



Notes from Nicki

I hope you are all well and getting some reprieve from the hot, humid summer we are having! As much as I love this season, I will be grateful to welcome the crisp winter mornings!

The year has started off with a rush of authorisations and training sessions in preparation for lessons. We have many new teachers to welcome into the SRE family, some of whom have come with a wealth of experience teaching in other dioceses while others heard the call for help and answered 'yes' to the ministry.

In this newsletter you will find information on events, including Bishop Michael Kennedy's upcoming SRE Reflection Day, acknowledgement of service, enrolments in schools, as well as some Easter craft ideas for you to try.

Online Safeguarding training is still to be rolled out. We will keep you posted.

If you have an item or issue you would like to add to the newsletters, please contact me. We'd love to hear from you!

As we journey with each other during this Lenten period, may we be drawn deeper into the Divine Mercy of Christ.

To all of you, we say thank you and pray: "God of inclusive love, may we move into this new year with generous love, courage, humility and openness to whatever comes."

Nicki Graham

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/>

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Formation & Education Office

Email: sregeneral@mn.catholic.org.au

Phone: 4979 1334

Rose McAllister: 4979 1346

Nicki Graham: 0417 773 444

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY - BISHOP MICHAEL'S VISIT TO SRE TEACHERS

Bishop Michael Kennedy is a strong advocate of the ministry of Special Religious Education. In his words: "you are saying yes to that calling, giving your time, energy and love to teaching children in state schools. Under your careful guidance, you help the children to know and love Jesus and to be aware of the love Jesus has for them."

Bishop Michael is excited to meet you and spend time with you during a day of prayer, reflection, conversation and fun.



Please keep this date free in your diaries. We acknowledge that some teachers may teach scripture on this day. If you are able to come for just a part of the day, we would love to see you. When registering please let us know of your commitments for the day.



Professional Development & Training days across the diocese

It's only March, yet so far, we have offered training days at Forster, Newcastle and Tea Gardens. Each of the days covered aspects such as behaviour management, curriculum and online resources, cultural sensitivity and creative prayer spaces. If there is anything you would like us to offer in training please let us know.

Enrolments in schools

Currently only about 40% of schools have taken up the option to include online SRE options for enrolment. Coordinators are asked to check their schools to see that the opt in is available. To see how to check online enrolment go to <https://diocesemn.azurewebsites.net/media/6893/checking-a-schools-online-enrolment.pdf> . If SRE is not listed, coordinators are encouraged to approach the school leadership team. For instructions for school to set up the SRE/SEE option go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/platoapps/online-enrolment-system/oes-sre-see/setting-up-the-sre-see-options-for-your-school>.

Recruitment Drive for 2024

Towards the end of last year, we sent out letters to all parishes, asking for a notice to be put into the parish bulletin or allowing us to visit to speak about SRE. We visited some parishes and spoke about the need for more teachers.

We are happy to say that we have new teachers at Forster, Heaton, Taree, Harrington, Old Bar, Tenambit and Plattsburg public schools.

A warm welcome to the family of SRE teachers to:

Anne Sandys
Beata McLean
Frank Hoare
Allan Malsem

Catherine Richmond
Preema Ramanujam
Tony Van Dorst
Sanoj Joseph

Peter Cheney
Fleeta D'souza
Pauline Larkins
Alf Capito

Kieren Kuik
Lyn Haynes
Marika Bakker

Recognition of Service

We would love to support your parish in planning and supporting your celebrations of those who deserve recognition of their many years of service. If you would like us to assist, please contact us. We can communicate to schools and students and extend the welcome to families and school staff to join to celebrate significant milestones.

This year we recognise and thank:

Name	Parish	Years
Kay Fox	Forster/Tuncurry	40
Bernadette Royan	Sugarloaf	40
Zofia Slupic	Lochinvar	35
Christine Eager	Morpeth	30
Yvonne Dixon	Forster	20
Kathy Weir	Raymond Terrace	20
Jennie Nolan	Sugarloaf	15
John Pelletier	Gloucester	10
Maria Armitage	Forster-Tuncurry	5
Suzanne Hughes	Nelson Bay	5
Judy Walsh	Nelson Bay	5



Lenten Resource

We are called during this holy time to pray, fast and give alms. ***Transformation Through Revelation*** is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, and ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Lenten Gospels and associated scripture and prayers. 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. For Lenten resource go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>.

New library open for all

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Resource Centre Library is now open.
Library hours are: Monday 10-6, Friday 10-6 & Saturday 10-2.

There are numerous resources in the library collection that can assist with teaching SRE or in your own faith, spiritual or personal development journey. Library membership is free to any interested member of the Diocese.

You can search the library website <https://maitlandnewcastle.softlinkhosting.com.au/liberty3/libraryHome.do> and there is an option for self-registration via the register link in the top right-hand corner. Assistance with self-registration can be found via this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbLBTQQ6Ik0>.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact Diocesan Librarian Mary O'Connor on 0409 033 449.

Easter Craft

As you prepare for the Holy Week lessons in SRE, see pages 5 to 8 are a few quick and easy craft ideas for you to try with your class.

Need support?

Feel free to contact us regarding 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



Craft Instructions

Easter Prayer Card

Supplies

- White or pastel coloured card
- Pencil
- Felt pens
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- PVA glue, or glue stick



1 Fold a piece of card in half along its width.



2 Place your hand onto the card with your little finger against the fold. Then draw around your hand using a pencil.



3 Cut out the hand shape through both pieces of the folded card. This should create two hand shapes joined along the little finger edge.



4 Draw fingers and nails on to both sides of the hands.



5 Cut a length of ribbon slightly longer than the length of the hands.

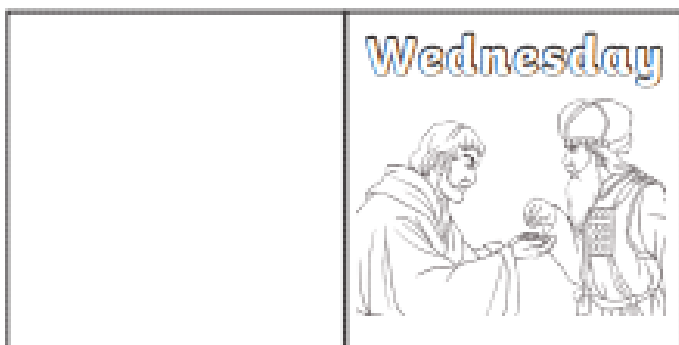
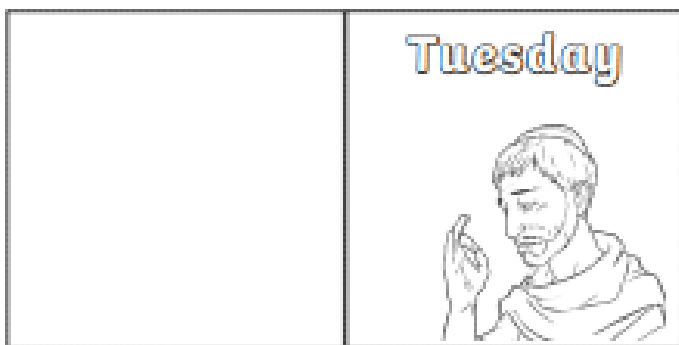
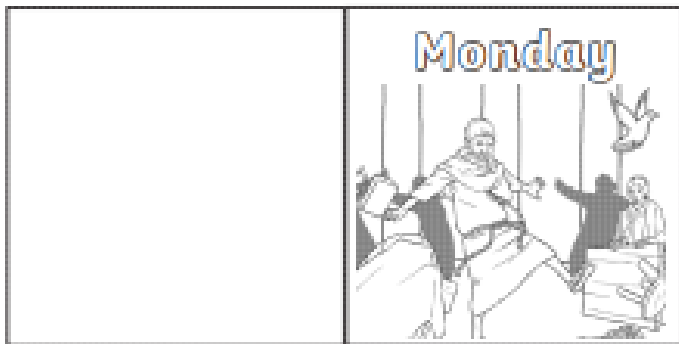
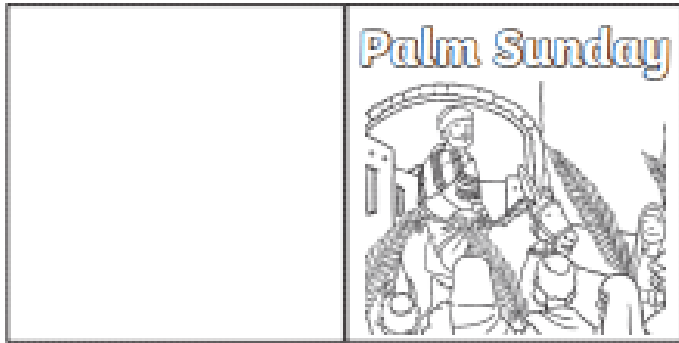


6 Glue the ribbon inside the hands along the right side of the fold.

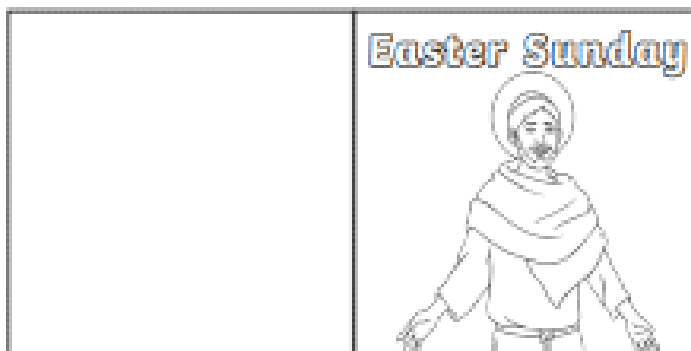
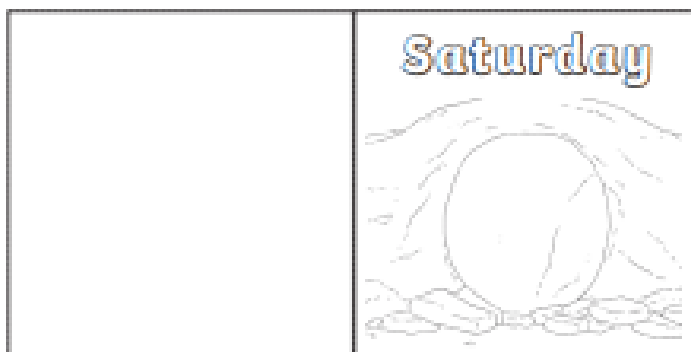
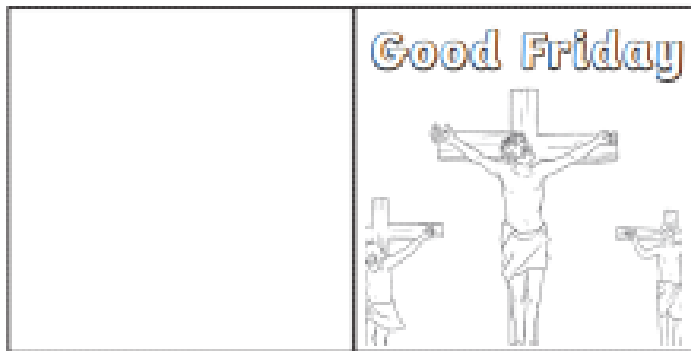
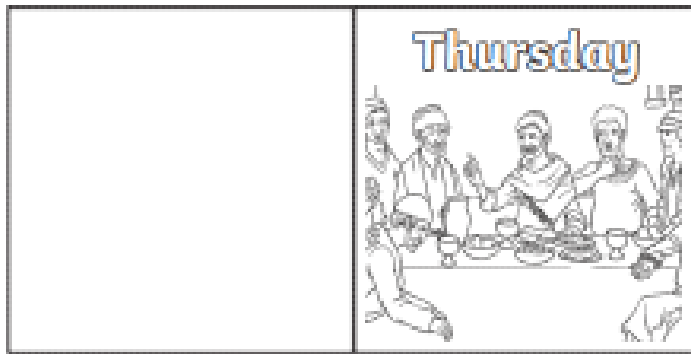


7 Write a message inside the card.

Easter Holy Week Activity



Easter Holy Week Activity



Easter Cross Craft Printable

