

## *An Angel in our midst*



**Sr. Joy Shelley**

A great example of one area of Kerygma is the work of **Sr. Joy Shelley** (Canossian Sister) with the Sunday School. She has worked tirelessly with Fr. Pat, also in Pallottine Spirituality groups and in outreach, as Groups Coordinator and as a member of the parish team.

Sr. Joy worked as a science teacher in Singapore. She then became a Vice-Principal and Principal of schools in Hong Kong. On semi-retirement she joined the Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Balhatchet. Dr. Balhatchet had been asked by Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew to develop a moral Education Programme for Government Schools. The task of the team was to train teachers and monitor the programme in a number of schools. After Sr. Joy retired from this her mother took ill here in Australia and she came here to look after her. Sr. Joy nursed her mother until her death eight years later. On the departure of Br. Kevin from our parish in 2003, Sr. Joy was appointed to replace him.

Sunday School began in 2002/3 with four children. Today, there are 70 children on the register, aged from 4 years – 21 years. The motto of Sunday School is “To Know Jesus Better.”

The groups of adults and children at Sunday School are:

- **King’s Kids** for children aged from 4 years old to Grade 2, led by Dr Sharne Rolfe who however is now on study leave but promises to return. In the meantime we are in the process of creating a new approach, namely:

- **“Hands On”** from ‘Play and Pray’ to Come to Know God. A team of 8 parishioners is working hard on it.
- **Grades 3-6** work through Worksheets on Lectionary based Catechesis. They sit at round tables led by:
- **Young Leaders** (Year 7–Uni) who help process the “S.S. Page”. Each leader at the round table has a specific role. Post-Confirmation candidates begin as “Leaders In Training.”
- **Adult Parishioners** take over at the round tables while Leaders and Leaders in Training have periodical Leadership Formation Sundays.



**Sunday School at work**

Popular events at Sunday School have been the rather loud Bible Quizzes and more serious and quieter Forums, Christmas parties, the regular Sunday School active games, Prayer poem writing and Biblical art expression. The periodic return of former alumni who sit at the round tables and share their faith experiences in a variety of interesting and fun ways is always welcomed. Sunday School begins with a much in-demand SS Game which helps create an environment of friendship, fun and community building. Then the assembly which includes:

- a prayer, an occasional short talk by a young adult or parishioner.
- a brief introduction to Catechesis of the Sunday Gospel.
- distribution of leadership roles.

Then, learning at the round tables (peer ministry with Liturgy based Catechism) follows.

A regular feature of Sunday School is the children arriving with their bibles. They use these bibles to:

- Match CateQuizm statements

- Inspire their growing faith
- Write a bible prayer
- Contemplate the word of God



**Sunday School Play**

Sr. Joy puts in a great deal of work in this personally tailored program. She works with Catherine Chong who does the registration and administration and has great assistants who oversee discipline for special activities.



**Sunday School Activities**