

Registration Details

Participant cost for this course is **\$400.00** payable to Angela Hague. **To confirm your place**, please complete registration details via the following link or use this form and make payment by **Tuesday 30 September 2025**.

<https://forms.gle/M4pU3416nEUZ4teN9>

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

☐ Direct Deposit Date Reference	Account Name: Angela Therese Hague BSB: 082254 Acct Number: 421719400 Direct Deposit Details

Please return form details:

Via email: old.childrens.atrium@gmail.com

Via post: Angela Hague

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church
PO Box 1446, Chatswood, NSW 2057

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 sensorially 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 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.

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

Children desire to draw 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 can be found in several Christian traditions throughout the world.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



A Formation Experience for adults working with 3 to 6 year old children Level One: Part One (7 Days) Sydney – 2025

National Course ID: 1-290

Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 October
& Fridays 7, 14 and 28 November

From 9am until 5pm each day

Course Description and Aims

The Level One Formation Course is the foundation course for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. The aims of the course are:

- To explore with participants the general developmental characteristics, religious nature and religious needs of the 3 to 6 year old child.
- 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 fifty years in various places throughout the world.
- To offer guidelines and assistance to catechists in setting up an atrium for the 3 to 6 year old child, preparing presentation album pages and making materials.
- 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 course is Part One of the full Level One Course and consists of 48 hours of formation which will be offered over seven days.

Part Two will be offered at a later date and consists of a further 48 hours of formation.

Course Dates

Tuesday 7 October 2025	9am until 5pm
Wednesday 8 October 2025	9am until 5pm
Thursday 9 October 2025	9am until 5pm
Friday 10 October 2025	9am until 5pm
Friday 7 November 2025	9am until 5pm
Friday 14 November 2025	9am until 5pm
Friday 28 November 2025	9am until 5pm

Course Venue

Our Lady of Dolour's Children's Atrium
Corner of Kirk and Archer Sts,
Chatswood NSW 2067

About the Formation Leader – Angela Hague



Angela is the Co-Ordinator of Our Lady of Dolours Children's Atrium in Chatswood. She is a member of the National Association of the Catechesis of the

Good Shepherd and has been involved in this work since November 2001. Angela began the first Catholic Atrium in Sydney in May 2005.

Angela has been involved in all Formation Courses held in Sydney since 2007 and is a member of the core formation team in Australia. At present Angela runs 3 sessions per week for 3-6, 6-9 and 9-12 year old children.

Expectations of Participants

- To have read or be reading
 - *The Religious Potential of the Child*
 - *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*
 - *Nurturing the Whole Child*
- To attend all sessions for maximum benefit.

These publications are available from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and online. Borrow copies will be available at the course.

Participants who attend all sessions will receive a certificate from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

For further information contact:

Angela Hague: 0411 441 289
Email: old.childrens.atrium@gmail.com

“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

