

Religious Education Program 2017-2018

By Jane Gannon (RE Coordinator)

Year Report

During this year a total of 365 children and youth were enrolled in classes from Preschool to Confirmation.

We were fortunate to have 51 adult volunteers who joined teaching teams in classes from Preschool through Level 8, and 4 Students Assistants helping these teams.

First Holy Communion

This year 39 children received First Holy Communion coordinated by Sharon Heduvan and the First Communion catechist team.

Reconciliation

Fedora Leon successfully coordinated the program this year, with the assistance of the reconciliation catechists and continued with 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 we implemented the changes to our parish catechism program. Our Catechism classes are now as follows:

Pre-school

Prep

Level 1

Level 2- First Reconciliation

Level 3- First Holy Communion

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8

Parents can 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. This was led by Sharon Heduvan.

On Saturday 5th May 2018, 39 children received First Holy Communion. They had been prepared by our loyal team of Communion Catechists and had a very beautiful, prayerful celebration. The Children had a full catechetical year taking part in their inscription Masses and a full retreat day held here in the Parish hall. They were presented to the Parish at the Going Forth Mass on 27th May.

We thank all involved for their continuing support and generosity of their time.

1st Reconciliation. This was led by Fedora Leon.

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

There were a total of 33 children whose first confessions were heard.

The Level 2 children also led and participated in a class Mass during their preparation.

We thank Fedora, for all her hard work and coordination along with her husband Oliver, and Pricilla D'Sousa for their hard work

Special 1st Holy Communion. Annie Yuson, prepared 7 students who received 1st Reconciliation on May 6th followed by a joyful celebration of First Holy Communion on 27th May.

We thank Annie for her hard work and dedication this year.

Regular Events throughout the Catechism Year

Class Masses We were very lucky to have had 5 class Masses this 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 a 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, 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. Half of the money went to a Salesian run orphanage in East Timor, who had been infested with bedbugs. They brought new boards for the beds and treated clothes and belongings following the infestation. The other half went to buy tables for our catechism classes.

The catechism classes also raised 500chf to buy medicated soap for the children in the orphanage to use on their irritated skin.

Level 8 also held a bake sale and raised 360chf for a rehabilitation unit, in India, for disabled children.

This was a great effort.

Child Protection Workshop was held on 11th November 2017, led by Matthew Hadley. It was again opened to other English speaking Churches in Geneva, a great ecumenical event to talk and learn about what other churches are doing. 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 27st 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.