

Religious Education Program 2016-2017

By Jane Gannon (RE Coordinator)

Year Report

During this year a total of 360 children and youth were enrolled in classes from Preschool to Confirmation.

We were fortunate to have 49 adult volunteers who joined teaching teams in classes from Preschool through Level 8, and 4 Students Assistants helping these teams.

First Holy Communion

Due to the changes in our Sacramental levels we did not have a main First Holy Communion celebration this year.

Reconciliation

Fedora Leon successfully coordinated the program this year, with the assistance of the reconciliation catechists and introduced a smaller more family based Celebration.

Materials

Preschool –follow the book 'God made the world' part of the finding God program

Levels: prep, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 follow the 'Finding God – Our Response To God's Gifts' program - a beautifully illustrated, modern prayer based program reflecting a vision of our Catholic faith grounded in scripture and tradition and an Ignatian recognition of the presence of God in all things.

Level 2 our 1st Holy Communion Class use the Viewpoint Publication 'God's Greatest Gift'.

Classroom Space

We are still having to do a little juggling with our classroom space, due to the numbers in some of our older levels, 7 and 8. We have had to make use of the main hall, G1 instead of G4 and also when the top three levels met for our monthly catechism event, "The Word."

Registration

Online registration continues to be the main way of parents registering their children, the program makes the registration process run smoothly, allowing parents the choice of times and classes they wish to choose for their children.

Registration is now opened for this coming catechism year with a good uptake already.

Changes to our Catechism Program

This year saw the start of some major changes to our parish catechism program. For our new Catechism year our classes will now reflect this as follows:

Pre-school

Prep

Level 1

Level 2- now First Reconciliation

Level 3- now First Holy Communion

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8

Parents can now see a basic curriculum for Levels, pre-school -8, which includes the theme of the year, learning outcomes, prayers children will know, etc. This is posted on the parish website.

Sacramental Events

1st Holy Communion. No First Holy Communion.

1st Reconciliation. This was led by Fedora Leon.

Fedora, smoothly coordinated four very prayerful celebrations for Level 2. These were held over three weekends and allowed the children to make First Reconciliation, along with their family.

There were a total of 52 children whose first confessions were heard.

We thank Fedora, for all her hard work and coordination along with her husband Oliver, and all the other catechists concerned for their hard work.

Special 1st Holy Communion. Marlene Antoulas and Margaret Mc Shee, prepared 7 students who received 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion, on 6 & 7th May.

We thank them for their hard work and dedication

Regular Events throughout the Catechism Year

The Word which is a combined class of levels 6, 7 and 8 from both 9 and 10.30am catechism classes was held monthly and was very well attended by children and Catechists. The children also had the opportunity to take part in an overnight retreat held here at the Parish.

Nativity Mass was as always, a very wonderful celebration, enjoyed by a full church of children and parents. This year it was coordinated by Lynette Dumont, Sharon Heduvan and Janice Leif who did a great job in organizing and planning so we could have such a beautiful moving nativity play and Mass.

Catechism New Year Appeal. This year our catechism classes raised

1100 chf, with our Flip-flop challenge. This was split between, a Salesian run orphanage in East Timor, to buy flip-flops for children in the orphanage and our own parishioner, Sr Lisa Gamble, who is serving as a doctor in the Congo, for medical equipment

Child Protection Workshop was held on 12th November 2016, led by Matthew Hadley. It was as usual joint meeting with the other English speaking Churches in Geneva. It was very well attended by our own catechists and the feedback given was very positive.

End of Year Catechist Appreciation and Pancake Sunday was held on 21st May, it was a good event with lots of pancakes and strawberries being eaten! A great way to say thank you!

Conclusions & Future.

We have had another wonderful catechism year, with our fantastic group of volunteers running the regular classes and a particularly capable and talented group of leaders for our sacramental classes. We have so much to be thankful and grateful for.

We look forward to continuing to improve the program not only for our children but the catechists and assistants who make the program possible. So, to finish I would like to say a big **Thank you** to everyone who has helped to make our year a great success and wish them a happy and peaceful summer.