

SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

polding centre

Prayer at the Centre

The presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Polding Centre's Chapel of Our Lady makes it a spiritual oasis for those wanting quiet moments with the Lord. The daily Masses celebrated in it leave a further sense of the sacred greatly appreciated by those who make time to pray there.

Since the end of August, a small group has been meeting in the Chapel once a week for a half-hour of Christian meditation, and an invitation to share in this practice is extended to all. Christian meditation is deeply rooted in the Scriptures, and in the writings of the Desert Fathers of the 4th century. The relief that comes from finding oneself at the centre of one's being is blessed with the peace of Christ when we make time for him in our daily living.

A short introduction to Christian meditation is given by Sr Marie Craddock, RSJ, a Lochinvar Josephite who for many years prayed the prayer of discursive meditation, and then found the prayer of stillness, silence, and simplicity as it had been taught by John Cassian in the 4th century. It was Cassian's teaching on prayer that informed the spirituality of St Benedict (c.480-547), and it was Dom John Main, OSB, (1926-1982), who rediscovered the tradition of the Desert Fathers.

In the Polding Centre's chapel, join us in the Christian meditation that is the prayer of "... raising the mind and heart to God through the laying aside of thoughts" (Evagrius).

Meditation time : 12.30-1.00 pm on Wednesdays. Venue : the Chapel.

cys

World Youth Day

The Archdiocese of Sydney has an exciting new initiative that is an integral part of the preparations for World Youth Day in Cologne next year. An enlightening and informative leadership program has been conceived to develop and train young people to lead small groups of pilgrims before, during and after the journey to World Youth Day next year.

The aim of the program is to develop young leaders within the Archdiocese of Sydney and equip them with the skills needed to lead a small group of pilgrims. The thirty selected young people will be involved in an intense training program with sessions once a month. They will receive formation in areas such as prayer, evangelisation, Mariology, sexuality, vocations, the sacraments, theology, youth ministry and the significant role of JPII in the church. This program has the support of Cardinal George Pell who will be leading one of the sessions with the young people. Other guest speakers will include Bishop Julian Porteous, Fr Robert Stewart, Dr Bridget Vout, Selina Hasham, Steve Lawrence and Lyndon Cox.

This formation program will aid the leaders in enriching the spiritual journey of World Youth Day for the pilgrims in their group. The leaders will also be involved in promoting WYD in their parishes and at various events in the Archdiocese including fundraising activities.

The young people involved in the program are excited to be taking part in building up youth ministry within the Archdiocese, particularly because Sydney is a possible host city for the World Youth Day following Cologne.

We believe that World Youth Day will be a life changing experience for the young people of Sydney. We hope that the Archdiocese can share this vision and support and encourage the young pilgrims taking part in the journey.

If you would like any further details about WYD, the leadership program or would like to support us in any way, please email wydinfo@bigpond.com

Welcome to November Sydney Snapshot

November brings with it the celebration of the solemnity of All Saints and the commemoration of All Souls. There is also the sense that the end of the year is rapidly approaching with Advent commencing at the end of the month.

There is an invitation for staff within the Polding Centre to attend a weekly meditation group on Wednesday lunch-time, CCD will be celebrating their Life Members Luncheon this month while Catholic Youth Services are gearing up for World Youth Day. CAEC are offering a pre-marriage education course and Centacare invite all to attend their annual race day – could it be the Sydney Archdiocesan equivalent of the Melbourne Cup?

caec

"Of life and Love"

Weekend of marriage preparation

The Catholic Adult Education Centre is offering another weekend of marriage preparation aimed at couples who want to hear about the Church's teaching on the sacramentality and spirituality of marriage, openness to life, faithfulness and love, as well as such practical aspects as communication, finances and family of origin. The weekend includes talks by two married couples, one recently married and the other married for over 30 years. The course will be given over the weekend of November 13-14, on Saturday morning and all day Sunday. This is the fourth such course to be given this year. For further information, call 9643 3660.

If your agency has any new staff, activities or events that you'd like to tell the rest of Polding Centre, please email Catholic Communications. Deadline for material for the December edition is 12 noon, Thursday 25 November. Please email richard@sydney.catholic.org.au or call 9390 5300.

Whats happening at CCD

November is a very busy time at CCD with 'Area Masses', 'Accreditation Courses' and the 'Life Members function' all on top of the task of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to 27,000 catholic children in state schools.

During the coming month CCD will hold a number of 'Area Masses' for the catechists working in particular regions. These Masses, which each start at noon, will be held at:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mt Pritchard, for catechists in the Western region on Friday 5 November;
- St Declan's, Penshurst, for catechists in the Bankstown region on Friday 12 November;
- St Ambrose's, Concord West, for catechists in the Concord region on Friday 19 November.



A priority of CCD is the provision of training and professional development opportunities for catechists. Basic Accreditation courses will be held each Monday morning between 9:30am-12:30pm at St. Felix's Bankstown. Further to these training sessions there will be a special workshop entitled 'Preparing for Advent and Christmas' to be held at St. Anthony's Austral between 10:00am-1:00pm.

During November CCD will again offer Ministry Certificate courses for catechists who have completed their 3 levels of accreditation. The 2 options available are:

- **Theology II**, with the Director, Mr Anthony Cleary at Liverpool Catholic Club every Thursday between 10:00am-1:00pm;
- **Father's of the Church**, with Dr Charles Hill at Polding Centre every Monday between 10:00am-1:00pm.

For further details regarding the Catechist Ministry Certificate contact the Director, **Mr Anthony Cleary on 9390 5122** or send an email anthony@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au. As well as delivering a range of course options CCD gives full recognition to, and promotes the courses offered at CAEC. Students of CAEC can use their studies for catechist accreditation.

Perhaps the highlight of November at CCD is the Life Members Luncheon. This year this will be held at the Lidcombe Catholic Club on Friday 26 November, commencing at 12 noon. The keynote speaker for this occasion will be Monsignor Anthony Doherty, former director of CCD. This day is significant, particularly considering that 20 catechists will be inducted as Life Members in recognition of 30 years of service in teaching Religious Education in state schools. This is the largest group ever to be inducted. This event, which is a feature of the Annual calendar, will be slightly different in 2004, with a special mass being held at St Joachim's Lidcombe commencing at 10:00am. Details of the Life Members Mass and Luncheon can be obtained from **Mrs Carmel Duffy on 9390 5122**.

new staff

Vocations / Life Office / Confirmation 2005

This month we are pleased to welcome Rhonda Sheeran to Level 11 at the Polding Centre.

Rhonda has commenced working for the Archdiocese of Sydney as Executive Support Assistant for the Vocation Centre, Life Office and Confirmation 2005. For the past three years she has been working as Personal Assistant to the General Manager of State Super Financial Services.

Rhonda is looking forward to working for the Archdiocese in what will be a very diverse role. This is a newly created position which will quickly give her a sense of the variety of works undertaken by the Church. The link between the agencies and projects that Rhonda will be working with is that they all come under the direction of Bishop Anthony Fisher.

Rhonda's presence will greatly help the work of these offices. Needless to say, their staff are delighted to have her on board.

Rhonda can be contacted on ext 283.



Events



St Andrew, Apostle

November

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 3 St Martin de Porres, religious
- 4 St Charles Borromeo, bishop
- 9 The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- 10 St Leo the Great, pope, doctor of the Church
- 11 St Martin de Tours, bishop
- 12 St Josaphat, bishop, martyr
- 15 St Albert the Great, bishop, doctor of the Church
- 16 St Margaret of Scotland; St Gertrude, virgin
- 17 St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
- 18 The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul, apostles
- 21 Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King
- 22 St Cecilia, virgin, martyr
- 23 St Clement I, pope, martyr; St Columban, abbot
- 25 St Catherine of Alexandria, virgin, martyr
- 28 First Sunday of Advent
- 30 St Andrew, Apostle



Charity Race Day

The Centacare Race Day Committee invites you to join

H.G. Nelson

for lunch at

Centacare Charity Race day

on Saturday 20 November, 2004

at

ROSEHILL GARDENS in the MARSCAY ROOM
Members Function Centre at 11.30am

Cost: \$90 per person (all inclusive)

Attire:

Gentleman: Coat with Tie Ladies: Dress to impress

Come along and enjoy a great day of racing which will include prizes for best hat, fashions in the room competitions and opportunities to win in the punters club.

All proceeds will go to Centacare's Melanie's Program. This program provides long term foster care for children 0-12 years who have moderate to severe physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

Bookings must be made and paid for by Friday 12 November 2004

No of tickets: I would like to be seated with0001

I am unable to attend but would like to make a donation to Centacare of \$.....

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: CONTACT NUMBER.....

EMAIL:

Payment by: Cheque payable to Centacare or Credit Card (except Diners)

Type: Cardnumber

Expiry Date: Name on Card:.....

Signature on the Card:.....

For further information contact Chris on 9390 5395 or 0417 467 219.