

Registration Form

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation experience is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Hobart to form catechists for the Archdiocese. As such, this introductory program is provided **free of charge** to parishioners of the Archdiocese of Hobart. Other participants from outside the Archdiocese of Hobart are welcome to register and must pay the **registration fee of \$400** before the start of the course.

To confirm your place, please send completed registration details by **Monday, 12th January 2026**.

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 Details

Bank: CBA
BSB: 067-000
Account No.: 1032 0689
Reference: CGS [plus your surname]

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 using 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.

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.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



A Faith Formation
Experience for adults
working with
children aged 3 - 6 years

Level One: Part Two
Lindisfarne, TAS - 2026

Saturday 17th – Tuesday 20th January 2026
Plus, another 3 days, dates TBC

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. It aims to:

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

Course Dates & Times 2026

Saturday 17 th January	9.00am-5.00pm
Sunday 18 th January	9.00am-5.00pm
Monday 19 th January	9.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday 20 th January	9.00am-3.00pm

To complete this Level One Part Two formation, participants will need to register for the last three days which will be offered later in 2026 at no additional cost.

Course Venue

Lindisfarne Pastoral Centre
3 Bay Road, Lindisfarne TAS

What to Expect from the Course

This 48 hour formation course is a personal retreat 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 development of children in this age group.

Kathy Menzies and Julia Zaar will be the facilitators of this course. Both have more than twenty years of experience working with this method and have completed formation at all three levels in this work. They are recognised nationally as formation leaders for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Bring along your bible, a notebook, paper, pens, **charged** laptop, and camera (if you wish), but please no video devices.

Please bring your own lunch and snacks (there is a microwave available). Tea and coffee will be provided.

Expectations of Participants

Suggested reading:

- *The Religious Potential of the Child*
- *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*
- *Nurturing the Whole Child: Montessori Principles Applied to the Catechesis of Children*

These publications are available from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and online. It is suggested that participants have their own copy of each book at the course and attend all seven days.

Participants who attend all sessions will receive a certificate from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is an internationally recognised Certificate.

For further information contact:

Dr. Christine Wood, Archdiocese of Hobart
Ph.: 03 6208-6236

“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

