

Research/Professional Learning Project - Online Religious Education Assessment

*Well, we know where we're goin'
But we don't know where we've been
And we know what we're knowin'
But we can't say what we've seen*

*We're on a ride to nowhere
Come on inside
Takin' that ride to nowhere
We'll take that ride*

from *Road To Nowhere* (*Talking Heads* - David Byrne)

Taking our first steps – the third in a series of articles outlining our research/learning project

In the conclusion to the second article (24/03/15) outlining our research/learning project we noted that in “addition to the all-important task of generating further questions, our next major target is to trial the on online RE assessment process with Year 4 students throughout the Diocese.”

(1) Next step in exploring the concept ... *Mike's been thinking and playing!*

Not having taught Year 4 students, Mike could not resist the temptation to see how Year 4 students might go tackling a few online multiple choice questions before the trial of the online RE assessment process!

His curiosity resulted in him creating 7 multiple choice questions on the Google forms platform.

Mike's “play” questions are found in Appendix A (page 4).

Mike contacted three schools to see if they would assist and then sent an invitation to some of their Year 4 students, using a link to Google forms. The Year 4 students were from Our Lady of the Assumption School (Hoon Hay), Sacred Heart School (Addington) and St Joseph's School (Rangiora).

These Year 4 students were very generous in helping Mike see if his wee Google trial questions were able to be understood and to see if Year 4 students were “cool” with tackling multiple choice questions.

From the summary of responses information in Appendix B (page 6) and its attendant detailed spreadsheet data in Appendix C (page 9) one can clearly see that the 47 generous Year 4 students who participated in Mike's pre-practice practise took multiple choice questions in their stride 😊 ... this is good information for our upcoming research project 😊

Clearly Mike has no firm idea if his wee trial 7 questions were either ...

1. **valid** - how accurate each of these multi-choice questions is at measuring what it is trying to measure; or
2. **reliable** - the degree to which these multi-choice questions produce consistent results

... we would need a much larger sample to confirm this.

For example, Mike reckons he could make an argument for (a) or (c) in his Question 7!!! ... so it probably wasn't a particularly valid question!

But Mike suspects we have shown that the types of multi-choice questions the DRS writing parties have produced (some 200+ questions) will not be beyond most year 4 students ☺ ... this too is good information for our upcoming research project ☺

Mike also believes we have shown that this simple Google platform may be of assistance to any school wishing to help their Year 4 students "have a go" at answering multi-choice questions before the upcoming research project in September (with its powerful analytics).

Remember, the main purpose for this first year of our research project will be to get a statistical handle on the validity and reliability of the first draft 200+ questions the DRS writing parties have produced.

(2) Want to "have a go"? ... a pre-trial possibility!

With the above in mind, Cushla will work with the DRSs from Hoon Hay, Addington and Rangiora to produce (say) 14 sample multi-choice questions across the strands that we could offer to schools as practice in answering multi-choice questions digitally (using the simple Google platform).

We will generate these practice sample questions after the Catholic Convention in June 2015.

If you would like your Year 4 students to "have a go" at answering 10 -14 sample/parallel multiple choice questions email Mike (mnolan@chch.catholic.org.nz) and we will email you the link to the 10 – 14 sample questions we will soon generate and you can pass this on to each of your Year 4 students ... they just need a Gmail account (or have access to a Gmail account) to complete the questions.

(2) Where to from here?

Key dates:

Our **initial online RE assessment trial** will take place on **Tuesday 15 September 2015**.

We will conduct a **quick practice/sample test** (just a few questions) on **Tuesday 8 September 2015** – this is to provide us with an initial shot at the process in order to discover all the technical "problems" that might arise when we conduct the online assessment for all Year 4 students simultaneously throughout the Diocese

We also have a **reserve day (Thursday 17 September 2015)** for any school that had a major problem on Tuesday 15 September, e.g. for a school where there was an area-wide electrical fault on Tuesday 15 September 2105.

Our initial trial of the online assessment for Year 4 students simultaneously throughout the Diocese will provide us with our first opportunity to test the integrity, reliability and validity of the initial set of questions we have developed.

Our initial 2015 trial will give us our first glimpse of being in a position to better *know where we've been* and to have an initial foretaste of being in a data-based position *to say what we've seen*.

The purpose of our initial 2015 trial is two-fold:

1. To discover all the technical "problems" that might arise when we conduct the online assessment for all Year 4 students simultaneously throughout the Diocese.
2. To provide us with an opportunity to test the integrity, reliability and validity of the initial set of questions we have developed.

So our initial trial will be as much about the technicalities of the process as it will be about having our first glimpse of being in a position to better *know where we've been* and to have an initial foretaste of being in a data-based position *to say what we've seen*.

Ultimately, when this process has matured in a number of years, we, as individual schools and as clusters of Catholic schools, aim to be in a position to use the assessment data the project will (hopefully) provide to

- more accurately describe and *know what we're known*';
- reflect upon how we might better plan for systemic as well as individually targeted professional development and RE learning support for teachers;
- reflect upon individual and school-wide teaching practices that might further improve RE learning outcomes for our students.

We continue to look forward to our journey; a journey that Dr Seuss probably best describes:

*"So ...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So ... get on your way!"*

We've reached basecamp and continue to make preparations to ascend our research/learning mountain.

We will let you know the places we end up as we continue our adventurous ascent.

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&

Cushla O'Connor
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(3 June 2015)

Appendix A

Trial Religious Education Questions

* Required

1. **First name and Family name ***

For Example: Mary Brown

2. **School ***

3. **Name of your class teacher ***

For Example: Mrs Smith

4. **1. Catholics believe that God's grace enables people to:**

Mark only one oval.

- grow tall and strong
- forgive people
- play sport well
- learn more in Religious Education

5. **2. The Eucharist is a sacred meal first celebrated by Jesus:**

Mark only one oval.

- at the wedding feast at Cana
- when receiving manna in the desert
- at the last Supper
- at the feeding of the 5,000

6. **3. A symbol and ritual used to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism is:**

Mark only one oval.

- pouring water and saying the words of Jesus
- confessing sin and receiving forgiveness
- laying on of hands and saying, "Peace be with you"
- receiving the body and blood of Jesus and saying, "Amen"

7. **4. In the gospel story of Jesus healing the leper, He showed justice, what is right or should be done, by:**

Mark only one oval.

- walking past the man with leprosy
- touching the leper and healing him
- stopping and speaking to the leper
- telling the leper to go to the temple to pray

8. **5. Bread and wine are symbols of:**

Mark only one oval.

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Penance

9. **6. In the Eucharist Catholics receive:**

Mark only one oval.

- ashes on our forehead
- a blessing from the priest
- the body and blood of Christ
- the bread and wine

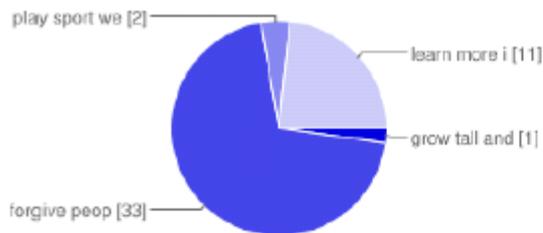
10. **7. For Catholics, reflective times are times of:**

Mark only one oval.

- going to Church
- dancing to loud music
- thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
- quiet and calm

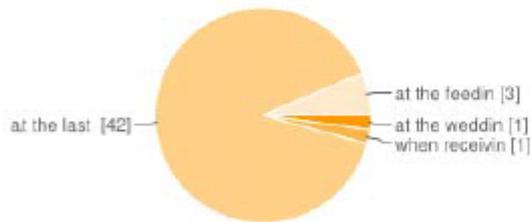
Appendix B

1. Catholics believe that God's grace enables people to:



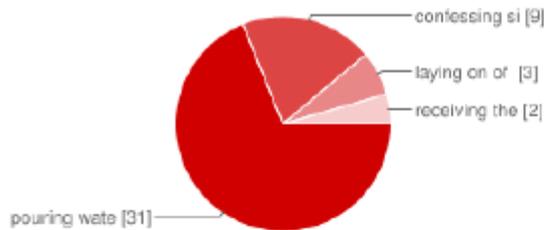
grow tall and strong	1	2.1%
forgive people	33	70.2%
play sport well	2	4.3%
learn more in Religious Education	11	23.4%

2. The Eucharist is a sacred meal first celebrated by Jesus:



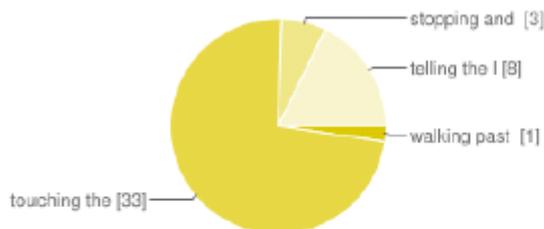
at the wedding feast at Cana	1	2.1%
when receiving manna in the desert	1	2.1%
at the last Supper	42	89.4%
at the feeding of the 5,000	3	6.4%

3. A symbol and ritual used to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism is:



pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	31	68,9%
confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	9	20%
laying on of hands and saying, "Peace be with you"	3	6,7%
receiving the body and blood of Jesus and saying, "Amen"	2	4,4%

4. In the gospel story of Jesus healing the leper, He showed justice, what is right or should be done, by:



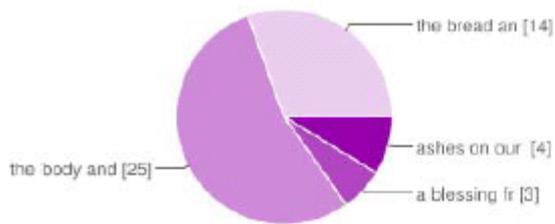
walking past the man with leprosy	1	2,2%
touching the leper and healing him	33	73,3%
stopping and speaking to the leper	3	6,7%
telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	8	17,8%

5. Bread and wine are symbols of:



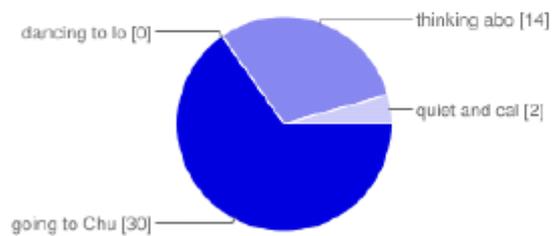
Baptism	2	4,3%
Confirmation	2	4,3%
Eucharist	37	80,4%
Penance	5	10,9%

6. In the Eucharist Catholics receive:



ashes on our forehead	4	8,7%
a blessing from the priest	3	6,5%
the body and blood of Christ	25	54,3%
the bread and wine	14	30,4%

7. For Catholics, reflective times are times of:



going to Church	30	65,2%
dancing to loud music	0	0%
thinking about God's presence and feeling God near	14	30,4%
quiet and calm	2	4,3%

Appendix C

Timestamp	First name and Family name	School	Name of your class teacher	1. Catholics believe that God's grace enables people to:	2. The Eucharist is a sacred meal first celebrated by Jesus:	3. A symbol and ritual used to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism is:	4. In the gospel story of Jesus healing the leper, He showed justice, what is right or should be done, by:	5. Bread and wine are symbols of:	6. In the Eucharist Catholics receive:	7. For Catholics, reflective times are times of:
5/18/2015 9:59:29				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:00:06				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:02:53				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper					
5/18/2015 10:10:38				forgive people	at the feeding of the 5,000	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:15:43				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 10:18:23				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 10:32:46				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:33:03				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:33:14				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 10:36:06				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 11:30:39				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	touching the leper and healing him	Penance	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 11:31:37				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	receiving the body and blood of Jesus and saying, "Amen"	touching the leper and healing him	Baptism	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 11:42:43				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving	touching the leper and	Penance	the bread and wine	going to Church

						forgiveness	healing him			
5/18/2015 11:44:52				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus		Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 11:45:47				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 11:45:48				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	quiet and calm
5/18/2015 11:48:52				forgive people	at the wedding feast at Cana	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	ashes on our forehead	going to Church
5/18/2015 11:51:27				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 11:57:36				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Confirmation	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:04:21				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	stopping and speaking to the leper	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:07:12				forgive people	at the last Supper	laying on of hands and saying, "Peace be with you"	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 12:07:17				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:07:38				learn more in Religious Education	at the feeding of the 5,000	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	a blessing from the priest	going to Church
5/18/2015 12:10:35				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:12:40				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 12:12:45				forgive people	at the last Supper	laying on of hands and saying, "Peace be with you"	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 12:20:41				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:25:01				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	thinking about God's presence and feeling God

										near
5/18/2015 12:30:11				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Penance	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 12:33:05				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Confirmation	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 13:39:34				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 13:48:40				forgive people	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	stopping and speaking to the leper	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:02:09				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 14:09:24				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:17:03				grow tall and strong	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	a blessing from the priest	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:18:02				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	ashes on our forehead	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:21:51				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:22:59				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	confessing sin and receiving forgiveness	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	thinking about God's presence and feeling God near
5/18/2015 14:23:39				play sport well	at the feeding of the 5,000	receiving the body and blood of Jesus and saying, "Amen"	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Penance	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:34:41				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper	laying on of hands and saying, "Peace be with you"	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Penance	the bread and wine	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:40:41				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:40:44				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:46:51				learn more in Religious Education	at the last Supper		walking past the man with leprosy	Baptism	ashes on our forehead	going to Church
5/18/2015 14:48:58				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the bread and wine	thinking about God's presence and feeling God

5/18/2015 14:50:21				play sport well	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	telling the leper to go to the temple to pray	Eucharist	a blessing from the priest	near going to Church
5/18/2015 14:52:13				forgive people	when receiving manna in the desert	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	stopping and speaking to the leper	Eucharist	ashes on our forehead	quiet and calm
5/18/2015 14:53:13				forgive people	at the last Supper	pouring water and saying the words of Jesus	touching the leper and healing him	Eucharist	the body and blood of Christ	going to Church