

Comments from the Schools

"As the Principal of a large Primary Public, I wish to acknowledge the sterling part, I believe, Scripture teachers play in the development of moral and spiritual values in the children in their care. Each week, teachers present lessons to children who may never otherwise experience such teachings. I value this input within teachers of Special religious Education bring to this school. I believe this is an area of great need in our rapidly changing society and communities.

Thank you for giving up your time and effort to the children in our schools. It is greatly appreciated."

Ann Mulcahy

(Former Principal at Quakers Hill Public School)



"SRE is a blessing that God has provided for us to reach today's teenagers. The involvement of Christian presenters in Scripture Seminars is invaluable for building links into the local community and drawing upon the wisdom of others who have walked with the Lord for many years."

Bronwyn Beckett

(SRE Co-ordinator - Mitchell High Blacktown)

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For further information contact:

Name of Parish:

Parish Phone Number:

Parish Priest's Name:

SRE Parish Co-ordinator's Name:

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine consists of a united group who are mainly volunteers, dedicated and committed to Special Religious Education in State Schools.

We strive to ensure that Catholic children attending primary, secondary and special education state schools and their families have an opportunity to hear the Good News, to develop a relationship with God and to feel welcomed and valued members of the Church community.

We endeavour by our living of Gospel values, to nourish and support the faith development of the children and their families.

We will strive to help the children we teach to know and understand Jesus' message of

"Love one another as I have loved you".

We accept the responsibility of continually calling each other to on going formation and commitment to mission."

We value the opportunity to work alongside other denominational groups in common commitment to children in State Schools.



Become
A Catechist
Teaching
Special
Religious Education
(SRE)

What is a Catechist?

A Catechist is a person who gives her/his time voluntarily to provide religious education to children in primary and secondary state schools. Special Religious Education is the time allowed under the Education Act of 1990 for SRE teachers to come into the school to teach their particular faith. Special Religious Education is an integral part of the school program and the Department of Education supports this through their Guidelines.

Special Religious Education Training Courses

Each year, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) offers free training courses for primary and secondary Catechists. New Catechists are encouraged to commence Level One of the training course before taking a class. Catechists are also encouraged to participate in Levels Two and Three which build on the work covered in Level One.

The CCD offers syllabus and in-service days to assist with the preparation of lessons, classroom management, discipline, etc. These days are very beneficial.

Programs

The approved Kindergarten to Year 6 curriculum in the Diocese of Parramatta is 'Christ Our Light and Life'. Additional resource material is available from the CCD Diocesan Office located at Suite 6/10 Victoria Road, Parramatta. Videos, books, CDs and music cassettes are available for borrowing free of charge. Please telephone during office hours on 9890 4731 for further information. Resources are also available at the Institute For Mission (DAC) corner of Flushcombe Road and Marion St Blacktown. Please call to arrange a time to visit on 9831 4911 during office hours.

Classes

Classes are usually 30 minutes duration in primary schools. Secondary classes vary from one period a week once a month to once a term depending on the individual high school. Class numbers vary from 2 to 35 students, depending on the individual situation.



Children from Quakers Hill Primary Public School attend Catholic Scripture

Religious Education in State Schools

In most areas 50% of Catholic children attend state schools. The number of SRE teachers determines how many of these students receive religious education.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

"The work of a catechist and religious educators depends on the witness of the Church for full effect. As Pope Paul VI said, "People today listen more to witnesses than they do to teachers and if they do listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses."

(*Evangelii Nuntiandi* (1975) article 41.)

Recruiting Catechists

Recruitment of Catechists is an on-going task. Our Catechists come from all walks of life for example parents, grandparents, self employed people, retirees, university students and senior secondary students. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this ministry.

Some thoughts on Religious Education

"Since all Christians have become by rebirth of water and the Holy Spirit a new creature so that they should be called and should be children of God, they have the right to a Christian Education."

Declaration on Christian Education Documents of Vatican 11

Parish Priest

"I have on the bookshelf in my office my first Bible, now much worse for wear, given to me as a prize in my Anglican scripture class for learning and reciting by heart the 23rd Psalm. Inside the front cover is written "To Robert, with love, Mrs Heath, Lynwood Park School, 1977". Even throughout my years of unbelief and rejection of the Christian faith, this Bible was never discarded. Whenever I look at it now, it symbolises the Christian witness of my Scripture teacher of thirty years ago. I have never met her since that time and she wouldn't remember me, just one of hundreds of children whose lives she touched with her commitment. I can't recall any of her lessons or words spoken, but her faith was instrumental in making me the person of faith I am today. It shows me that mere presence and loving actions often convey Christ's love more effectively than we may think".

Fr Robert Riedling - Greystanes

What SRE Teachers have to say...

"I really enjoy being part of passing our faith down the generations. It's just part of me to want to share what I know about Jesus to the children."

Kerrie Jenkins - Emu Plains

"I believe being a SRE teacher involves not just teaching the children about God but to also allow them to share their stories with us. If I touch the heart of even one child through sharing and teaching about God, then I will be satisfied that I have fulfilled my ministry of being a SRE."

Helen Zammit - Glenwood/Stanhope Gardens

"What I thought would be a giving thing, a half an hour of my time, turned out to be one of the rewarding experiences of my life."

Lillian Philp - Glenmore Park

"I find being a catechist wonderful. We plant seeds of faith in the children which with God's grace and our prayers will bear fruit at some stage in their life. We don't always see immediate results but quite often a word, a story or even a picture triggers the children's hearts so they want to know more about the love that God has for us...I guess that being a catechist, is like being one of God's instruments in bringing souls to know and love Him."

Iman Abagi—Baulkham Hills