

# Teachers welcome new TCI studies skills

Two new teachers are full of praise for the courses they have studied through The Catholic Institute (TCI) in 2012.

Megan Meulenbroeks who now has a permanent role teaching religious studies to Years 9, 10, and 11 at St Mary's College says she found that the information in the Certificate of Catechetical Studies course was directly relevant to the lessons she was teaching while on placement and this gave her a great deal more confidence in religious studies planning.

For Megan one of the course's strengths is its requirement that students complete a teaching placement in a Catholic School. She has taught at all three Catholic girls' colleges in the Wellington region.

This year she has completed the four-day professional development programme 'Understanding Sexuality' for Catholic school teachers. This coincided with her teaching of the personal development unit to her students at St Marys, 'and it was a great help in preparing me to un-

dertake these units with confidence.'

Megan says the strength of the Understanding Sexuality programme lay in its positive focus on sexuality within the context of church teachings and its delivery of up-to-date information.

'Some of the most beneficial work for me was in nailing down a better understanding of what sexuality is and how to explain this to students from a Catholic perspective.'

Daniel Salter completed the Certificate in Catechetical Studies as part of his study for a Graduate Diploma in Primary Teaching.

This enabled him to explore the values and faith understanding he developed during his education in Catholic schools to pass on to his students.

He found the sessions spent debating, laughing and sharing experiences with fellow students during the course enriching.

'The course was well organised and delivered by a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable people who



Megan Meulenbroeks

each brought their understanding and passion to the learning environment which kept us coming back (even during our study break!).'

Daniel says he now uses the course teachings in his classroom at St Anthony's Seatoun.

'Whether it has been my prayer sessions in the morning, supporting the students as they attend their own faith milestones, or in planning my RE lessons – the course gave me the confidence to pass on the ideas to my students.'

He recommends theological study like the Certificate in Catechetical Studies to people of all ages and backgrounds 'because, in my experience, it challenges those who already have an understanding of their Catholic faith while also providing a starting point for those just beginning.'

As with Megan, Daniel's confidence in his own abilities has been boosted through the course and, 'it has also encouraged me to delve deeper into my own faith journey'.



Daniel Salter in his classroom at St Anthony's Seatoun.