

## The Atrium Materials



The materials in the Atrium are intended for use by children as aids to meditation and prayer. After being presented with a theme using the materials, each child is free to choose an activity that will lead them into conversation with God.

These materials are closely linked to their biblical and liturgical sources. In the Atrium, they are displayed attractively to invite the child to explore the themes presented through these materials at their own pace and rhythm.

For more information go to C.G.S. website: [cgsaust.org.au](http://cgsaust.org.au)

## To Enrol Your Child

The Atrium is held at Stella Maris Church Atrium Room (under the church), 2 Charlotte Rd Beaumaris 3193.

Session Day: Saturday

Session Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Enrolments for the Atrium are open to children aged 3—6 yrs.

To enrol please contact

Lisa at [baysideatrium@gmail.com](mailto:baysideatrium@gmail.com) or phone 0402 480 224 or contact the Parish office 9583 2103



Catechesis  
of the  
Good Shepherd

THE BAYSIDE ATRIUM IS PART OF  
THE COMBINED PARISH OF MENTONE  
-PARKDALE AND NAZARETH  
BEAUMARIS, BLACK ROCK

10 Rogers St

Mentone 3194

Office phone: 95832103



## THE BAYSIDE ATRIUM

Venue: Stella Maris Church

2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris, 3193

**“Let the children come to me;  
do not prevent them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs  
to such as these.” Mark 10: 14**

*Nazareth Parish is committed to the Safety, wellbeing and dignity of  
all children, young people and adults.  
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*

# The Bayside Atrium

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The Bayside Atrium is part of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) approach to the faith formation of both children and adults. It is based on the belief that God and the child are in relationship.

Together, both adult and child develop the ability to listen as they ask “God, who are you, and how do you love us?”

## The Good Shepard

The Atrium is based on the parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus, The Good Shepherd, is the teacher. The catechist facilitates the child’s encounter with Jesus by preparing the sacred space for the children, called 'the atrium', where they can respond to this holy relationship, first proclaimed to them through Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

## What is The Atrium?

For the child the Atrium is a place of quiet reflection. It is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community. It is a place that facilitates a conversation with God.

In the early church, the atrium (or foyer) of the church was the place where catechumens were prepared for initiation into the church. For the child, too, the Atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community.

## Overview

The Bayside Atrium offers the CGS level I to children aged 3—6 years old.

The central theme is the Good Shepherd who calls us by name and who loves and cares for us. Other works the child explores include the Infancy Narratives, The Kingdom parables, the essential moments of the Eucharist, the Paschal Narratives and the celebration of Baptism.

At this level the children are introduced to the Atrium with the practical life materials, geography of the land of Israel and the liturgical colours we see at Mass.

The 3 - 6 year old child is capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of our faith. They can experience and find God’s love in the person of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.



**“During the time that the children are on their own they are absorbing and internalising.**

**...Their activity is a passage to prayer or prayer itself. “**

*Sofia Cavalletti, co-founder Catechesis of the Good Shepard.*