

# AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE



VOLUME 52 ISSUE 1 • EASTER 2011

## From the Director



Since 325AD the date of Easter has been a moveable feast. In fact, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the “official” full moon on or after the “official” vernal equinox. Essentially

Easter Sunday is always one of the 35 dates between 22 March and 25 April.

Thus our Easter edition of *Ausvangelist* is being sent to you during Lent when we are still in the midst of self-denial, prayer and fasting and before the joyous celebrations of Easter.

Pope Benedict XVI has asked that during Lent Catholics rediscover the meaning of baptism to “liberate the hearts of all selfishness, which impoverishes and prevents us from being available to God and our neighbours.”

It was during Holy Week in 1429 that Joan of Arc, “the Maiden”, wrote to the King of England in the hope of liberating France. She felt herself called by God to help the French resist the English in the Hundred Years War, and she took command of an army and led them into battle against the English in the town of Orleans. Not many of us are called to a mission like Joan was, we are nonetheless called to listen attentively to what the Lord is calling us, and to respond by being available to God and our neighbours. See *Inspirations*.

An exciting development in our resource offerings is the audio project for prisoners which received the support of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference at the November Plenary. It is called *Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith*. See *Projects Desk*.

A priest from South Australia sent the Catholic Enquiry Centre a copy of an amazing DVD called *Common Ground*. It is a captivating dialogue about what Catholics and Protestants can learn from one another. There is an accompanying book which

includes the transcript of interview as well as study guide. It may be of interest for parishes to use with those who are thinking of becoming Catholic. While we are not stocking this resource you may consider purchasing online from Nineveh's Crossing (see [www.NinevehsCrossing.com](http://www.NinevehsCrossing.com))

Our outreach to those who are not connected with the Catholic Church continues with our regular newspaper advertising. This year we have commenced some additional advertising using Google Ads on the Internet. We are confident this will help us reach a whole new group of enquirers.

During February we were blessed to have a visit from Fr Allan Jones SM, National Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre New Zealand during which time we discussed projects of our respective offices. New Zealand is this year celebrating their Golden Jubilee and we congratulate them on this milestone.

Aaron Reefman has joined the Catholic Enquiry Centre team as Administration Assistant in place of Mary Taaffe. He has practical experience in evangelising young people, having spent two years on the National Evangelisation Teams (NET) and is very involved in leading worship in two parishes in Sydney and Broken Bay. He is a great asset to the CEC team.

May the grace of baptism well up in your hearts this Lent and Easter...

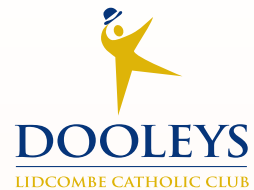
**Marita Winters**  
Director  
Catholic Enquiry Centre



**Catholic Enquiry Centre**

Reaching out in faith  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



### YOUR WILL

A significant number of Australians die without a Will. Our choices can make a difference in the world. We can choose to let our life's work continue for the good even after we have finished the journey. After meeting all ordinary obligations in your Will, you may consider a bequest supporting the Catholic evangelisation of our nation. The Catholic Enquiry Centre can supply a form of words for such an intention to your legal advisors.

### CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

PO BOX 415  
Crows Nest NSW 1585

1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484)  
[info@catholicenquiry.com](mailto:info@catholicenquiry.com)

[www.catholicenquiry.com](http://www.catholicenquiry.com)

# Projects Desk



A New Catechetical Resource for Prisoners – *Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith*.

A major project currently underway is an audio program specifically designed

to meet the catechetical need of prisoners. The Bishops of Australia have endorsed this project and provided funding to cover the production and distribution costs.

In developing *Hearing God's Call* we are consulting with a small group of prison chaplains and two ex prisoners. Both the chaplains and ex prisoners are excited by the project, and it is their recommendation to produce the series as audio tracks on CD.

In this project the Catholic Enquiry Centre acknowledges the generous support of two Sacred Heart priests, both named Peter. The first is Fr Peter Carroll MSC. Fr Carroll is the Catholic chaplain at Long Bay Gaol in Sydney and the delegate representing the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life at the international conference for Catholic chaplains in Cameroon in August this year. The other priest working with us on this project is Rev Dr Peter Malone MSC. Fr Malone is well-known throughout Australia and internationally as an expert in the field of Catholic media and as film reviewer. As part of developing *Hearing God's Call* Fr Malone is to suggest the names of suitable films that prisoners may watch on DVD to enrich and develop the insights they have gained from the audio tracks CD program.

It is our hope and prayer that this audio program will encourage prisoners to seek more information about our faith by requesting copies of the book *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*.

As always, thank you very much for your support both in prayer and donations as we seek new ways of inviting people to consider joining the Catholic Church.

**John Francis Collins**  
Catholic Enquiry Centre

# Resources

## FOR PARISHES

One parish who distributed the CEC Christmas brochure with a local message to all residents within the parish boundaries reported that Christmas Mass attendances were far larger than usual!

For parishes considering an outreach over Easter, the Catholic Enquiry Centre provides a template of an Easter brochure which can be used without charge. Local Mass times, contact details and a message from the Parish Priest can be inserted. The size is A4 double sided 3 fold. The Brochure can be viewed and downloaded from

[www.catholicenquiry.com/products](http://www.catholicenquiry.com/products)

then scroll down to the heading "Easter – Love is stronger than death."

There are the notes on the website for updating and printing a local version of the brochure.

## FOR SCHOOLS

Are you ever asked by your students to explain what Catholics believe? Would you be able to give them a succinct explanation of the elements of the Creed that is recited at each Sunday Mass? In two short chapters in *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* the answer is there for you. This is a very useful resource for young Catholic students wanting to know more about their faith or for students who are not Catholic but are interested in learning about the faith underpinning their school.

To order a copy of *Call and Response*, visit our website, [www.catholicenquiry.com](http://www.catholicenquiry.com) or call us on **1300 4 FAITH** (1300 432 484).

## FOR OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Your donation helps to provide a copy of *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* for someone who has indicated that they want to know more about Jesus Christ and his Church. In 2010 we had 761 enquirers who received an introduction to the Catholic faith through your generosity. We thank you for your ongoing support, in both spiritual and practical ways, for those who receive the information on the Catholic faith.

In June CEC celebrates its 52nd anniversary. The Staff here in CEC will gather together to celebrate Mass to pray particularly for the work of CEC, for all Donors and supporters, past and present. We invite you to join us in spirit wherever you are at Mass just once sometime in June.

# Inspiration



*St. Joan of Arc*

St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of France and of soldiers. Joan was born on January 6, 1412 to pious parents of the French peasant class, in the obscure village of Domremy, near the province of Lorraine.

At a very early age she heard the voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret. At first the messages were personal and general. Then in May 1428 came the crowning order: her voices told Joan to go to the King of France and help him re-conquer his kingdom. At that time France was under threat from the English in the Hundred Years War.

After overcoming opposition from churchmen and courtiers, the seventeen year

old girl was given a small army with which she raised the siege of Orleans on May 8, 1429. She then enjoyed a series of spectacular military successes, during which King Charles VII was able to enter Rheims and be crowned with her at his side.

For a whole year Joan lived with the soldiers, carrying out among them a mission of evangelization. Her goodness, courage and extraordinary purity are reflected in numerous testimonies. She was called "The Maiden".

In May 1430 she was captured and imprisoned before being tried at Rouen. When she refused to retract the assertion that it was the saints of God who commanded her actions, she was condemned to death as a heretic, sorceress and adulteress. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431. She was nineteen years old.

Some thirty years later, she was exonerated of all guilt. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV canonised Joan of Arc, making official what the people had known for centuries. Her feast day is May 30.

This saint understood that love embraces the whole reality of God and of man, of heaven and of earth, of the Church and of the world. Jesus was always in first place during her whole life, according to her beautiful affirmation: "Serve God first" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 223).

Sources: [www.catholiconline.org/saints](http://www.catholiconline.org/saints) and [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org) (Address of Pope Benedict XVI on St Joan of Arc, 26/01/11).

# Orders

## BOOKS

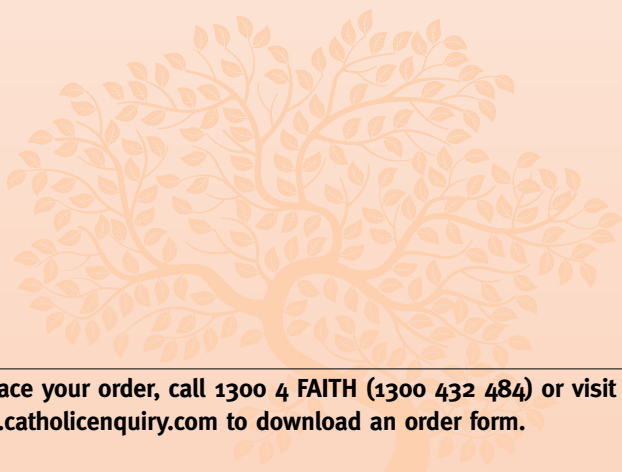
Call and Response	16.50
Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church	17.95
Divorce in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00
"Food for Life" Catholic Mission Cook Book	25.00
Marriage in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00

## MULTIMEDIA

Amazing Gift <i>Featuring Fr Stan Fortuna CFR</i> (DVD)	99.00
Christ Bearers - Understanding Baptism (DVD)	32.95
Pope Benedict's Encyclical - God Is Love <i>Deus Caritas Est</i> (CD)	24.20
The Mass - Images of Catholic Life (CD)	32.95

## PAMPHLETS

About the Catholic Faith	0.25 ea
How to Pray the Rosary	0.45 ea
The Sacrament of Baptism	0.25 ea
The Sacrament of Marriage	0.25 ea
Understanding the Mass	0.45 ea
The Sacrament of Reconciliation	0.45 ea



To place your order, call 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) or visit [www.catholicenquiry.com](http://www.catholicenquiry.com) to download an order form.

# Your Support

Your generosity is helping to make Jesus Christ better known and loved by the people of our nation. Our work, in all its dimension, is directly dependent upon the financial support we receive. Thank you for your generosity. May you be blessed.

## TO AID THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN ITS MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

### I enclose

My donation cheque for \$

Name:

Address:

State/Territory:  P/code:

Email:

### or please debit my

Card type:  Mastercard  Visa

Amount: \$

Card number:

Expiry date:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

**POST THIS COUPON TO:** Catholic Enquiry Centre  
PO Box 415, Crows Nest  
NSW 1585 Australia



## Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference