

# AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE



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## From the Director



The Catholic Enquiry Centre comes under the oversight of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and since May 2006 this means the Bishops Commission for Mission and Faith Formation (BCMFF).

In May this year Bishop Michael Putney, Bishop of Townsville, was elected Chairman of this Commission. Previously he has been a Member of the Bishops Committee for Doctrine and Morals (1995 – 2003) and its Chairman (1997 – 1999), as well as Chair of the Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations from 2006.

Bishop Putney says “I am really excited about becoming a member of the Bishops Commission for Mission and Faith Formation and honoured to be elected its new Chairperson. I have no doubt that engaging in the “new evangelisation” is a major challenge confronting the Church in Australia at this point of its history. Anything our Commission and the Catholic Enquiry Centre can do to assist the Church in this engagement will be of enormous value and could have lasting consequences.

“I look forward to learning more from the other members of the Commission and from those who have been engaged in agencies such as the Catholic Enquiry Centre for many years. When I was only a young man my family supported the Catholic Enquiry Centre and I have continued to recognise and value its contribution. Now I will have the chance to be personally involved and I look forward to that very much. All of us together can play a part in the “new evangelisation” of our country.”

Bishop Peter Ingham, Bishop of Wollongong, has been a Member of the BCMFF since 2006 and has been elected for another three-year term. Bishop Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, was co-opted to

the Commission last year and has now been elected as a Member. Bishop Peter Comensoli, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney has also been elected as a Member.

During 2011 The Catholic Enquiry Centre staff answered 800 email questions from the public. These came from the websites of the ACBC, Catholic Enquiry Centre and Catholic Australia.

The significant majority of the questions asked were about baptism and marriage/annulment. This is an important area of engagement with members of the public and a service to the wider Church.

*Call and Response* continues to be a popular resource for parishes and enquirers.

Since September 2010 when we first stocked *Call and Response* we have:

- Purchased 8000 copies
- Sold 2266 copies
- Given 1383 copies to enquirers

As parishes are about to begin RCIA for another group of enquirers who are wanting to find out about the Catholic faith, please consider *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*.

The faith formation of ordinary Catholics is also of interest to us. We are regularly asked by lifelong Catholics for help to learn more about and better understand their faith. I'd be really interested to hear from supporters of the Catholic Enquiry Centre of resources that you have found to be helpful.

Thank you to all who continue to support the work of evangelisation undertaken by the Catholic Enquiry Centre. It is under the loving care of the Virgin Mary, Star of the New Evangelisation that we share Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

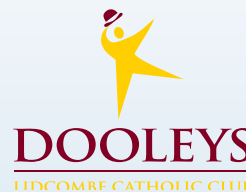
**Marita Winters**  
Director  
Catholic Enquiry Centre



**Catholic Enquiry Centre**

Reaching out in faith  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



### 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. We thank you for your ongoing support, in both spiritual and practical ways, for those who receive the information on the Catholic faith.

### CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

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info@catholicenquiry.com

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

## Projects Desk



As you well know the primary task of the Catholic Enquiry Centre is to provide clear information about the Catholic Faith. It is only through your continuing generous financial

contributions that we are able to supply the book *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* to those who are seeking more information about our Catholics faith.

Accompanying this work we also provide personal answers to personal questions about our faith. The questions arrive by mail, phone, email and even fax. The questions range from enquiries about obtaining a copy of a baptismal certificate through to, sometimes, extended phone

conversations about the interaction of faith and family in relation to the Sacraments of baptism and marriage.

On occasion also we receive a request for information on how to formally leave the Catholic Church. It is always sad to receive these requests. As infants they were given the gift of baptism through their parents. As young adults they seek to have it noted on their baptismal record that they no longer want to anything to do with the Catholic Church. With some regret we respond as follows.

For a person to formally defect from the Catholic Church they must take this action personally, freely and consciously. The Church requires that the person express this intention in written form before his or her own parish priest, vicar general or bishop. This formal act of defection from

the Catholic Church is then noted in the baptismal registry next to the record of baptism kept at the parish.

These requests are rare however and greatly outnumbered by those seeking information on joining the Church. See Marita's column for the good news.

As always, thank you very much for your ongoing prayer and financial support.

In Christ Jesus,

**John Francis Collins**  
Catholic Enquiry Centre

## Resources

### FOR PARISHES

Enquirers seeking to become Catholic? For parishes which have enquirers wanting to find out about the Catholic faith, please consider *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*.

This resource has been very well received. Typical comments we have received as feedback:

“I find the book very user friendly”.  
(Religious sister working in a parish, Victoria)  
“Thank you very much for your email and the book; it is really useful and a very easy read”. (Enquirer, Queensland)

Some parishes use *Call and Response* as one of a suite of resources they draw upon for RCIA but the book was not written to be used as the sole resource for RCIA. An RCIA Companion

Manual has been prepared for those parishes who want to see how to use *Call and Response* within their RCIA framework.

To place an order please visit [www.catholicenquiry.com/products](http://www.catholicenquiry.com/products) or call us on 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) for more information.

### FOR SCHOOLS

Find out about the Catholic Faith on Google. The Catholic Enquiry Centre is on Facebook and on Google. Even the Pope thinks this is a good idea: Here is a quote that student may like to tweet or share on Facebook:

*Young people in particular, I appeal to you: bear witness to your faith through the digital world!... Employ these new technologies to make the Gospel known, so that the Good News of God's*

*infinite love for all people, will resound in new ways across our increasingly technological world!”*

– Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City,  
May 20, 2009

How about the Pope encouraging the young people to use social media—that's Good News!

### 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.

## Inspiration

The inspiration this month is a reflection on the Feast of the Assumption by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

On the Solemnity of the Assumption into Heaven of the Mother of God we celebrate the passage from the earthly condition to heavenly blessedness of the One who engendered in the flesh and received in faith the Lord of Life...The meaning of this Feast is contained in the final words of the dogmatic definition, proclaimed by Venerable Pius XII on 1 November 1950...: “the Immaculate Mother of God, the Ever Virgin, having

completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” (Apostolic Constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus*, AAS 44 [1950], 770).

The Gospel of Luke describes the fulfilment of Salvation through the Virgin Mary. She, in whose womb the Almighty became small, after the Angel's announcement, without any hesitation, makes haste to visit to her cousin Elizabeth to bring to her the Saviour of the world. And, in fact, “when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and [she] was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Lk 1: 41). She recognized the Mother of God in the One “who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what

was spoken to her from the Lord” (Lk 1: 45). The two women, who were waiting for the fulfilment of the Divine Promises, had already a foretaste of the joy of the coming of the Kingdom of God, the joy of Salvation.

To her, guide of the Apostles, support of Martyrs, light of the Saints, let us address our prayers, imploring that she accompany us in this earthly life, that she help us look to Heaven and that she welcome us one day together with her Son Jesus.

[[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/angelus/2010/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_ang\\_20100815\\_assunzione\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/angelus/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20100815_assunzione_en.html)]

# Orders

## BOOKS

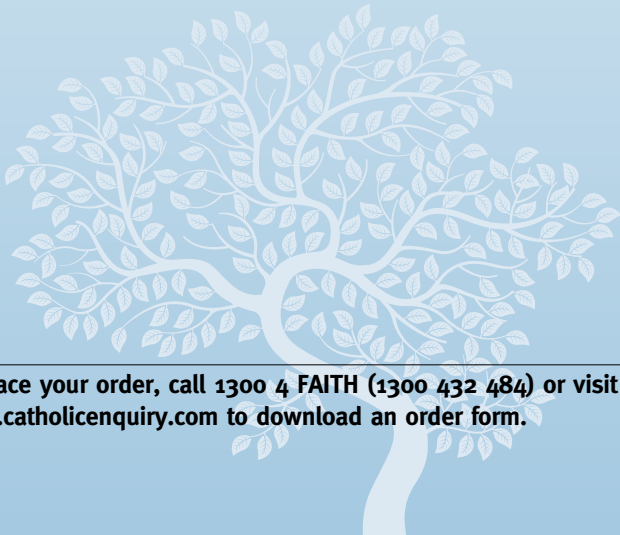
Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith	16.50
Divorce in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00
"Food for Life" Catholic Mission Cook Book	25.00
Marriage in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00

## MULTIMEDIA

Christ Bearers - Understanding Baptism (DVD)	32.95
Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith - 4 disk set with 30 sessions of 10 minute duration (CD)	44.00
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



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 \$

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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**

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Australian Catholic Bishops Conference