

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to religious formation of children ages 3-12. Using Montessori principles of education, children experience a "hands on" approach to Scripture and Liturgy with dioramas and beautifully crafted materials. They also explore practical life (activities relating to daily life) teaching them love and care for themselves and the world around them.

Each week during term time in the school year, children are invited into the "atrium" – a specially prepared environment that offers a sensorial rich experience. Through the work of their hands and a contemplative approach to their faith development, the child has an opportunity to grow in the love and knowledge of God and begin to establish their own relationship with Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

The work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd started in Italy in 1954 when Dr Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture Scholar, and member of the Vatican Commission for Jewish – Christian Relations, began working with Professor Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator. Over the years, the Catechesis has spread to 6 continents and over 23 different countries.

Through a bequest to the Parish from Tibor and Vera Endrody for the education of children; the support of Very Rev Fr Tim Harris, Parish Priest, Sue Thomas, Pastoral Associate, and Sonya Slater, Parish Manager, and the donation of two demountable classrooms from St Vincent's Primary School, we opened our Level I Atrium in November, 2013.

This was achieved with the generous assistance of many volunteer parishioners. I would personally like to thank Shannon Morrison for sharing her working knowledge and experience of attending Graceville Atrium with her own daughter, and sharing this precious experience with our Parish. Shannon has given of her time, most generously, to volunteer as Atrium Catechist in our Parish Atrium. We also thank our Formation Leaders – Anne Delsorte and Mary Hare, and Bernadette McAndrew and Tracie Gallagher for their continued support.

We thank Bob Edwards – who constructed our replica Altar, Tabernacle, Lectern and Vestry Cabinet, and shelving; the Parish Craft Group sewing ladies – who provided our curtains, vestments, altar cloths, prayer screen curtains, and aprons, etc; Lisa Ruigrok and our volunteer group who crafted, sanded and papier mache our materials; Ian Hunter for our dioramas; Luke Feo – who worked to construct our garden, sign, fencing, bathroom, prayer screen, and City of Jerusalem; Patrick and Maxine Sela for their donation of a miniature Chalice and Paten from Lourdes, France, and a Ciborium for our Tabernacle; and Auceli Trindade for assisting on Friday mornings in the Atrium.

We thank sincerely all those who have participated in the setting up and running of our Parish Atrium. With continued support from our Parish, it is an honour and a privilege serving God's youngest within our community and the greater area of the South Coast Deanery.

If you have any questions about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, or maybe you would like to join our team of volunteers, serving God's youngest children, please contact the Parish Office on 07 5572 5433.

Many thanks for your support and your continuing prayers for this very special ministry.

ENROLMENT AND FORMS

We welcome children who are 3 years of age, to commence in the Level 1 Atrium. Once your child turns 3 years old, they are able to begin in our Level I Atrium that same year.

If you are interested in enrolling your 3 year old, or an older child for Baptism preparation, please fill in our Enrolment Form and the Permission Form for Publication of Photographs and Art Work and, once completed, please drop them into the Parish Office (address is on the forms).

SESSION DATES AND TIMES FOR 2017

MONDAY

Level I Atrium (First year)
9.30pm to 11.00am

SATURDAY – Baptism Preparation - Held over six week cycles.

Morning Session
9.00am to 10.00am

FRIDAY

Level I Atrium (First year)
9.30am to 11.00am

Level I Atrium and Baptism Preparation take place in the Atrium building, situated at
50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, between Sacred Heart Church and Casey Hall.

More session times will be offered as the need becomes apparent.

FORMATION

The Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers formation courses for parents, catechists, religious educators, clergy and other interested adults.

Most courses run for 6 days and offer a retreat style environment combining prayer, lectures and presentations of materials for works given to the children.

Email: [atrium.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:atrium surfers@bne.catholic.net.au)

For more information on Formation Courses around Australia and Singapore, please visit the National Association's Website. cgsaust.org.au

FUNDING

The Parish Atrium has been fully funded for the past three years through a bequest. At the commencement of this year (2017) this funding has reached its completion. Through the generosity of the benefactors, we have been able to achieve the, at some times seemingly, impossible task of birthing an Atrium, of which we are very proud.

We began this year with a budget of \$0, but continue to be very hopeful to be able to continue with this wonderful work!

***Please consider making a donation or
becoming a benefactor towards the work of
faith formation for young children, in the Parish Atrium.***

