

# SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

marriage and family office

## Marriage and Family Office

Promoting the truth, goodness and beauty of Marriage and Family

The new Marriage and Family Office opened on 23 January 2006 in the Polding Centre. This agency is headed by Chris Meney who recently arrived in Sydney with his wife and eight of their nine children. Chris has degrees in science, education and bioethics and has been involved with both Church and secular family organisations over many years.

A key focus of this new office will be to project the Church's vision of marriage and family out into the culture. It will also look to establish links with other agencies who are working to support family life. This new office will help to explain and defend the Christian understanding of marriage and family both to the Church community and to the wider society.

Chris appreciates the wonderful opportunity to serve in this important area. In particular, he looks forward to meeting and working with priests, parishes, other agencies and schools to assist them in proclaiming the Church's teachings about the gifts of marriage and family life.

Please feel free to contact him at [marriageandfamily@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:marriageandfamily@sydney.catholic.org.au) or on 93905368. The Marriage and Family Office is located on Level 11 of the Polding Centre.



Chris Meney

caec

## News from CAEC

In conjunction with the Catechumenate Office, the Catholic Adult Education Centre has announced the commencement of a new certificate course, the RCIA Formators Certificate, designed to meet the faith formation needs of people involved in leading or assisting with the RCIA program in their parish.

The course, which can be completed in one year, involves the following units: Liturgical Practices, The Sacraments, The Creed, Christian Prayer, Moral Life in Christ, Christian Leadership, Opening the Bible, and the choice of one elective. There is also an Advanced Certificate, involving four additional units.

The new course complements the Certificate in Faith Education and the Certificate in Youth Ministry, which have been offered since 2004. All can be studied by correspondence, by class attendance at Lidcombe, or by a combination of both.

The Adult Education Centre also announces a new schedule of classes for 2006, based on the needs of those attending. Classes will be given on Monday and Tuesday evenings, from 6pm to 9.45pm and on Thursday mornings, from 10am to 11.45am. Two units, with two classes each, are offered in the evenings and one unit in the mornings. The first term for 2006 begins on February 6.

Among the new units offered for the first time in 2006 are The Gospel of Mark, The Book of Wisdom, and Suffering and Hope in the Scriptures, all given by Peter Holmes; The Spiritual Life, by Fr John Flader; The Virtues, by Anthony English; and Spiritual Heroes and The Church and the Modern World, by Fr Anthony Robbie.

The Centre has organised an evening seminar on Pope Benedict's Encyclical "Deus caritas est", to be held at the Catholic Centre, 3 Keating St, Lidcombe, on Thursday, March 2, at 7.30 pm.

Speakers will be Fr John Flader, Director of the Centre, who will speak on the key ideas of the Encyclical, and Fr Anthony Robbie, who will address the significance of the Encyclical. All are welcome to attend.

The Centre's 2006 Lenten Program is now available and takes as its theme "One in God's Family". The program features reflections on the Sunday Gospels by Fr Ray Weaver, parish priest of St Anne's, South Strathfield.

In addition to the booklet, the Program has a CD containing the reading of the Gospel, the reflections by Fr Weaver, a guided meditation by Fr John Flader, and a hymn for each session. The program can be used by groups or by individuals.

For more information, contact the Centre on 9643 3660 or visit the website at [www.caec.com.au](http://www.caec.com.au).

## Welcome to February Sydney Snapshot

The start of a new year sees a new Archdiocesan office opening at Polding Centre. The Marriage & Family Office is headed by Chris Meney and can be found on Level 11. You'll be able to find information on news and programs from the Marriage & Family Office through out the year in Snapshots. CCD welcomes two new staff members to their team and bring us an update on Catechist Sunday and important dates for Coordinators Meetings. This month we also hear from the Catholic Adult Education Centre (CAEC), who are launching a new certificate course for RCIA. As well, the Office of Evangelisation and Renewal (OER) lets us know about a few key events planned for 2006.

We look forward to hearing what your agency is up to in 2006 and helping you to spread your mission to other Catholics. Submissions for the March issue of Sydney Snapshots can be emailed to [cathcomm@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:cathcomm@sydney.catholic.org.au) by 12pm on February 24, 2006.

The CathComm Team



St Cyril

Deadline for material for the March edition is 12 noon, Friday 24 February  
Please email [cathcomm@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:cathcomm@sydney.catholic.org.au)  
or call 9390 5300.

# What's happening at CCD

With the beginning of a new year, CCD would like to formally welcome two new members of staff. Mr Lucas Hurley has been appointed as the new Faith Education Officer for the Western region and Mr John Mannah has been appointed as the Faith Education Officer for the City region. Both Lucas and John come with extensive and diverse career experiences and both have been actively involved in a variety of Church organisations. We pray that their time at CCD is both personally and professionally rewarding and fulfilling and that they get the generous support of catechists, coordinators, Parish Priests and all involved in the task of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to Catholic children in Government schools.

Lucas replaces Miss Lydia Siutz who will be taking 12 months leave, while living and working in Hobart. John replaces Miss Sonia Baldwin who will be taking 12 months leave, working as a volunteer for Regnum Christi in New York.

On Sunday 5 February (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time) parishes throughout the Archdiocese will celebrate Catechist Sunday. As in past years, the aim of the day is to give public recognition and support to the 2,000 volunteer catechists who teach SRE to Catholic children in state schools. It is also a timely opportunity for any last minute recruiting in readiness for the new school year. The recruitment motto for Catechist Sunday in 2006 is *Duc in Altum*. *Duc in Altum* comes to us from the gospels and simply means to "put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4) in becoming fishers of men. In his Apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Inuente* Pope John Paul II comments "*Duc in Altum! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence*" (John Paul II, 1999, par 1). To mark Catechist Sunday CCD will be visiting a number of parishes, including St Joseph's Oatley, Our Lady Queen of Peace Gladesville and St Therese's Mascot.



John Mannah



Lucas Hurley

### Co-ordinator's Meetings

#### Bankstown Area Co-ordinators

Friday 3 February – 10am-1pm – Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney.

#### Western Area Co-ordinators

Monday 6 February – 10am-1pm – Liverpool Catholic Club, Cnr Hoxton Park & Joadja Rds, Liverpool West.

#### Sutherland St George Area Co-ordinators

Friday 10 February – 10am-12 noon – St Thomas More Parish, 298 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands.

#### Concord Area Co-ordinators

Monday 13 February – 10am-1pm – Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney.

#### City Area Co-ordinators

Friday 17 February – 10am-1pm – Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney.

# Feast Days



Our Lady of Lourdes

## February

- 2 Presentation of the Lord
- 3 St Blaise, bishop, martyr  
St Angsar, bishop
- 6 St Paul Miki, priest
- 8 St Jerome Emiliani
- 10 St Scholastica, virgin
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 St Cyril, Monk  
St Methodius, bishop
- 21 St Peter Damien, bishop,  
doctor of the Church
- 22 The Chair of St Peter
- 23 St Polycarp, bishop, martyr

# News from the Office of Evangelisation and Renewal

**Evangelisation Colloquium** - Planned for March 2006 for key representatives and groups involved in evangelisation! If you think you should be invited, contact the Office of Evangelisation and Renewal (Sydney Archdiocese) on 9752 9686 or email [elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au).

**The next International Congress for the New Evangelisation** - Held in Brussels from 29 October to 5 November 2006, this congress itself can be described as a World Youth Day for grown ups. The city missions serve as a practical marketplace of ideas and a source of inspiration for the New Evangelisation across Europe

and the world. In addition to the main festival, participants do outreach among university students, street evangelisation, and drama ministry. If you wish to make enquiries, contact the OER on 9752 9686 or email [elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au).

**Parish Mission** - The Office of Evangelisation and Renewal is organising its sixth Parish Mission in the Parish of Randwick from 24 June to 2 July 2006.

This mission, entitled "Open the Doors to Christ", will draw on the resources and experience of those ecclesial movements which have embraced the new evangelisation.

Our team, including priests and semi-

narians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, will bring the Gospel message to the people in the church, shopping centres, on the streets, door-to-door and in parish homes and schools.

If you're after adventure, we'd be glad of your help! Contact the OER on 9752 9686, by email [elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au) or visit our website at [www.oer.org.au](http://www.oer.org.au).

**Volunteers** - We are seeking volunteers to assist us in evangelisation, missions, publishing, publicity, the internet, administration or just helping out in the office. Call the OER on 9752 9686 or email [elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au).

