

## **2018 BJ Hickey Scholarship Report – Elysha Dalzell**

I have used my scholarship for a Certificate IV in Catholic Youth Ministry. This is a year-long course that equips people in Catholic youth ministry professionally and spiritually. The two courses that I have really been impacted by, and benefited from, are Catechism and Salvation History.

Catechism allowed me to go deeper than the catechesis that I had received growing up. We unpacked basic principles such as: Infallibility of the Church, the Nicene Creed, Dogmas of Mary, Christ as Son of Man and Son of God, the last things, the Sacramentals, The Lord's Prayer, different prayer styles and discernment.

The course has made me think more and feel more grounded in my faith. It has been great for me to learn and practise the knowledge in my ministry. This coming trimester will be challenging and fantastic, we are focusing on Moral Law, moral issues, the 10 Commandments and the link between them. This will be a more practical trimester, meaning that we will be using the knowledge we learnt from the previous trimesters to defend the Church's teachings on these issues.

Salvation History so far has been a journey from Genesis to the second book of Maccabees. We read through the key points in the Old Testament - learning the practical and spiritual knowledge of the amazing collection. This included the history, Scripture and Tradition, Biblical interpretation, different writing styles of the authors, the senses of Scripture, the Covenants (in detail), the prophets, the Christ-like figures that point to Jesus, prophecies of Christ, linking in of the New Testament and the Jewish context. We were expected to name and explain all the topics, but I was also challenged in my view of the Old Testament. My perception changed from an old unrelatable book that tends to show God as angry/judgmental, to understanding that he was actually a loving Father and how relatable and relevant to our salvation it actually is!

Since having these courses I have been able to challenge myself in the way that I live my life, pray and teach/preach. I am now more confident in defending the teachings of the Church and scripture but I am aware that I need to keep learning because there is still so much more to learn.

The highlight of my 6 months has been the chance to give talks about the content that I have been learning and putting all of the information into practical use. Since the start of my course I have been asked by parishes and youth groups to give talks and presentations and I am able to say yes to them because of the knowledge that I have gained. God has cleverly put them into my life to challenge me in ways that I never thought I could ever do and succeed in.

These last 6 months have been phenomenal in the way that they have taken me deeper in my understanding of God, the Church and my faith. I've been able to unpack scriptures and teachings in a level that is understandable but practical. I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn about this amazing faith in such a nurturing environment, but especially to the Centre of Faith Enrichment team for awarding me the Scholarship because I would not otherwise have had the chance to go through this transformation in my knowledge and spiritual life.

Thank you very much!  
God Bless,  
Elysha Dalzell