

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY KIT

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catechist with a special
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WHAT IS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY?

Catechetical Sunday began as an opportunity for catechists, parents and guardians to recommit themselves to the mission of catechesis, and to celebrate and affirm in them this great vocation, as a community of faith. The celebration of Catechetical Sunday came as a response to a document produced by the Vatican, all the way back in 1935 – *“On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education”*. In this document was a call for the worldwide Church to not only acknowledge the importance of this teaching ministry, but to also honour our catechists, who serve the Christian community.

WHEN IS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2021?

This year, Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated on 31 January 2021!

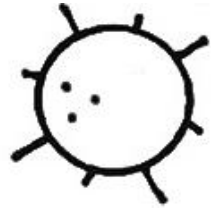
WHAT IS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR?

This year’s theme is “Parish Communities: Agents of Faith, Hope & Love”. You are invited to reflect more deeply on this theme by reading the Catechetical Sunday Message, prepared by the Malaysian Catechetical Commission!

THIS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY KIT

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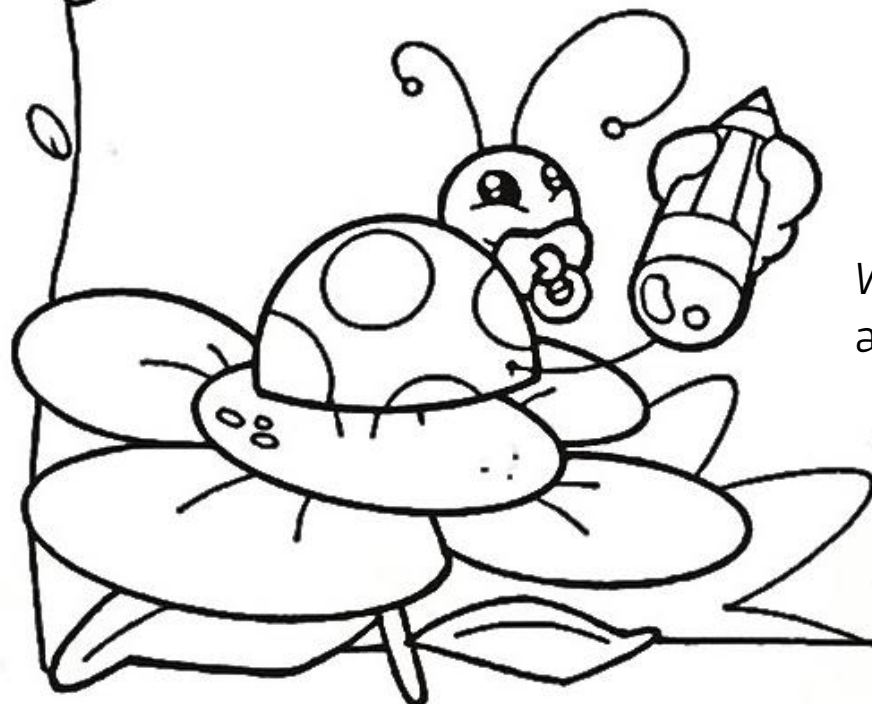
A Prayer for

(name of my catechist)

Thank you for your hard work,
for your faith,
and for your teaching.

I am grateful for all I have
learned through you.

I pray that God will give me the grace
to put my knowledge to use,
in building His Kingdom here on earth.



With appreciation
and love,

(my name)



Dear,

(name of my catechist)



Thank you for
being...

My Catechist!

With appreciation and love,

(my name)

APPRECIATING MY CATECHIST ON CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Choose 1 (or more) of the options below to show appreciation for your catechist !

1. Write a **prayer** for your catechist in your own words !

2. Recall a fond **memory** you had with your catechist !

3. Write a message of **encouragement** for your catechist !

4. Did you **learn** something you thought was especially important or special from your catechist? Share it with them !



With appreciation and love,

(your name)

6 WHOLESOME WAYS TO CELEBRATE CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

This year, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sunday, 31 January. Catechetical Sunday is a day where the Church comes together to recognize and celebrate the gift of our catechists, who volunteer their time and efforts to educate our children. Below you will find some ideas for celebrating Catechetical Sunday. Let us take this great opportunity to appreciate our catechists, as they once again recommit themselves to this good work!

1. SHARING A MEAL

As the COVID-19 pandemic is still a looming reality, gathering physically in groups would definitely not be the best idea. However, this is where the gift of online communication comes to save the day! As a catechism class or amongst catechists, share a meal together by gathering in an online video call. Enrichen the experience by sharing highlights and lowlights of the previous year, or experiences in your relationship with Jesus. You could also take it easy by simply sharing stories and laughter, using this time for fellowship and deepening relationships!



2. FOR YOUR CATECHIST

Are you a parent with a child attending catechism, or a priest of your parish? Why not show your appreciation for catechist/s by writing a message or a letter to them? This would not only be a great way to affirm them for their efforts, but it would also work to strengthen relationships between parties. For example, as a parish priest, you could write a message to the catechists of your parish to inspire and affirm them as they continue their faith journey. Your message would act to appreciate them on behalf of the diocese and their bishops and priests, strengthening ties between the clergy and the lay.



3. MASS CELEBRATION

Participate in Mass live online or in-person (depending on your location). This will be a great opportunity to pray for our catechists as they re-commit themselves to this noble vocation! You could even make it a point to put on your 'Sunday Best', so as to attune yourselves towards the sanctity of the Mass!



4. AS A PARISH

As a catechist, have you received any gifts from the children you catechize, such as cards, mugs, or drawings? How about sharing them by taking a photo of them and posting them on the parish website, or sharing them on the parishes social media pages? This is a great way to celebrate Catechetical Sunday, by developing our sense of community within the parish!

5. AS A FAMILY

Parents and guardians no doubt hold a tremendous responsibility when it comes to catechizing children; especially during these times where our catechism classes have now shifted online. Now, more than ever, families are encouraged to come together, and make faith development a priority. However, do not fear! There are many small things we can do as a family that don't require much time or effort at all! For example, families could start small by incorporating a short ritual into their families daily lives, such as sharing what they are grateful to God for, for that day! Experience for yourself how little acts such as these can transform the life of your family in Christ, today!



6. AS A PARISH PRIEST

All parishioners, including catechists, are under the pastoral care of the parish priest. The image of the Good Shepherd is often used to visualise this reality. Just as the shepherd ensures his sheep are cared for and nourished, so too is it the responsibility of the parish priest to ensure the catechists in their parish are cared for, and heard. For example, parish priests could establish a solid presence in the lives of catechists under their care, by joining meetings, or simply by checking in on them individually every now and then. Small actions such as these work to develop rapport between the clergy and the laity. The benefits of this strong network of support will reflect not only in the lives of catechists, but also in the children they catechize.



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