

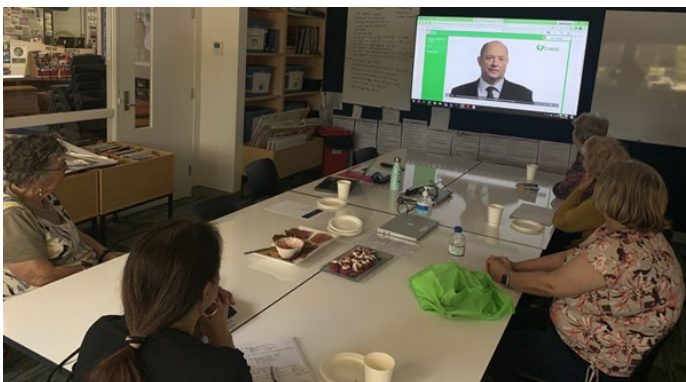
Notes from Nicki

I am sure that by now you are moving into the beautiful liturgical season of Advent. Perhaps you could create a space in your classes with a purple cloth, the Bible and cross and maybe a sprig of Jacaranda! If you are using GodSpace resources, their newsletter mentions that Unit 8 has a collection of Christmas songs, a Christmas script and a video as well as some Christmas Craft to use in your class. There are some more resources you might like to use later in this newsletter.

As the year draws to a closure, I think about the people I have met in this role, and the tireless work that you do so that the children of our region may be blessed with receiving the Good News. Thank you for all you do, for the benefit of the children! May they continue to learn to love Christ through your shining light. I wish you every peace and happiness over the Christmas break and I look forward to working with you once again next year.

Nicki Graham

CCRESS training at Raymond Terrace



In September the team from Raymond Terrace parish met for ongoing training and professional development. We observed the CCRESS unit on safeguarding and together we discussed and answered the questions. This was a casual, easy way of collaborating with our compulsory training modules, plus it was an opportunity to join together for a cuppa and a chat!

If you are interested in having the modules facilitated with your parish team, please let us know.

Important information

Website:

For all documents, forms and training information check out our website

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/childrens-ministries/sre-scripture/>

Page 2 Items:

- Safeguarding changes to training
- CCRESS Conference
- Promotion of Sacramental programs in your parish
- SRE filming
- Advent Resource

Page 3 Items:

- Advent Craft

Page 4 Items:

- Advent Craft continued
- Beginning Teachers Induction Day 2024
- Need support?

Formation & Education Office

Email: sregeneral@mn.catholic.org.au

Phone: 02 4979 1334

Rose McAllister: 49791346

Nicki Graham: 0417 773 444

Safeguarding changes to training

In the past it has been an expectation that SRE teachers (and all volunteer members of parishes) undergo the *Course 2 Safeguarding* training every six years. As of 2024 this will change to an online module. The module takes about an hour to complete, and it must be done every year. It is hoped that this refresher course will be more user friendly and easier for teachers to participate in.

CCRESS Conference

Although I was not able to attend the two-day conference in Broken Hill this year, I was fortunate enough to zoom in with the participants on the last day for a few hours. Various committee members gave their reports on aspects concerning Special Religious Education across the state. Of notable mention were the topics of compliance and the importance of teachers completing a self-audit every year, future proofing to ensure that parents (especially new Kinder parents) are encouraged to enrol their child in SRE, the appropriateness of some of the COLAL units of work and new COLAL units being revised and written by members of the Sydney diocese.

PROMOTION OF SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS IN YOUR PARISH

How are you reaching out to the students you teach about the opportunity for sacramental preparation? Are you, as the Special Religious education teacher, the first port of call for these children and their families? How do you inform and encourage families to participate? I would like to hear what parishes do and welcome your thoughts. The more we listen to and share from each other, the better our service in Christ's name can be. Please contact me via email with your thoughts.



SRE filming

Last September we had a group of young drama students, most of whom are members of the Diocesan Aspire team, assist us with some filming.

The purpose of the filming was to create a series of short films that can be used for training purposes with scripture teachers in our diocese. The films included best pedagogical practice and behaviour management, as well as some deliberate not so good techniques for lessons in 'what not to do'!

We were lucky enough to be able to film our lessons in the brand new Diocesan Resource Centre, that will be open to all very soon!

When the Communication Team have completed editing we hope to offer these films in the new year specifically for new teachers and it will be available for all teachers of Special Religious Education.

Advent Resource

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. ***With Anticipation and Joy*** is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Link:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

Advent Craft

As you prepare for the final lessons in SRE, here are a few quick and easy craft ideas for you to try with your class.

These cinnamon stick trees look pretty and smell lovely! You will need to cut ribbons in advance and add

some string at the top so that they can be hung on the tree at home. You only need a cut out of a tree and two or three paints to create this thumbprint art that makes a surprisingly effective poster.



REFERENCES FOR CRAFT IDEAS:

<https://thekennedyadventures.com/catholic-advent-crafts-for-kids/>

<https://www.personalcreations.com/blog/christmas-crafts-for-kids>


[Advent Candle Wreath Paper Plate Craft Christmas Activities \(twinkl.com.au\)](https://www.twinkl.com.au)

Advent Candle Wreath Paper Plate Craft




You will need:


- A paper plate
- Clear glue
- Green tissue paper
- Green card
- Scissors
- Pink, purple and white card
- Colourful pens




1) First, cut the centre from the paper plate. Ask an adult for help if you are unsure.



2) Next, add green tissue paper to the wreath shape. Add glue to the surface, then a small piece of green tissue paper, and then add more glue on top. Leave the tissue paper to dry overnight.



3) While waiting for the tissue paper to dry, cut out your candles. Cut out three pieces of purple card and one piece of pink card, 8cm by 3cm.



4) Decorate the four candles. Research the symbolism of each candle on the advent wreath. You could even add a prayer or a hope to the front of each candle.

twinkl page 1

The Advent Wreath

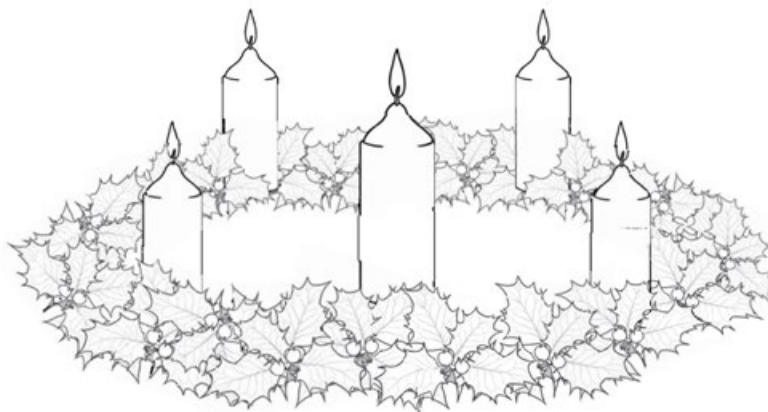
The Advent wreath has five candles. For each of the four Sundays before Christmas, the priest will light a candle on the wreath.

For the first two weeks, the priest lights a purple candle.

On the third week, he lights a pink one and on the fourth week he lights a purple one.

Finally on Christmas Day, the priest lights the final candle in the middle of the wreath. This is a white candle.

Use these clues to colour the Advent wreath.



twinkl.co.uk



Beginning Teachers Induction Day 2024

Any teachers who are starting to teach SRE in 2024 or who have less than twelve months experience in the classroom are required to attend a one-day training session.

Monday 29 January | 9.30-2.30 | Murray Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West.

FLYER link: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6517/flyer-beginning-teachers-pd-29124.pdf>

Register by emailing sregeneral@mn.catholic.org.au, phone 4979 1334 or on EVENTBRITE
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beginning-teachers-induction-day-tickets-707646418487> ,

Alternately, if you have a number of beginning teachers within your deanery we are happy to offer training in your parish area.

Need support?

Feel free to contact us in regard to any of the above matters.

Rose McAllister (Manager Formation & Education) P: 4979 1346 E: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Nicki Graham (Officer Formation & Education) P: 0417 773 444 E: nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

Jenny Harris (Admin Assistant Formation & Education) P: 4979 1334 E: jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au