

FAITH BREATHING

Life *into*

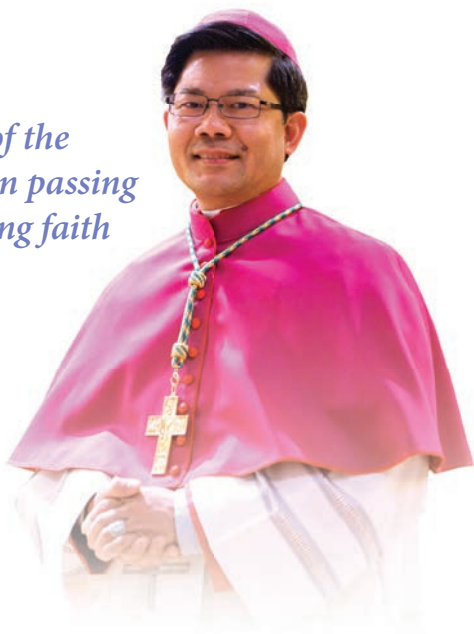
FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Become a
Catechist**



Confraternity of
Christian Doctrine

“The role of the Catechist in passing on our living faith is crucial.”



From the Bishop

The passing on of the Catholic faith to younger generations, especially in public schools, is an exciting task of our Diocese. The role of the Catechist in passing on our living faith is crucial. This role of service to the youngest members of our community brings much to the lived experience of faith, not only to the students of our state schools, but also to the catechists themselves.

I encourage you to consider if you may be called to this role and bring God to the ones whom Christ taught that the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.



Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.
Bishop of Parramatta

Catch the Vision

For more than 500 years volunteers have dedicated themselves to teach people and share their knowledge about their Faith. This has grown into a ministry that extends beyond the boundaries of culture, language, age and resources. It is supported by years of faithful service and changes the lives of thousands of young people. Welcome to the world of the Special Religious Education Teacher (SRE), the Catechist.

Why Become a Catechist?

The impact you will have on our young people is unique and lasting. You will be engaging with young people who are eager to hear about God's Love. You will form a special relationship with those that you teach, that in many ways, lives on in their minds and hearts long after they finish school. There has never been a more critical time to engage in the faith formation and character development of our young people.

What Do I Teach?

The "Christ Our Light and Life" Curriculum has been specially designed for SREs/Catechists to use in the classroom. It is detailed and sequenced to make teaching easy. Lessons usually contain four elements; Opening and closing Prayer, Orientation, a Scripture Story and Activity - all of which are covered in your Level 1 training.

Requirements

All SREs/Catechists must go through a simple but important screening process, including Working with Children Check Clearance, Child Protection training and be in good standing with the Church as verified by their Parish Priest.

A Lesson in 5 Easy Steps

1. After training, your Parish Coordinator allocates you a class at one of the local primary schools that suits you. This is your class for the year!
2. Take up your copy of Christ Our Light and Life Teachers Guide and Student Activity Book.
3. Read over your lesson for that week. Pray about what God wants you to share with the students. Look at the Student Activity Book and, if you like, gather some extra simple resources from the Parish or other Catechists.
4. Arrive at the local school office with other Catechists to sign in before you start your lesson of around 30 minutes with the students.
5. Take a deep breath... you are about to participate in the amazing transformation of hearts and minds, bringing about the kingdom of God, sowing seeds for an eternal harvest and breathing life into future generations.

Remember: You won't be 'thrown in the deep end' and many people start as a classroom helper; you will receive quality training in using the curriculum and in classroom management, and can focus on sharing the gift of faith.



5 Surprising Benefits of Being a Catechist

1. **Quality Relationships**

Discover new friendships and build quality relationships with like-minded people that will enhance your self esteem and your creativity.

2. **By Giving, We Receive**

Sharing in love what we know brings new life. Proclaiming the Good News profits not only those who hear it but those who proclaim it. Truly, *"It is in giving that we receive"* (St Francis of Assisi).

3. **Spiritual Enrichment**

Explaining how you have come to know the love of God gives you more insight and wisdom; it helps to deepen your understanding of God's loving presence in our lives.

4. **Mastering New Skills**

As a Catechist your confidence and abilities will grow in many ways, including the development of your interpersonal, leadership, story-telling, speaking, use of technology and teaching skills. Many experts tell us that mastering new skills has enormous physical and mental health benefits.

5. **Being Part of Something Important**

Catechists make a difference. They share the most basic message of God's love and this brings great hope to young people. For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News, is a great source of joy and meaning.



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