

Saint Elizabeth's Church



St Elizabeth of Portugal
The Vineyard
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<http://stelizabethschurch.org.uk/>

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Training Course
Level 1 : Part 2

18-23 July 2018

This course contains the second half of the Level 1 training and covers the presentations which are offered to 3-6 year olds in their second and third year in the atrium.

The course will be led by formation team Claudia Neves, Christine Byrne and Valérie Valentin

For more information on this method of children's formation, we recommend reading Sofia Cavalletti's book "The Religious Potential of the Child"

Context and History

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Christian education process for children aged 3-12 in which they experience and form an authentic, faithful relationship with God.

The Catechesis is grounded in scripture and liturgy framed by Montessori's principles of education. This allows children to hear the Gospel through the use of sensorially rich materials. The children are free to work with these materials that represent the essential proclamation 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 holy relationship, first proclaimed to them through Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The Atrium is a place of worship rather than a classroom for academic study. It is a place to be with and enjoy God, listen to the Word, and pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of creation and God's abiding love.

The vision for this Catechesis 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 trained educator. They discovered that children have vital religious needs and that they desire to draw near to God but need sensitive guidance of adults as well as the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Roman Catholic formation programme but may be adapted to other Christian denominations.

Course Description

The CGS Level 1 course is designed for anyone interested in offering the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to children age 3-6 and is the foundation for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. This 6-day intensive course contains the second half of the level 1 training and will run from 9 am to 5 pm Wednesday 18th till Monday 23rd July

The 45 hour course includes lectures, presentations, practicum and material making. We will also have time to pray and to meditate upon the Scriptures throughout the week.

Formation Team

Claudia Neves is a Montessori teacher and experienced CGS catechist who moved to London from South Africa with her family in 2015. Claudia has been sharing this method with others in South Africa, France and the Ivory Coast.

Christine Byrne is a mother, grandmother and CGS catechist who has been using this method with children between the ages of 3-12 since 2007. Recently, Christine has been taking part in a new training course focusing on how the relationship with God of the child aged 0-3 can be facilitated.

Valérie Valentin is a CGS catechist, a consultant and coach also working in evangelisation for adults. She moved from France to London in 2014 with her family and since then, has organised a number of level 1 and 2 CGS training courses in London and France. Valerie is currently working in a Level 1 atrium at Holy Trinity parish, Brook Green.

*Level 2 addresses the need of children ages 6-9, while level 3 is for 9-12 year old children.

Your invitation

The course is being hosted by St Elizabeth of Portugal parish and supported by Hannah Vaughan-Spruce, director of Evangelisation and Discipleship at St Elizabeth's.

Registration on our CGS website:
<http://www.cgsuk.org/becoming-a-catechist/>

For anyone attending the training we strongly recommend reading the following books:

*Sofia Cavalletti : **The Religious Potential of the Child** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Publications*

*Gianna Gobbi : **Listening to God with Children: The Montessori Method Applied to the Catechesis of Children**, Ed. Treehaus*

*Sofia Cavalletti, Gianna Gobbi, Patricia Coulter, Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, Rebekah Rojcewicz, **The Good Shepherd and the Child, A Joyful Journey**, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Publications*

*These books can be ordered at:
www.mccrimmons.com/shop/catechesis/*

A £25 payment is required upon registration to cover the cost of material and handouts. Another £25 optional donation towards the ministry would be appreciated.

If you have any other queries about the training please contact:

cgswestminster@gmail.com