

**0-3 Formation Part 1 will focus on the central themes of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and how they are proclaimed in the most essential way to the youngest among us (6 weeks to 18 Months) as we pray with Maria Montessori:**

*“Help us, O God, to enter into the secret of Childhood, so that we might know, love, and serve the child, according to thy justice and according to thy Holy Will.” (Quote from The Secret of Childhood)*

**0-3 Part 1 Formation. Brisbane January 8-13 2023 Details:**

Location : Jubilee Atrium, 333 Given Tce , Paddington, 4064

Times: Jan 8th 1.30pm – 4.00 pm  
Jan 9th –13th 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Tea, Herbal Teas, Coffee, refreshments provided. BYO Lunch.

A few billets may be available, but if possible please arrange for your own accommodation and transport.

Maximum Number of Participants 12.

It will be helpful if you have your own copies of the Core Texts -  
“Understanding the Human Being” Silvana Montanaro  
“The Joyful Child” Susan Mayclin Stephenson  
Both are available through the online shop at [cgsaust.org.au](http://cgsaust.org.au)

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**REGISTRATION:** Please send to Mary Hare, Jubilee Atrium, 333 Given Tce, Paddington, 4064

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ MOB \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have CGS Formation ?  
Levels \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$400  
Please make Payment by Direct debit to:  
Mary Hare CBA BSB 064 174 Acc No. 00611969



**The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
(Australia)  
Invites you to our Seminal  
Formation Course for 0-3 Atrium  
Infants and Toddlers**

Part 1 Jan 8-13 2023

Part 2 2024 Dates tba



**How lovely is thy dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!  
My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for  
herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O LORD  
of hosts, my King and my God.**

**Blessed are those who dwell in thy house,  
ever singing thy praise!  
Psalm 84:1-4**

# The Child's First Environment is God.



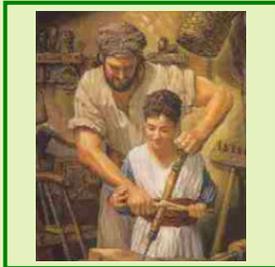
## THE WOMB

The womb is the sacred prepared environment of the mother's body, the environment of creation wherein the child finds everything he needs. It is here the child first encounters darkness and light, sound and music, taste and aroma and the sensation of being surrounded by the elements of love.

When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary the babe leaped in her womb.  
Luke 1:41



For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb.  
Psalm 139:13



## THE HOME

The home is the environment of the family in which the child's moral development is formed by the love and care he receives from his parents, family and community. It is the place to explore the joys of creation in daily living

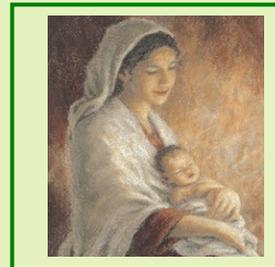
I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named . . . that you, being rooted and grounded in love . . . may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14, 17b, 19b



The child has a different relationship to the environment . . . he absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul.

The Absorbent Mind  
Maria Montessori



## MUM & ME/TODDLER ATRIUM

"Mum & Me" 6 weeks—18 months is time in a prepared environment for the child to explore, and the parent to grow in observation skills and interactions with her child, aided by a trained catechist or directress.

"Toddler Atrium" 18 months—3 years is a prepared environment in which the youngest child's spiritual life is fed by prayer, work and celebration aided by a catechist and observed by the parent.

Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.  
Luke 2:19



To "enter into the secret of childhood" requires of us, as adults, both a willing spirit and a particular discipline.

Listening to God with Children  
Gianna Gobbi

- Already we know that the atrium is the place where the mystery of God meets the mystery of the child ~ could we not say that it is the place they meet again?
- For we must ask if there was ever a time when the Creator was not in love with His creature and the creature was not touched by His love, sustained and formed by it, called into being by love himself?
- Who is this child that floods her mother's womb with warmth at Christ's very name? Who is this who jumps and wriggles as he recognises his favourite chant?
- Infant Toddler Catechesis is an exploration of the youngest child's spirituality springing from the discovery of the child's nature and religious potential revealed by the children themselves to Maria Montessori, Sofia Cavalletti, Gianna Gobbi, and Silvana Montanaro along with those around the world who continue to listen and observe the child in God's light.

## The Formation Leaders



**Mary Hare** is a pioneer of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in Australia. She is a Formation Leader who has worked Internationally at Levels 1, 2 & 3 for 26 years and represents CGSAUST on the International Council. Mary attended the first international course for Infant /Toddler Atrium in 2016/2017 given in Caldey Is and Cardiff, Wales and has been working to develop this new Atrium Level in Brisbane, Qld in consultation with other local catechists both in Australia



**Bernadette McAndrew** is a Catechist of the Good Shepherd who has been working at Levels 1,2 & 3 in Ipswich since 2000. She attended the Infant /Toddler course in Scottsdale, Arizona in 2018 and has been working with children and parents in this new level since that time. Bernadette is currently completing her training as a Formation Leader through CGSAUST and looks forward to spending many more years delighting in the awe and wonder of God's work through the many children who answer the call of the Good Shepherd.



Assisting Mary and Bernadette will be **Karen Brennan** who has been a Catechist with the Ipswich atrium since its inception. Karen attended the Infant Toddler course in Scottsdale in 2018. She has recently retired and is devoting much of her time to developing the 0-3 atrium with Bernadette.