

Notes from Nicki

In the latest ICCOREIS newsletter, Tom Eastlakes spoke about the importance of succession planning in SRE. Many teachers are devoted, lifelong members who have given so much of their time to bring the joy of the Gospel to children.

Have you thought about what happens to those children and the classes you teach when you are no longer willing or able? Tom reminds us of the story of Elijah and Elisha:

In 1 Kings 19:16(b), God speaks to Elijah and says: "...you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

Elijah does and 1 Kings 19:19, it says "So he (Elijah) departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was ploughing, with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah came over to him and threw his cloak on him."

Now is a good time to consider how we might build the capacity of others so that the legacy of the work we do may continue. Bulletin notices and posters can help, however, the most effective way to recruit others is to speak face to face. If an SRE teacher gets up at Mass, for example, and speaks passionately about their work, other members of the congregation may be moved to join them in this ministry.

The story of Elijah and Elisha is one that emulates succession planning but also demonstrates how ministry can flourish with the right hand of guidance. Let your hand be the one that builds capacity and guides! Contact us in Pastoral Ministries if you would like some support.

Nicki Graham



Important information

Website:

[Special Religious Education | Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/sre)

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Bishop Michael Kennedy Visits the SRE Teachers for a Reflection Day

May 29th saw almost forty teachers from across the diocese join Bishop Michael for a day of prayer, readings and reflection. It was wonderful to hear his insights into how prayer has shaped and formed his life. It was equally wonderful to have time to join with the Bishop and colleagues over a hot meal.

Read Full Story Here: [FAITH MATTERS: An Invitation to Pray | Maitland-Newcastle Catholic News \(mnnews.today\)](#)



Recognition of Service

Rose and I have had the pleasure of acknowledging the work of volunteer SRE teachers in our diocese. Recently, during National Volunteers Week, we congratulated Kay Fox and Maria Armitage from the Forster parish region. Last Saturday we recognised and thanked Jennie Nolan and Bernadette Royan from the Sugarloaf parish. Family, colleagues and a representative from the state schools were amongst the congregation.

Congratulations, ladies!



Department of Education Declaration

The Department of Education requires all SRE teachers to complete a declaration stating that they have a WWCC and have no criminal conviction. This was due in January by new teachers and all existing teachers by Oct 2024. We are happy to say that almost all our current teachers have completed the declaration. Thank you everyone!

COLAL Online Resources

If you are using the COLAL curriculum and need to access any online resources, please contact us as CCD Sydney have given us permission to access the resources using their password.

Online Enrolment System

All schools should have SRE participation as a part of their online enrolment system by end of term 2, 2024. Please check that this is happening in your school by going to the school's website and click on "enrolling" a child for the 2025 calendar year. Simply type in an address close by. You will be asked for an email address and be given a code. You should be able to see an option for parents to opt in to SRE (section 11). If this option is NOT available please contact your coordinator and contact us in Pastoral Ministries, so that we can notify the school and have this rectified. All families have the right to opt into scripture classes for their children.

Need support?

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

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