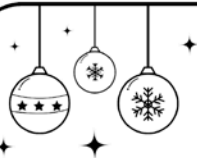
Next year, the Department is extending this requirement to SRE teachers (Catechists and Helpers); therefore, CCD will enable SRE Catechists and Helpers to receive a Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney SRE Teacher Declaration form. More information will be provided to clergy via a Chancery email and to Catechist Coordinators via the CCD.

Thank you

On behalf of your CCD team, thank you for your enduring support to enable the true Christmas story to be handed on to help families celebrate well the wonder of Jesus’ birthday,

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

Share Christmas Joy



Embrace the wonder of Advent and Christmas with our "Share Christmas Joy" resource hub. A collection of crafts and activities for families to enjoy together during this joyful season.

Explore the joy of Christmas now.
Scan the QR code or visit:
ccd.sydneycatholic.org



For more information scan QR Code or visit:
christmasatthecathedral.org.au



Share Christmas Joy

To access Resource Hub and to share with your Parish. Simply scan the QR code or visit:
ccd.sydneycatholic.org



For more information scan QR Code or visit: christmasatthecathedral.org.au

[Christmas at the Cathedral - Flyer](#) →

CRAFT ACTIVITIES



Baby Jesus Prayer Plate Craft
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Angel Craft
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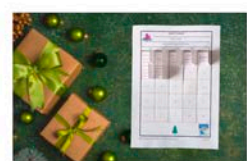
Advent Wreath Candles
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Blessing of a Christmas Tree Prayer
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Christmas Coloured Cube It
(CCD Parramatta)
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Advent Open Door Calendar
(CCD Parramatta)
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FROM CATHOLICCARE

Pre-Marriage Program

Christmas is a special time for families, but it can also be a particularly special time for young couples considering their future together. Some find the joy, celebrations, and family gatherings of the Christmas period a wonderful time to become engaged. CatholicCare Sydney receives a lot of calls from newly engaged couples early in the New Year, ready to start their marriage preparation journey. Other couples who have been engaged for some time quickly realise their wedding is taking place this year and are looking for support as they head toward the altar.

CatholicCare Sydney’s pre-marriage program delivers a high standard of relationship education for couples seeking marriage in the Catholic Church in Sydney.

Couples are supported by **experienced** and **professional** educators through every step of their marriage preparation journey.

CatholicCare Sydney continues to provide two high quality programs, **Becoming One** and **Intimate II**.

BECOMING ONE is a group course for younger couples who have never been married before, may not be living together, and do not have children. This course includes participation in a Sacramental session presented by a Priest or Deacon, as well as information about Natural Family Planning in the context of Catholic marriage.

INTIMATE II is an individual course for older couples who have been together for 8+ years, who may have been married before, are living together, and may have children, either together or from a previous relationship.

Couples have said about CatholicCare Sydney’s pre-marriage courses -

“The Educator is very experienced, bringing examples from her life and own experience she is very effective, knowledgeable, and friendly.”

“We learnt understanding and how to communicate better with each other. Learning how to incorporate God’s love in our marriage.”

“We learnt the importance of keeping connected with the church and God in our relationship.”

“Validating the point that marriage is not just about getting married in a beautiful building but reiterating that it is a sacrament whereby you invite God to walk with you throughout your entire journey.”

We look forward to working with you to provide engaged couples with the best evidence-based pre-marriage education program in Sydney.

mre@catholiccare.org, 9509 1234

Parenting Courses

Becoming a parent can be daunting, particularly today with so many outside influences impacting families – the cost of living, the reach of social media, global events and the associated pressures they can bring, and the lingering mental and emotional wellbeing challenges from the pandemic and the lifestyle changes it brought about.

CatholicCare Sydney understands that having children is a blessing, but being a parent is not always easy or intuitive. A range of parenting courses facilitated by **qualified and experienced** professionals can help parents manage the challenges of parenting and develop positive relationships with their children. The courses also provide the opportunity to connect with other parents.

Circle of Security Parenting is a five-week course suitable for parents of children of all ages but with a greater focus on infants and young children.

Tuning into Kids is a five-week course to help parents of preschool and primary-aged children explore emotionally intelligent parenting.

Tuning into Teens is a six-week course to help parents of

Become a CatholicCare Companion

CatholicCare is searching for volunteers to be with people as they experience times of change, challenge and uncertainty.

If you are a good listener who is caring, non-judgemental and compassionate, we’d love to hear from you.

To find out more, please call Jacqui Willoughby, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0426 773 658 or 13 18 19.

To find out more call

13 18 19

Catholiccare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org



tweens and teens understand adolescence and be better at talking with their children and helping them learn to manage their emotions.

Courses are run online, and bookings are essential – the course calendar is available at catholiccare.org or by calling **13 18 19**

Family Dispute Resolution

The Christmas and New Year period can be stressful for families and difficult for those who have experienced a family breakdown, often it is the children who suffer as parents go to war against each other and struggle to provide safe and stable environments for their children.

CatholicCare Sydney’s **Family Dispute Resolution** services provide professional assistance with **mediation for separated parents and couples experiencing separation and divorce**.

Accredited, impartial, and supportive mediators help with parenting arrangements, property and financial arrangements, navigating the family law system, developing child support agreements, and supporting decision making in the best interests of children.

Mediation offices are available in Sydney City, Lewisham, Bankstown, Liverpool, and Sutherland and can help avoid costly litigation through the Family Court system.

CatholicCare Sydney helps remind parents to put their children first during the difficult period of separation. Working with parents, practical strategies appropriate to the child’s age can be developed, including support groups for children.

Owl Kids is a group program for children who have experienced family separation, providing a safe space for children to navigate the changes in their family using art and leisure therapy. Owl Kids is for children aged 7-12 years of age and runs during school holidays.

Call **13 18 19** for more information or visit catholiccare.org

Christmas appeal

Young families across the Archdiocese of Sydney are finding it particularly difficult this year to manage the ever-increasing cost of living, and the anxiety and pressure is amplified over the Christmas period. CatholicCare Sydney urges all our supporters and community members to visit our website catholiccare.org and go to the Donate page – our annual Christmas Appeal has launched featuring a young family from our HOPE Program and we need donations large and small to enable us to support a great number of families in the community.

CatholicCare CEO Alastair McGibbon shares a message of thanks and reminds us of our guiding principle to carry out works of charity and love, particularly at this special time of year.

“Christmas is not only a time to celebrate and appreciate our blessings but also a time to reflect on the year we have had and look forward to the new year. Please help us ease the burden on many families by giving generously to our Christmas appeal – help us to help families across Sydney look towards a brighter 2024.”

Catholiccare.org/donate

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Audits

2023 Safeguarding Self-Assessment Declaration

For those Parishes and Chaplaincy Communities that have not been selected to participate in the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) Audit of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, you are instead being asked to complete the 2023 Safeguarding Self-Assessment Declaration

THE Catholic Weekly

Don't miss your weekly Catholic newspaper!

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- Please remember to keep your display box or stand visible

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The Declaration is a one-page document where you will be asked to answer either 'yes' or 'no' to seven questions. At the end of the document, you will be asked to declare that the information you have provided is true to the best of your knowledge.

We suggest for your own benefit you also review your Continuous Improvement Plan from last year and check you have made progress in this area if required, however you do not need to report this back to us at this stage.

Please complete and return the Declaration to safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org by 18th December 2023.


Anna Sammut
Safeguarding Officer - Training and Development

Safeguarding Bite
No. 61



Safeguarding Feedback

Safeguarding Office welcomes all feedback from clergy and parishioners in the Archdiocese. Send feedback via the Safeguarding website.



CONTACT US

THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY



CHEMICAL COMPLIANCE (MSDS REGISTERS)



INCORRECTLY STORING OR MISUSE OF CHEMICALS CAN LEAD TO ILLNESS, INJURY (EG: BLINDNESS, BURNS) OR EVEN DEATH. IT IS LEGISLATION TO KEEP A CHEMICAL REGISTER AND STORE CHEMICALS SECURELY. ALWAYS KEEP CHEMICALS IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS, AND LABEL OTHERS AS REQUIRED IF YOU NEED TO(EG: SPRAY BOTTLES).

Your Parish WHS A Team

Doug can be contacted for any WHS concerns on:
Email: douglas.oloughlan@sydneycatholic.org P
Mob: 0466 486 731

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

