

## Notes from Nicki

This term has seen us meet with teachers from many of our parish regions to look at several issues including resources, safeguarding, declarations, expectations and recruitment for 2025. In addition, I have been meeting with school leadership teams to discuss Department of Education requirements and SRE.

### Did you know:

- Schools are obligated to supply parents with an 'opt-in' option in their Online Enrolment System (OES). This is especially important for parents enrolling their child for the first time.
- SRE teachers are entitled to an allocated teaching time of at least thirty minutes per week. 'Meaningful teaching time' does not include movement from one class to the next or interruptions from other staff or students during the lesson.
- Schools must provide adequate learning facilities for the delivery of lessons, including classroom and technology access.
- Schools are also obligated to notify coordinators of changes to the SRE routine, such as Christmas activities at the end of the year. Classes do not need to finish in early November! This is one of the most significant times in our church's seasonal calendar in which we prepare the children for the beautiful season of Advent. If you have been advised to finish SRE lessons very early in Term Four, please consider negotiating this. We are here to assist in this matter if you need us.

On another note, it has been such a joy meeting with many of you and seeing the wonderful work you do in the state schools. On a recent visit to Harrington Public School, I was welcomed by Anne Sandy and Catherine Richmond and of course, the lovely hospitality of the students and staff. Cathy reminded us all that "prayer isn't just talking to God, it's doing for God." What a great quote that we could all live by!

*Nicki Graham*



## Important information

### Website:

[Special Religious Education | Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

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Let's pray and celebrate together

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## Formation & Education Office

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Phone: 4979 1334

Nicki Graham 0417 773 444

## NEW TEAM, NEW NAME!

Our next newsletter will be quite different. As we move towards our restructuring from Pastoral Ministries to the Mission and Evangelisation team, you will see some new roles defined and new faces appear. I'll still be here to focus my energy on serving you in children's ministry and all things SRE!

## INDIGENOUS OUR FATHER

We have permission from the Broome Diocese to use the Indigenous Our Father in our classes.

1. [Aboriginal Our Father - Guidelines for Permission to Use.pdf](#)
2. [Aboriginal Our Father.pdf](#)
3. [Aboriginal Our Father. - Music.pdf](#)

In using these resources please be mindful of copyright laws and acknowledgment.



## LET'S PRAY AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER

We invite you all to come to our Special Religious Gratitude Morning Tea on Monday 9 Dec from 10.00am. On this day we will acknowledge and thank teachers who are 'hanging up the duster' (not that we use chalkboards anymore!!). In addition, we hope to share the joys of the ministry with our fellow teachers and be treated to some delicious morning tea and Christmas treats. Please join us!

**Flyer:** see Events on SRE website

**Time:** 10:00am-12.00pm

**Where:** Toohey Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

**RSVP:** by 2 December 2024

<https://forms.office.com/r/PjnKDN3RY4>

**P:** 49791334 or **E:** [jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au)



## RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

It was with much pleasure that I was able to meet with the teachers in the Chisholm region recently for a training day. At the meeting we presented Zofia Slupik with an award for thirty-five years of service to the ministry! Thank you Zofia for the countless little people who have been blessed to get to know and love God because of your dedication, service and love. You are the beacon of light for so many. God bless you.

I also recently met with teachers at Tea Gardens PS to say farewell to Julie-Gai Smith and Lidia Izquierdo who will be leaving SRE teaching at the end of 2024. Thank you ladies for your years of service.

## ADVENT RESOURCES

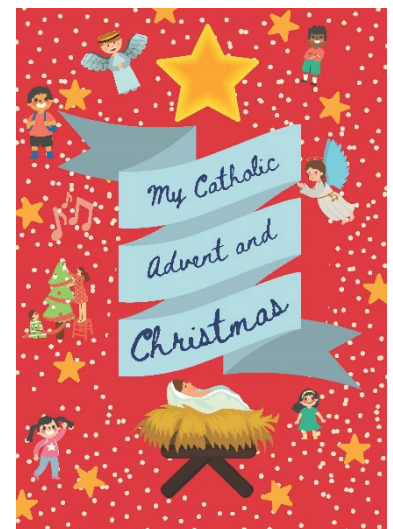
As you prepare the children during this beautiful season of Advent, here are some tried & true resources that might help along the way. If you need anything, (for example, hard copies mailed to you) please reach out to us.

The following resource is from CRESS. It includes lots of links to lesson ideas, craft, cooking, songs and prayer.

<https://diocesemn.azurewebsites.net/media/7248/advent-and-christmas-ccress.pdf>

In addition, Rose McAllister prepares an adult prayer and reflection booklet for the Advent season. You may like to share this with your SRE team when you get together.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>



### Need Support?

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

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