

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 empower 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 experience the belief that 'God Loves You' expands your mind, you gain wisdom and come to know God in a deeper way.
- 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.



REQUIREMENTS

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

CONTACT US

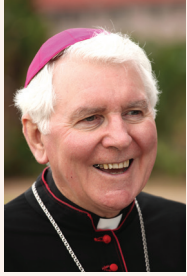
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I'm interested in being a
CATECHIST





The students in these classes learn how much God loves us, they learn about the long and rich tradition of our Catholic faith and culture. Students learn about the fullness of life Jesus Christ offers us. They learn to encounter God in prayer and in doing so, the faith and witness of the Catechists helps to mature the relationship of these young people with God.

So I encourage you today to consider if you can be involved in this wonderful work.



Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Catechist Sunday Message

CATCH THE VISION

From the work of a small group of concerned Catholics in the 16th Century has grown one of the most prolific ministries in the Catholic Church. These few passionate souls dedicated themselves to teach people and share their knowledge about the Faith and 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 a Catechist!

WHY BE A CATECHIST?

The impact you will have on our young people is unique and lasting. You will be welcomed by young people who are eager to hear about God's Love. You will form a special relationship with those 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 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, Story and Activity - all of which are covered in your basic training.

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 Grab 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 kids. 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 with other Catechists for a brief prayer before you start your lesson of around 30 minutes with the kids.
- 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.

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

