

SUPPORT AND DONATIONS

The CEC is pastorally supported through prayer and evangelisation networks. When connecting enquirers to local faith communities, the Centre relies upon RCIA leaders in the [Christian Initiation Australia Network](#) (CIAN). Members accompany those seeking to learn more about, or re-establish, a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

In 2020 the CEC worked to review budgets, donations, fundraising licenses and financial status. The Centre is financially supported by a number of generous donors, bequests, sponsors, investments and Australian dioceses. In 2020 the Centre received 317 donations from 188 donors, totalling \$26,384. Individual donations ranged from \$5 to \$1,000. Finally, the Centre ensured reporting to the Australian Bishops and to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission were up-to-date.

The CEC and Australian Bishops would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all donors and supporters. If you would like to learn more about donations and supporting our work, please visit our [website](#).

We thank the following donors:

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Catholic Women's League - Morwell	Discalced Carmelite Nuns - Goonellabah	Houghton Household	O'Sullivan Household	Tapara Household
Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc. - Iona-Maryknoll Branch	Discalced Carmelite Nuns - Ormiston	Hunt Household	Overton Household	Taylor Household
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THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE, AUSTRALIA – REACHING OUT IN FAITH

A work of the National Centre for Evangelisation of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

1300 432 484 | www.catholicenquiry.com

To support and donate to the work of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, please visit: www.catholicenquiry.com/donate



Catholic Enquiry Centre
Reaching out in faith

Snapshot Report 2020

FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the beginning of 2020 no one had an idea of the challenges that lay ahead. Starting with a national bushfire crisis which was then overshadowed by a global pandemic, the year was filled with challenges and immediate changes to work and lifestyle. Amidst these changes, the questions about faith, teaching and community remained. The [Catholic Enquiry Centre](#) (CEC) maintained its response to enquiries and distribution of resources as shown in this year's snapshot. Behind the scenes we have advanced our communications, promotions, and reporting. We have also developed relationships and opportunities for future growth.

In 2021, the [National Centre for Evangelisation](#) will be working to increase awareness of the CEC's work and resources. Through updating print and online resources and increasing our promotion, we will work to provide information and formation to enquirers. In our enquiries, promotion and resources, the CEC will continue to accompany seekers to find a relationship with Jesus Christ and a local community to support them into the future.

I would personally like to thank all our supporters who pray, contribute and respond on behalf of the CEC. Your assistance is invaluable as we share the Good News.

Mr Malcolm Hart

Director - National Centre for Evangelisation
19 March 2021

MISSION

The Catholic Enquiry Centre's mission is to accompany those seeking to learn more about God, Jesus and the Catholic faith in Australia.

Enquiry: Responding to

- those seeking to know more about God, Jesus and the Catholic faith
- baptised Catholics wanting to update or increase their knowledge of the Catholic faith
- general enquiries about Catholicism, such as students and catechists

Outreach: Strategically promoting

- God, Jesus and the Catholic faith in secular forums
- our work to donors and supporters

Resources: Updating content and materials to

- ensure relevant delivery and connection in today's world
- remain faithful to Catholic teaching



OUTREACH

The CEC's most significant secular outreach continued via Google advertising. Appearing in searches and advertising through strategic marketing techniques, the Centre offers free copies of [Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith](#) through this platform and distributed 668 copies in 2020.

Our annual reconnection with seekers was completed in August as we contacted over 800 seekers who received *Call and Response* in 2019. We offered support, listened to their stories of discernment and connected them with local ministries where required. It was heartening to receive positive comments, with some taking the opportunity to ask further questions. Here are three examples:

- ☞ Thank you very much for your enquiry. Yes I did receive the book, and it has been helpful in explaining the basics of Catholicism to me. I am undertaking the RCIA later in the year (postponed due to COVID). I have subscribed to Faith Journey. ☞
- ☞ Thank you for your letter in reference to the book I received, "Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith". I am pleased to tell you that this book was used for our RCIA candidate. We all found it easy to use and very informative. It gave us a good base to begin on. Our candidate is being received into the Church as soon as we are able to open once more. ☞
- ☞ Thanks for your email. We have been attending the local Catholic parish church for the past 21 months and feel very much at home. ☞

CEC social media was updated regularly with stories from our new newsletter and highlights from our website. Our social media promotes faith and discernment to seekers and also Catholics who are hungry for formation and spiritual accompaniment.

In a new step toward informing supporters and donors, the NCE established its first [CEC Annual Snapshot](#), showcasing the Centre's work and outreach. Further, the NCE re-established a regular [CEC newsletter](#) to supporters and also included a specific CEC article in [The Bridge](#), its national newsletter, to over 7,000 subscribers. These steps highlight the CEC and introduce its good works to a new generation.

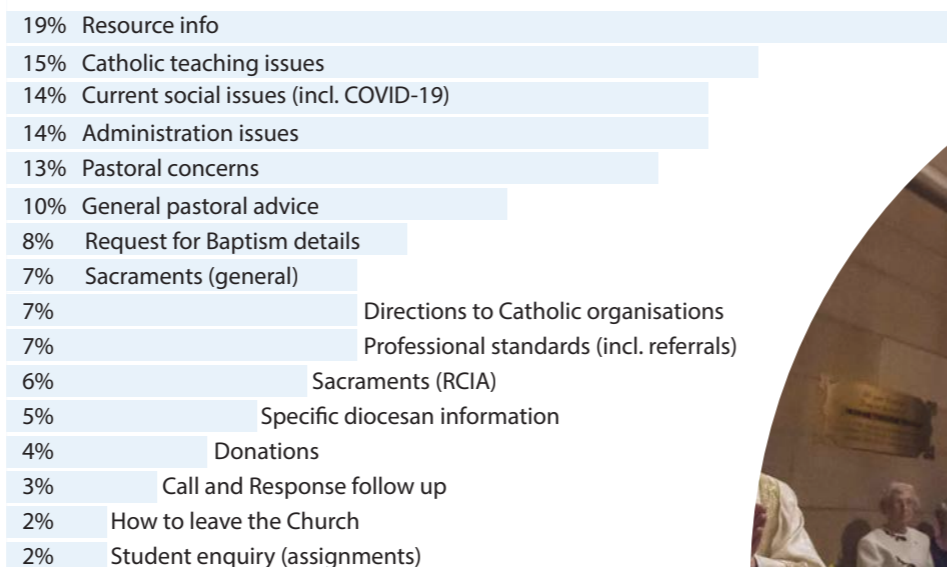


RESPONDING TO ENQUIRIES

In 2020, there were 446 enquiries by phone and 287 by email. This total of 733 was marginally lower than the 753 enquiries received in 2019. The graph to the right lists the categories of enquiries. A sample of weekly enquiries can be supplied upon request.

Enquiries related to 'Current Social Issues' doubled in 2020, with calls about bushfires, COVID-19, Mass obligations and access to online Mass. Requests for resources and advice on Catholic teaching still remained the top enquiries, keeping to the CEC's core purpose, with a steady stream of student enquirers. The question of 'How to obtain a Baptism certificate' remained the single most common question asked of the Centre.

733 ENQUIRIES*



*Percentages add to more than 100 because some contacts asked multiple questions.

RESOURCES

In addition to the 668 free copies of *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* distributed in 2020, 239 copies were purchased via the [ACBC online store](#). The complimentary accompanying [Leaders Manual](#) was also downloaded 54 times. Late in the year the CEC began a revision of *Call and Response* and hopes to complete an updated version in 2021.



Discovering Prayer

650 SOLD

More than 650 copies of [Discovering Prayer: A 30 day prayer journey of encountering God, and love](#) were sold during the year. Proving popular, the Centre has now reprinted *Discovering Prayer* in a larger size to increase text size and readability. *Discovering Prayer* will be offered free of charge to seekers together with *Call and Response*. A complementing pair, they will provide seekers with information and teaching about the Catholic faith and a prayer journey to encounter Christ.

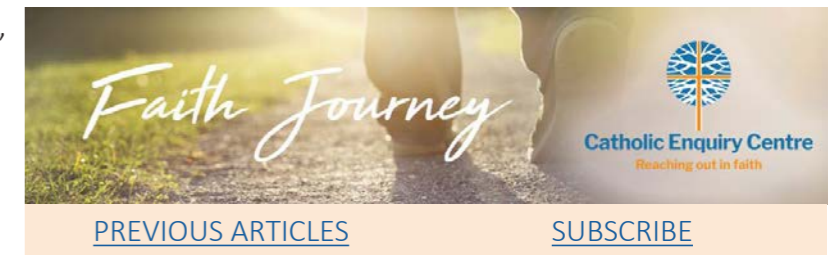
To all those who request a copy of *Call and Response*, and enquirers who wish to receive ongoing support, the CEC provides monthly accompaniment materials in [Faith Journey](#). *Faith Journey* includes a reflection on current issues and links to Catholic teaching to assist seekers to listen to the call of the Holy Spirit in their lives. *Faith Journey* is sent to more than 1,800 seekers and supporters.

The [CEC website](#) continued to serve seekers with teaching and resources about the Catholic faith. Minor updates were made during the year after a major upgrade in 2019. Planning is underway for the website to become more integrated with the Australian Bishops' national website strategy, making it a focal point of Catholic enquiry nationally.

Call and Response

317	VIC
281	NSW
117	QLD
83	WA
72	SA
18	TAS
10	NT
9	ACT

900+ DISTRIBUTED



A SPECIAL NOTE

In December 2020, the NCE's newsletter, *The Bridge*, published an [article](#) highlighting Sharon Brewer's [research](#) into the vitality of the RCIA process in Australian parishes. Sharon, a staff member of the NCE who manages the majority of CEC work, explored how Catholic communities accompany seekers through the RCIA process. Her university research identified successes and challenges in the areas of evangelisation and in the implementation of the RCIA. This research into the RCIA process aids our work in informing and inviting seekers to connect with local Catholic communities.



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