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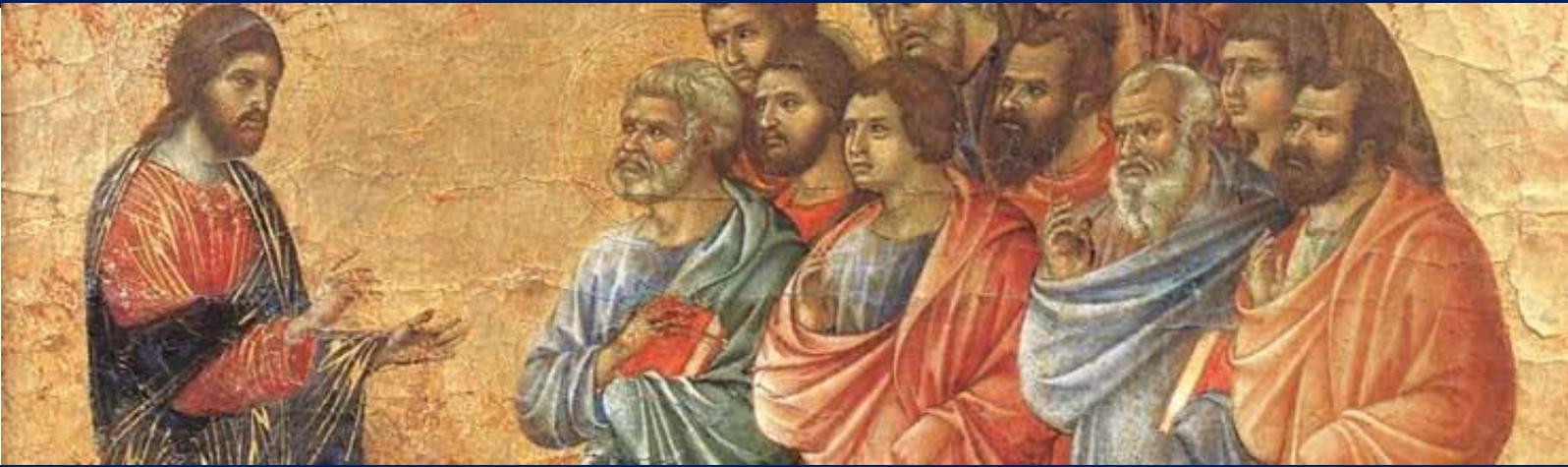
**4 BOOK REVIEW**  
A Handbook for Catechists

# Catechists' Quarterly

T h e   D i o c e s e   o f   L e e d s

[www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

February 2019



## Our Mission

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving your time so generously as a catechist in the Diocese of Leeds. The ministry which you exercise is vital to the mission of the Catholic Church in its work of evangelisation.

As you know, the word 'catechesis' derives from the Greek word 'katechein', which means to 'echo'. Our mission is to 'echo' the faith to all generations. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be evangelisers and catechists. As a catechist, you are called to echo God's Word to those whom you catechise, through your teaching of the Catholic faith and the way in which you personally live out your faith in everyday life. 'Whatever be the level of their responsibility in the church, every catechist must constantly endeavour to transmit

by their teaching and behaviour the teaching and life of Jesus (*Catechesi Tradendae* 6). I ask you therefore to continue to proclaim the gospel to hearts and minds; but above all to speak to the heart, for it is there that love and reverence for God lives and grows. Faith, hope and love are matters of the heart. St Paul urges Christians to 'Take up the shield of faith' (Ephesians 6:16). Faith is a great gift and with it comes great freedom, joy and love. Sadly, all too often, this free and precious gift is abandoned by many long before its true value is realised. But this should not cause us to falter in our work. Our Lord warned his disciples that not all of the good seed of the word which is scattered will bear fruit. Continue therefore to share the Catholic faith boldly, and with conviction, and most of all with love and kindness.

During the coming year we will be endeavouring to enhance our support for your work as catechists; arranging days when you can come together and share experiences and ideas. We will share resources, news and events and help you to connect and collaborate with one another. We are developing new resources for the sacramental programmes and we are exploring new ways to deliver these.

Together, let us do all we can to serve the children, young people and adults in our diocese by 'echoing' to those around us our faith in Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and by proclaiming the splendour of truth which is taught in the Catechism and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Assuring you of my prayers and every blessing in your important ministry,

**✠ Marcus  
Bishop of Leeds**



# Assisting You

Dear Catechist,

Welcome to the first edition of *Catechists' Quarterly*, a publication which I hope will enable the Diocese to communicate fruitfully with those working in catechesis and formation throughout our Diocese.

This is an exciting time when we can consider the future direction of catechetical provision. After many years of fruitful service, **Linda Pennington** has retired as Co-ordinator for Catechesis. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Linda, and all those who have worked with her over the past years, for their role in bringing the truth of Christ to a world that badly needs to hear the gospel.

We are fortunate that in Linda's place, we have been able to recruit two new Co-ordinators of Catechesis. **Gregory Stacey**, who has joined us after gaining a doctorate from the University of Oxford, has been employed to help manage the provision of catechesis and formation for adults. Gregory is also researching ways in which we can develop an integrated approach to faith formation and education for adults. The aim is that we shall soon be able to develop a structure

which allows parishes to offer a series of opportunities for adults to deepen their knowledge of God's love for us, from an initial explanation of our faith, through to ongoing training as catechists equipped to pass on that faith.

We are also very lucky to have **Kieran Hughes**, an active member of Our Lady and All Saints, Otley, joining us to take over responsibility for children's catechesis. Kieran has previously worked in graphic design, and we are delighted to be able to make use of his talents in the development of a new resources for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Kieran will also be promoting the on-going development of the "family catechesis" model which we hope has begun to bear fruit across the Diocese since its



implementation in conjunction with the new Confirmation resource introduced last year. In this work, he will be supported by **Breda Theakston**, who has considerable experience in working with families throughout the Diocese.

The Bishops' Conference has declared that next year will be set aside as a time to appreciate the riches of Scripture and "The God Who Speaks" through them. Whilst this might seem a long time away, we are currently planning talks, events and other initiatives to help our congregations come to a better understanding of the Bible and the God who is the author of it and of all Creation. Perhaps prospectively, you might consider new ways in which you can integrate the witness of Scripture more fully into your own presentation of the faith, and into parish life more generally.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon at our Catechists' Day at Hinsley Hall on March 9<sup>th</sup> (see below), and to sharing plans and ideas to help ourselves and others unearth the "boundless riches" of Christ.

**Canon Timothy Swinglehurst**,  
*Episcopal Vicar for Education*

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## A Brief Introduction from your Diocesan Team

As Diocesan Co-ordinators for Catechesis and Parenting, we're keen to introduce ourselves to those of you involved in forming the faith of both children and adults within our Diocese. We'd like to start by thanking you for your service to Christ in passing on His gospel, which many of you have done for several years. More recently, we have started working for the Diocese to examine the ways in which the gift of faith can be best passed on.

We're eager to hear from you about the challenges and opportunities

involved in catechesis, and to offer our own support where we can. This year, we hope to develop fresh ideas for faith formation, including the development of a new First Communion Resource.

But as catechists, you know better than we do what is effective in your parish. To start a conversation about how catechesis can best be delivered in our Diocese, we'd like to welcome you to a meeting at Hinsley Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March (10am-1pm), where we'll be delighted to meet many of you in person for the first

time. Unfortunately, we currently lack contact details for many catechists, so please get in touch with us, even if you are unable to attend. If you know of others involved in giving catechesis within your parish (including clergy), please also ask them to get in touch.

**Gregory Stacey**, **Kieran Hughes** (*Co-ordinators for Catechesis*) and **Breda Theakston** (*Parenting Co-ordinator*).

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# The First in My Heart

At Mass recently the priest told a story. He was describing a journey by bus, and how as this journey unfolded he noticed how active God is in the tiny details of life. This journey was fairly ordinary, but journeys provide a rich context for storytelling. Journeys form the basis of the best stories: big stories of redemption. The journey often reforms a character. It often challenges them with the unexpected and large losses along the way. Nevertheless, things can flourish and blossom. There are the great biblical journeys spanning vast distances, and the biblical journeys of faith and discovery. Life consists of getting from one place to another literally or symbolically. And the journey of faith is perhaps the greatest and the most important of these. On this short bus journey Father described a scene: someone was helping; someone was smiling despite their circumstances and pain; someone was watching and witnessing and all going on in the ordinariness of life. He began this story by admitting that he doesn't always realise that God is with him all the time. And in this scene, God's love was unfolding in different ways. It helped me think, too, about how so often I forget that God is right by my side all of the time. I realise that when things are not going so well I tend to be much more needing of God ... I sense a move closer to Him during those times. I would say, when I am touched by God in all the many ways that this can happen, I feel something in my heart! It's widely accepted that the heart feels emotions. And so perhaps it is there that we have a sense of our faith; and where we might feel it most. And speaking to our young catechumens, I'm sure it is the language of the heart that is most effective. The difficulty can be finding how to present the heart stuff, to even really know how to explain it. We all know that 'loving' and 'kindness' is a major part of that. At this point, I should say that there are many ways of presenting our faith. Teaching has to be age-appropriate so the approach might be intellectual for a few. When I remember my grandmother, her faith, her kindness, her unconditional love stands out after all these years. The picture of her is crystal clear. This was meeting Christ in the ordinariness of life ... and yet, she was extraordinary and her love is enduring. It has often been said that our grandparents can have a great influence in passing on faith. We trust them. We cherish them. They are the best catechists when they have a faith to share. Their journey has been long and hard; being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though our faith is more precious than gold!



Knowing the importance of faith, we must do our utmost to let it grow, finding ways to feed and nourish our own. Then we will be in better shape to pass it on to others. For most, life's journey is long. I'm sure God has plans to show his love at various stages of our lives; but we should always be ready to show this love in all its forms. Faith, like love, lives in the heart. Our intellectual need to understand and debate is beyond dispute, but practicing love and following the example of Christ's life forms the essence of our faith. And when we clearly present this as the best way to live, we give our children and students something of great value for the journey.

The first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (12: 4-11) describes how the Spirit gives us different gifts for various acts of service. The Spirit gives each person something unique: every catechist, reader, server and welcomer has been commissioned and energised by the Spirit. He is our Consoler, our Helper, and a powerful Advocate in our work.

As catechists, I'm sure we all have a sense that we are being helped along despite our own weaknesses and frailties, and that the right words can escape us at times. Yet we can be confident that the Spirit speaks and breathes through us when the important time comes.

By having the forthcoming day for catechists we hope we can provide an opportunity for discussion and support. As well as sharing our experiences, there will be an opportunity to establish how best catechists can be supported by the diocese; we would like you to take a lead in how best we might achieve this. What resources can we provide to help you? Together, we can plan workshops, visiting speakers and future events where we can all come together to build on our experiences and find new ways of passing on our great faith.

*... you, and you only, the first in my heart.*

**Kieran Hughes**

## Behold, I am making all things new! (Rev.21:5)

### ***A catechist describes his new work leading RCIA in a Parish***

At the close of last year's course, I was asked by Carol Daley who had been leading it for the past 12 years if I would like to volunteer to 'head-up' the course in the future as she felt it was time for her, sadly, to retire. Following some reflection and prayer I decided to accept the challenge, especially when our parish priest (Fr. Patrick Wall) indicated that there were 3 or 4 people who had voiced their interest in R.C.I.A and that something needed to happen.

I am grateful to Mary Wilkinson who has been part of Carol's team for all of those years, in supporting me and continuing to teach the new course. I felt that it was important to get off to a speedy start. Although Easter is very late this year and there is plenty of time to fit in a 12-week course, we started the course towards the end of November and had three good

sessions before the Christmas break.

The first meeting was conducted on an informal information evening basis and we had three enquirers attend.

Fr. Wall also attended the meeting, and we included prayers and some teaching to give a flavour of how the instruction would feel during the course. As a subject I chose the Lord's Prayer, as it is widely known. We looked at each line of the prayer individually, and then discussed and meditated as a group upon any feeling or thoughts which arose. Interestingly, all the enquirers had something meaningful to say, and the meeting went well. Everyone received a print out of the prayer with space for them to write their own thoughts under each line. Their homework was to make sure that it is memorised!

In the following two meetings, our overall theme was based around a journey. We examined the journeys of Abraham and Moses in the second

meeting, and the journey of Mary and Joseph in the third (3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent). In each meeting we have also studied a new Catholic prayer or devotion. So far, we have covered the 'Glory Be' and the 'Hail Mary'; the latter fits perfectly with Advent and the Nativity story. I have had some good feedback about the course so far from two of our enquirers, and I have confirmed another lady onto the course which starts again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. I am so pleased that two of the enquirers have started coming to mass on a Sunday and I try to make sure that I accompany them and (in a whisper) explain a bit about what is going on, and when to sit, stand and kneel etc.

To share the joy of the gospel with others who are called by the Holy Spirit is a wonderful privilege and a blessing. It is great to be helping others to answer their calling to follow Jesus Christ.

**Michael Clayton**  
*RCIA Catechist,*  
*John Henry Newman Parish.*

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## Faith in Action

### A new initiative

I often hear catechists, parents and other lament the lack of young people in our parish communities. Time and again, we find that the many of the young people we lovingly prepare for the sacraments, are seldom seen at church activities again. CYMFed (The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) were not blind to this situation and sought to develop an award scheme that would engage young people in the life of the church from the end of their primary school years through their high school years. Several dioceses and organisations worked together to create a Catholic award scheme called Faith in Action.

Bishop Ralph Heskett, Liaison bishop for young people, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, says in the foreword to the Leader's guide *"It allows youth ministers in the Church to celebrate, recognise and reward all that active young people of faith already give to the Church. It also challenges young people to do more to form themselves, deepen their relationship with God and change the world in which they live."*

Faith in Action National Catholic Award Scheme recognises the achievements of young people as

they live their faith, serve their communities and grow in understanding of God's love.

In the Diocese of Leeds, we have developed an adapted version of the award to best serve our young people and it forms an important part of our youth service provision. This scheme provides opportunities for our young people to be involved in on-going formation and catechesis as they move through their secondary education. The introduction of the first level to coincide with Confirmation preparation at the end of primary school will, we hope, become a stepping stone for their continuing involvement in the Christian life.

Earning credits for participating, engaging and leading Prayer, Parish Practice, Pilgrimage and Procession and Social Action, young people reflect on their actions by using Scripture, YouCat and the lives of the saints. It's currently being piloted in 8 settings around the Diocese of Leeds and the feedback is really positive so far. After a review and revisions, the scheme has been launched across the Diocese of Leeds and 50 parishes and schools are signed up already! For further information, please email:

[jessica.wilkinson@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jessica.wilkinson@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

# Empowered by the Spirit

## A first-time catechist's perspective on the new resource.

*'Is the Holy Spirit like Santa?'*

*'Is Jesus like the body and are we like little hairs attached to it?'*

*'If I have eternal life, will I come back down to earth again as someone else?'*

If you'd have told me just over a year ago that I'd be leading our parish's confirmation programme and attempting to answer questions like these from a large group of children aged between 10 and 14, I would never have believed you in a million years!

When I was initially asked to run the confirmation course back in December 2018 with Claire Speed from my parish, I felt unqualified and rather overwhelmed. Thoughts of my own confirmation experience 35 years ago in Liverpool led by the wonderful parishioner Pat McCoy came to mind. During those weeks of my confirmation preparation, I remember vividly sitting in Pat's living room, talking, listening, sharing, and praying with a group of friends over cups of tea and biscuits. I looked forward to those warm nights in her house, filled with her faith and wisdom. I welcomed the spiritual nourishment and switching off from all the worries of being a teenager. It was a precious time when Pat helped open our hearts to let the Holy Spirit in and ignite a flame of faith in preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation. I'm so grateful that the flame still flickers today.

So how could I possibly live up to that and help lead a much larger group of 30+ young adults in my own parish? It would be a big commitment logistically (working around family and work commitments) and spiritually (I'd have to quickly get my head round new confirmation programme 'Empowered by the Spirit' which had not yet been launched). I felt anxious about preparing children for such an important sacrament, guiding them to deepen their relationship with Christ and be integrated more fully in the life of the church. And the responsibility was personal too; my own son was down to be confirmed in this group.

Thankfully, I had an ally in fellow catechist Claire Speed, a competent teacher, and over cups of coffee, we chatted and encouraged each other that we could take on this crucial role and the work it entailed. We also prayed we could generate more help from other parents. Soon we were a team working towards the tight deadline which lay ahead of us.

For my own preparation, I welcomed the chance to attend the catechist training course.

It was a pause for thought for me and a chance to learn from experienced catechists, share stories and gain some invaluable advice.

Everyone on this course was so encouraging and non-judgemental that it filled me with more confidence for my catechetical journey ahead. I learnt more about the content of the confirmation course and about the benefits of family catechesis.

I spent around two weeks, fact-finding each day, surfing the web for enlightenment and of course reading and re-reading the course material. I sketched out a rough timetable for the sessions with the support of the other parents who all volunteered their time and interest. The confirmation packs had still not been printed and would only be ready a few days before our preparation classes were due to begin. But I was grateful to receive advanced copy via email in order to be able to meet with parents and share information about the new programme. It was all a bit nerve-wracking but the Spirit seemed to be moving everything in the right direction!

With little time to prepare and still unsure of what to expect, we decided that our parish's approach would be a conventional one: using the new material we chose to run the sessions in the church with five parent catechists leading 'groups' which we named Joyful, Faithful, Peaceful and Gentle. Three of these parents had children who were being confirmed and we were grateful that two were dads who willingly gave up their time. We felt their presence was important for a gender and role-model balance. We had a lot to sort out in the lead-up before the sessions began and I'd warn anyone that preparation is the key. This isn't a programme that you can 'wing' at the last minute. Everyone involved needs lots of notice of what is to come and when it's taking place so they can plan ahead in diaries and be fully committed. There was safeguarding to deal with; as catechists, there were DBS checks to make; and we needed enrolment forms to distribute so as to check for baptism records, medical or educational needs, emergency contact numbers. It was a steep learning curve and – pardon the pun - a 'baptism of fire'.

Having looked carefully at all the material in 'Empowered by the Spirit' we chose to carefully condense the sessions taking place in church down to just eight. We extended the length of each session to one hour and a half, encouraging families to fill in the gaps at home with material such as Gift of Faith handed on, Gift of Service at home. We re-jigged our initial sessions beginning with Gift of the Father, Gift of the Son, Gift of the Holy Spirit (x2) and then going on to explore other areas, including the Church and the Eucharist. We also relied on candidates to spend time doing valuable homework looking at the handouts, reading about the lives of the Saints and praying at home.

We made a tree to stick the fruits of the Holy Spirit on each week and had discussions on them nearly every week.

I sourced a projector and began choosing video material to help bring the written material alive to our group Year 7s and Year 8s (an older cohort to the one for which the material was intended) and capture their spiritual imagination.

These featured some ODB films - Mother Teresa on the Beginning of Holiness, 'The Creed – don't be robot' to thoughts and insights on Confirmation from Bishop Robert Barron. These proved popular and brought energy and pace to the sessions. I liked the fact that we could forward the links of the films so children could also watch them at home. The videos certainly worked for us – but they aren't essential.

Our parish priest Monsignor Heskin gave us free reign and was warm with his hospitality. He welcomed the groups each week often staying to watch their presentations on the altar or sneak a look at the videos. The atmosphere was a very friendly one – with Monsignor delighted to see the church 'come alive' with the children interacting and filling the church with their chatting and praying. Nothing was too much trouble and it made an enormous difference having his support and thanks. We were even able to have Benediction and the Sacrament of Reconciliation woven into a couple of our sessions thanks to his kindness. Sessions ran on Wednesdays and Saturdays evenings, giving flexibility to any commitments (catechists and candidates). We hoped for and stressed good attendance. In the end it was a mixed bag. Some candidates were diligent, others were less so and missed several sessions.



We had also hoped more candidates would stay on as a group and go to Mass on Saturday evening after the Saturday sessions – but it didn't happen.

But has the experience been transformational? Definitely, yes. I have been blessed to be immersed in the confirmation material and am currently leading the programme for the second time with the same parent catechists. We have all been happy to make the commitment all over again. That speaks volumes.

Each week, I get to spend time focussed on my faith and I learn so much from the children. They lead the way with their questions and their thoughts and feelings on the scripture passages spark discussions which are unpredictable, sometimes challenging but always enjoyable. Favourite stories from the New Testament are referred to week in, week out – the Parable of the Mustard Seed, The Good Samaritan, the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, The Prodigal Son. I am touched by their enthusiasm, curiosity and openness 'God's Kingdom is for everyone not just Catholics' 'We are all Saints because we have the Gifts of the Holy Spirit working in us' And whether they are presenting their thoughts on topics such as 'being a peacemaker or being a peacekeeper' or 'what it is to belong to the church' we, the catechists are constantly touched by their thought-provoking presentations.

Being asked to be a catechist has been a blessing and I hope that as we roll out the 'Empowered by the Spirit' confirmation programme and ask more parents to accompany their children to the sessions, families will view the opportunity in a similar way.

May the Holy Spirit guide our confirmation candidates, families and catechists and give us courage to grow in God's love, responding to His call with faith, joy and gratitude.

**Marcia Nattress**  
Catechist, Sacred Heart Parish, Ilkley

# ‘Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children...’ (Deut. 6:6-7)

Those of us who have families to raise may feel a little apprehensive when we realise the importance the Church gives to families in their role in faith formation. The Church, with all the strength and tenderness of a mother, a father, a grandparent, ‘holds’ us with just the right amount of gentleness and firmness as we each make our unique journey through the joys and sorrows of life. Yet the family is, in a very real sense, the very first ‘church’ to which we belong and where we are held in love.

The Church recognises our foundations in family life, teaching that family is the primary place of education in all things, including faith, and that parents are the ‘first heralds of the Gospel’. This is so because family relationships reflect, however imperfectly, God’s creative and complete love. Home really is a holy place! When we first hear this most people’s reaction tends to be ‘not my family!’ Yet the Church upholds the essential holiness of family life despite our own experience of family being at times messy and disjointed. It is in the middle of the difficulties of real life that we find God, with us, always. The task of adults in families is to practice, as Mary did, having a listening heart so that we can know that God *is* here with us in all the joys and sorrows of our ordinary lives.

Pope Francis always puts the family centre stage and does so using the ordinary language and behaviours of family life: saying ‘please, thank you and sorry’; getting down on the floor to play with our children because ‘all the virtues can be passed on through play’.

So families are already playing their part, even if they do not recognise it. These are the things that we bear in mind as we develop a new family-centred approach to sacramental preparation.

Called Family Catechesis, it is designed to be parish based but flexible and invites parents and children to work together through our new Diocesan resources as they prepare for the Sacraments. A recent study on faith schools seems to suggest that it is the faith of the family that is the key determinant of children’s ongoing practice of faith.

Our Catholic schools and Youth Ministry are already giving our children and young people a fantastic experience of faith in the wider community.

Now we are celebrating the importance of families by offering this new opportunity for families to discover and to enjoy growing the faith they already share in their ordinary yet extraordinary family life and love.

We can also continue to support parishes and schools wishing to develop family life via easy to access resources like Home is a Holy Place, Counting Our Blessings and various relationship education courses.

The accompanying illustration speaks very well to our task as parents. By Simone Martini (13<sup>th</sup> century) *Christ Discovered in The Temple* (at The Walker Gallery Liverpool) shows that moment after discovery when Mary and Joseph must still have been feeling fairly raw about Jesus going missing. What is happening in this scene? What do you think each person in this Holy family might be thinking?

**Breda Theakston** (*Parenting Co-ordinator*)



# Book Review

In *A Handbook for Catechists*, Hannah Vaughn-Spruce delivers a brief but inspiring message of encouragement to those involved in passing on the Catholic faith. The *Handbook* offers a combination of theological background to catechesis and practical explanations of what catechists most need to teach, and how they can best introduce catechumens into a loving relationship with Christ.

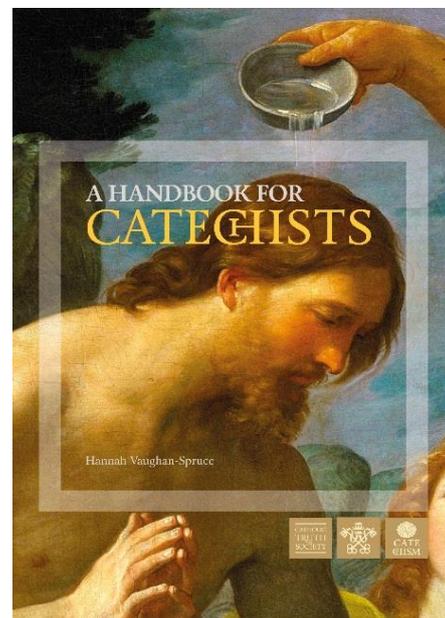
Evangelisation is a practical and personal activity, so guides to catechesis can sometimes feel like complex theological discussions which stress the importance of teaching faith without giving the reader much concrete help to achieve that goal. By contrast, *A Handbook for Catechists* encourages the reader to engage in realistic reflection on how she might implement the vision for catechesis which Vaughn-Spruce lays out. This is achieved through frequent opportunities for journaling, prayer and reflection throughout the chapters, which are each clearly re-capped.

Particularly captivating are the many illustrations of real-life scenarios (both anecdotal and fictional) to which the reader is encouraged to imaginatively respond. These stand out most clearly in Part I of the *Handbook*, where Vaughn-Spruce gives a clear summary of the gospel proclamation as an amazing declaration of God's love for us in Christ, and the crucial vocation of a catechist in announcing this good news to others.

Notably, Vaughn-Spruce draws on the work of Sherry Waddell to explain the different stages or "thresholds" of conversion through which an enquirer may pass. As Vaughn-Spruce stresses, it is crucial for catechists to be aware that converts will require at different stages in their journeys. For example, someone with little experience of Christianity will first need to hear the gospel proclamation of God's love for her in Christ (cf. below). By contrast, those with difficult family backgrounds may need a more personal assurance that God's mercy can be found in the Church (even, in the confessional), and those from different Christian traditions might need help to engage fruitfully with new ways of encountering God through sacramental liturgy.

Vaughn-Spruce also lays out a clear vision for the essential teaching points that should be covered by catechesis. In Parts II and III of the *Handbook*, she explain which central doctrines ("five foundational truths") need to be taught, and offers detailed guidance as to how sessions can be structured to best convey even apparently demanding and abstract doctrines such as the Trinity. At the end of the book, catechists might find the list of recommended teaching resources helpful, together with an evaluation tool to ensure that an RCIA or similar programme achieves a comprehensive presentation of the faith. Personally, I am currently making use of this tool when examining which programmes the Diocese can most fruitfully recommend to catechists teaching RCIA, but catechists may also wish to use the tool to enhance their own teaching materials.

Perhaps most importantly, Vaughn-Spruce emphasises the importance of announcing the gospel's core message of salvation (*kerygma*) at the beginning of catechesis, and then re-emphasising the connection between this message and the more detailed explanation of particular doctrines as they are introduced. The fundamental task of a catechist is, in the words of *Catechesi Tradendae* (5) "to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ". Yet this should be grounded in an explicit awareness of his offer of salvation as



proclaimed in the *kerygma*. Although in a busy and sceptical world it might seem naïve to focus our efforts on proclaiming the *truth* of the story of our salvation, Vaughn-Spruce makes a persuasive case that those who are gripped by this story will be moved to enter the relationship with Christ which is at the centre of our faith.

In short, I would thoroughly recommend *A Handbook for Catechists* as both a useful reminder of what should be at the heart of our efforts to hand on the faith and as a powerful inspiration to evangelise.

Hannah Vaughn-Spruce, *A Handbook for Catechists* (London: CTS, 2018) Paperback, £9.95

Gregory Stacey,  
Co-ordinator for Catechesis (Adult Formation and Research)

**Day for Catechists**  
Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX

Hinsley Hall  
Saturday, March 9, 2019  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Catechesis. Guiding faith.**

An opportunity for catechists to come together and meet the Diocesan team: Kieran Hughes, Gregory Stacey and Breda Theakston. Also we will share ideas, resources and continue sharing experiences of Family Catechesis.

Please contact us if you are interested in attending the event: [gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:gregory.stacey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

The Diocese of Leeds

Issue 1  
February 2019

**Catechists'Quarterly**

- Family Catechesis
- Baptism
- Faith stories
- Confirmation
- Grandparents
- The Mass
- RCIA
- Marriage and Faith

**Feedback**  
Diocese of Leeds

write something for our next issue

Tell us what you think