

“If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things.



This requires study and prayer.

The children will be our teachers if we know how to observe them.”

*Sofia Cavalletti*

*Founder Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*



### Register online

<https://cgsaust.org.au/events-calendar/>

### or use this form

Participant cost for this 6.5-day course is \$400 payable via direct deposit, details below. It is possible to pay \$240 for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend and remainder to be paid once future 2022 dates decided. Register by Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

Name:		
Address:		
Suburb:		
Postcode/State:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Religious Affiliation:		
Experience/Qualification in Children’s Religious Formation <i>(please indicate any applicable)</i>		
Classroom Teacher	Early Childhood Educator	Montessori trained
Parent	Grandparent	Catechist

### Payment Options – please enter details

<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Deposit	Account Name: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Canberra BSB: 062 786 Acct Number: 000 0252 79 Reference: your surname and “Training”.
	<b>Direct Deposit Details</b>
Date	
Amount	
Reference (SURNAME)	

**Please return brochure and any further enquiries:**  
Via email: [canberraatrium@gmail.com](mailto:canberraatrium@gmail.com) or contact Camille Corson M: 0402 201 251 or Anna Abraham M:0468 351 839

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



## Adult Formation Course

For those working with Children aged 3 to 12 years

Level One, Part 1 (6.5 days)  
First Weekend 26-28 Nov 2021

Our Lady of the Annunciation  
Atrium  
Canberra

Additional 4 days TBA 2022  
National course id# 1-230

## Introduction

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Christian formation process for children between the ages of 3 and 12 years. The central aim of this faith formation program is to enable the child to experience and form an authentic relationship with God.

The Catechesis is grounded in scripture and the liturgy of the church, then framed by Montessori principles of education. This allows children to hear the Gospels through the use of sensorial rich materials. The children are free to work with these materials that represent essential proclamations of the Christian message.



The adult's task is to prepare the sacred space for the children called the Atrium, so that they can respond to this relationship, first proclaimed to them through the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

The Atrium is a place of community and worship rather than a place of academic study. It is a place to be with and enjoy God, listen to the Word and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of creation and God's abiding love.

The vision for this faith formation began in 1954 with Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and scripture scholar and member of the Vatican Commission for Jewish Christian relations and her colleague, Professor Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori Educator.

Dr. Cavalletti began her work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with young children in Rome, Italy. She found that in working with children in this way, whatever their culture, they have vital religious needs, and they respond in similar ways to the most essential elements of the Christian message.

Children desire to be near to God but need the sensitive guidance of the adult as well as the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship.

Today, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has grown and spread amazingly. At last count, CGS is present in 39 different countries around the world.

## Course Description and Aims

Level One, Part 1 (6.5 days). This course is the foundational course for all three age levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and aims to:

- To explore with participants the general developmental characteristics, religious nature, and religious needs of 3- to 12-year-olds with special attention to the child aged 3-6.
- To offer guidelines and assistance to catechists in setting up an atrium for 3- to 6-year-old children, preparing presentations, album pages and making materials.
- To meditate on the Biblical and Liturgical themes of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This method was first developed by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Professor Gianna Gobbi in Rome, Italy and has been used now for over sixty years in various places throughout the world.
- To experience being formed as catechists by the Word of God and deepening our ability to observe and learn from the children the joy of the Gospel!

## Course Details

**This weekend is the solid foundation of the full Level 1, Part 1 course.** Participants who complete Level I Part I, will be able to continue onto part 2 and finish the 3-6 formation.

The Level 2 Course focuses on children aged 6-9

The Level 3 Course focuses on children aged 9-12.

## Course Dates 2021

Weekend: 26-28 Nov

Frid 7-830pm

Sat 9-5pm

Sun 9-5pm

Remaining 4 days TBA for 2022

**Cost:** \$400 full 6.5 days  
\$240 is possible for first weekend with remainder paid when remaining days are set for 2022

## Course Venue

Our Lady of the Annunciation Atrium  
St John Vianney's Primary School,  
91 Namatjira Drive Waramanga, ACT.

## What to Expect from the Course

The Level 1 training offers a personal retreat like experience as well as providing participants with the necessary background to set up a prepared environment and begin working with 3–6-year-old children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The course covers the pedagogy, history, philosophy, theology, liturgy, and practical working with and making materials for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Although designed for training catechists, this course is an opportunity for personal faith formation and enrichment, and an opportunity to deepen your understanding of the spiritual, physical, and emotional development of children.

The course will be in person in the Atrium. The course facilitator will be Camille Corson who has years of experience working with this method in our Archdiocese along with the support of the local team, Brigid Marsden and Anna Abraham (originally trained and experienced from SA and NZ). Our nationally accredited formation leaders will be present by zoom - Marie Fernandez (Perth) and Julie Zaar (Melb.).

**Please Bring:** your bible, a notebook, paper, pens, **charged** laptop, and camera (if you wish), but please no video devices; Tea and coffee and morning/afternoon tea will be provided.

## Expectations of Participants

Suggested reading:

- The Religious Potential of the Child
- The Good Shepherd and the Child: *A Joyful Journey*
- *Listening to God with Children*

These publications are available from the local Canberra atrium (buy or loan) or the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd online.

*Participants who complete Level 1 Part 1 will receive a certificate from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is an internationally recognised Certificate.*