

Ad Clerum

August 2023

Newsletter of the
Archbishop of Sydney
Circular No. 4/2023

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

***Dear Fellow Priests and Deacons
My Fraternal greetings to you all!***

What a blessing it has been to lead over a thousand Sydney pilgrims to World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal! My sincere thanks to auxiliary bishops Richard and Danny, together with the twenty chaplains who assisted in faithfully guiding our young people in pre-WYD pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Italy before descending on Lisbon where they were joined by millions of young Catholics from across the globe. Our pilgrimage ended with a three-day retreat in Fatima to pray for the intercessions of Our Blessed Mother.

On the 15th of September our Pastors and Principals Day will be held at the Waterview Function Centre and on the 20th of September we have our Clergy Conference followed by the Vianney Dinner at Rosehill. I very much look forward to seeing you all there!

***As always, please be assured of
my continued prayers for all of you!***

+ Archbishop Anthony

2023

Dates To Remember

Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2023

21–23 August 2023 - S2

6–8 November 2023 - S3

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Clergy Conference and Vianney Dinner

20 September 2023

Rosehill Racecourse

Archdiocesan Clergy Retreat

1 to 6 October 2023

St Joseph's Retreat Centre

Baulkham Hills

Courses for recently appointed Administrators and Parish Priests

Finance A & B (Rerun)

10 and 31 October

Lidcombe Parish

People Management A & B

4 and 25 October

Liverpool Parish

Archbishop's Pre-Advent Gathering

1 December 2023

SMC Precinct

inside

Ongoing Formation

- ◆ 2023/24 Sabbaticals - PNAC
- ◆ 2023/24 - Tantur Ecumenical Institute
- ◆ St Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, Canada
- ◆ Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis, Rome

PLEASE PRAY...

For the repose of the souls of all our deceased clergy and especially for:

Fr Anton Bulla SVD RIP

12 July 2023

Formerly from the Regional Marriage Tribunal.

Fr Michael Mullins SM RIP

10 July 2023

Esteemed member of the Marist Fathers and Pastoral Supervisor.

Fr Noel Molloy RIP

11 July 2023

Incardinated in Adelaide Archdiocese and former Director of the St Peter's Centre for Priestly Renewal in Canberra.

Mrs Leena Dias RIP

26 June 2023

mother of Rev Norvin Dias, Assistant Priest at Rockdale and Bexley.

Mr Peter O'Meara RIP

6 June 2023

Formerly CEO of Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria.

Fr John Burke SM RIP




24 May 2023

Former Superior of the Villa Maria community.

For those that are sick in our community...

Mons William Mullin, Mgr Anthony Doherty, Mgr Vince Redden, Mgr John Usher, Fr Thanh Nguyen, Fr Joseph Aikkaramattam, Mgr Frank Coorey, Fr John Alt, Fr Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey and Fr Michael Kelly who are currently unwell.

For special anniversaries occurring in August, September and October

I ask that you download the attached lists:  (August),  (September), and  (October) pray for our brother priests who have gone before us and for those who are celebrating their Anniversary of Ordination.

I RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS:

Rev Simon Apablaza

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of St Therese, Denistone from 17 July 2023.

Rev Anthony Bernard

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Patrick, Kogarah from 4 April 2023.

Rev Roberto Castillo

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of Lourdes, Earlwood, from 1 October 2023 for a term of six years.

Appointed Chaplain to the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes from 1 October 2023 for a term of six years.

Rev Anthony Fregolent CS

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mt Pritchard from 15 June 2023.

Very Rev Gerald Gleeson

Reappointed a Member of the CDF Advisory Board from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Peter Guy MSC

Reappointed Chaplain to Rookwood Catholic Cemetery and Crematoria from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Paul Hachey SM

Appointed Acting Judicial Vicar and a Judge of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney from 1 August 2023 to 30 January 2024.

Rev Peter Joseph

Reappointed Chaplain to the St Thomas More Society from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev John Knight

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Ecclesiastical and Civic Honours Committee from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Peter Krigovsky

Appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall from 1 July 2023 for a term of six years.

Rev Emmanuel Like CS

Appointed Assistant Priest at the Parish of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mt Pritchard from 17 June 2023.

Appointed Chaplain to the Spanish Speaking Catholic Community from 17 June 2023.

Rev Graeme Malone SSS

Reappointed Chaplain to Concord Hospital from 3 November 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Daniel McCaughan

Appointed a Member of the Committee for Ongoing Formation of Clergy from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Isaac Koi McDonald MS

Appointed Chaplain to Brigidine House, Randwick from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Very Rev Michael McLean

Appointed Episcopal Vicar for Clergy from 20 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Appointed a Member of the College of Consultors and a Trustee of the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of Sydney from 20 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Joshua Miechels

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph, Berala from 1 August 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Epeli Qimaqima

Appointed part-time Chaplain to the Fijian Catholic Community from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev George Sigamoney

Appointed Assistant Priest at St Mary's Cathedral Parish from 24 May 2023.

Rev Paul Smithers

Appointed a Member of the Committee for Ongoing Formation of Clergy from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Casimir Zielinski OSPPE

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Gertrude's, Smithfield from 5 June 2023.

NON-CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS:

Ms Rebecca Davies

Reappointed a Member of the CDF Advisory Board from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Mrs Maureen Fairbairn

Reappointed Assistant Notary to the Cause for the Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God Eileen Rosaline O'Connor for a term of three years.

Mr Richard Haddock AO, KSG

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Ecclesiastical and Civic Honours Committee from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Mr John Flynn

Reappointed a Member of the CDF Advisory Board from 1 July 2023 for a term of three years.

Dr Catherine Young

Appointed a Director of the Board of Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Early Childhood Services Ltd (Company) from 1 June 2023 for a term of three years.

ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY

Twilight Clergy Conference & Vianney Dinner 20 September 2023 Rosehill Racecourse

Dear Colleagues

Next Clergy Conference and Vianney Dinner is on **Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at Rosehill Racecourse**, Rosehill Street, Rosehill..

Light refreshments will be served at 1.45pm. Welcome and Prayer is at 2.15pm.

The Conference will be followed by the annual Vianney Dinner, during which we will honour the 25, 40, 50 and 60 year Jubilarians.

THE PROGRAM:

1.45pm: Gathering and afternoon tea

2.15pm: Welcome and Prayer

2.30pm: Session 1: Synodality: What's in it for us?
(Fr Michael Whelan SM, Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP)

3.40pm: Afternoon Tea

4.10pm: Session 2: What is working? Arete
(Dr Chris Ryan mgl with testimonials from Gina Fattal and John Coppola)

5.20pm: Archbishop's remarks

5.45pm: Break

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

6.20pm: Vianney Dinner

8.00pm: Finish.

The following Jubilarians will be celebrated at the Vianney Dinner.

60 YEARS

Rev Vittorio Basso CS

Rev Terrence Bell

Rev Witold Brymora

Rev Peter Christie

Rev Mgr Anthony Doherty

50 YEARS

Rev James Collins SM

Rev John Evans SSC

Rev Phillip Hicks MSC

Rev Mgr Brian Rayner

Very Rev Phillip Zadro

40 years

Most Rev Terrence Brady

Rev Aliko Langi SM

Rev Gregory Rowles OFM Cap

Rev Phillips Royan

25 years

Rev Joti Bilowalu CM

Rev Hertanto Dwiwibowo MSC

Rev Martin Monaghan

Very Rev Dominic Murphy OP

Rev Thuy Pham SVD

Rev Anthony Robbie


Rev Delmar Silva CS

Rev Patrick Teitiaua MSC

Rev Basil Sousanieh

Last year we invited the wives of the Deacons for the first time to the Vianney Dinner, which was well received by all who attended. We again invite the Deacon's wives this year.

The cost of the event is \$90 per person, paid by parishes. The cost for Jubilarians, retired clergy and deacons' wives will be paid by the Archdiocese.

To register, please right click on the link below to register 

If you have any questions, please contact **Maria Cavallaro**: maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org.

I look forward to seeing you next month.

Upcoming Formation

Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2023

If you are new to the Archdiocese and would like to participate, please contact **Maria Cavallaro** today on **0421 87 99 63**.

Session 2: 21-23 August 2023

Session 3: 6 – 8 November 2023

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Twilight Clergy Conference and Vianney Dinner

20 September 2023

Rosehill Racecourse

Archdiocesan Clergy Retreat

1 to 6 October 2023

St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills

Courses for recently appointed Administrators and Parish Priests

MODULE 1:

Finance A & B (Rerun)

10 and 31 October

St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street,

Leichhardt The first sessions were presented in May and were very well received.

MODULE 2:

People Management A & B

4 and 25 October


Liverpool Parish

If you would like to be part of any of these formation sessions please contact **Maria Cavallaro**: **0421 87 99 63** or maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org



Fr Paul Monkerud

Chair, Ongoing Formation of Clergy Committee

Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies St Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, Canada

St Augustine's Seminary in Toronto is launching their Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies. The Licentiate has been approved by the Dicastery for Culture and Education. For more information please click on the link 

Recommended online retreat

Options for clergy who are interested can be accessed here:  and 

The Bollettino from the Vatican

Stay up to date with the latest news from the Vatican: 

Cenacles of Prayer for Clergy

You are invited to the Cenacles of Prayer for Clergy. It takes about 40 minutes and is followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and snacks.

The cenacle is held on the second Wednesday of the month at St. Bernadette's, Carlton at 1.30 pm and is hosted by **Fr Gabriel Ballawig**. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

Note from the Vicar General – Reception of Communion under both Kinds –

Having heard the Council of Priests and taken further advice, the Archbishop has now lifted the prohibition on reception of the Chalice by the faithful. While the prohibition was a temporary measure during Covid, many people will continue to have concerns about infection control and spread of disease more generally, especially during the winter cold and flu season. Parishes choosing to offer Communion from the Chalice should ensure this can be done in an effective and hygienic way, with the Chalice wiped between communicants, and washed between Masses; anyone who might be infectious should refrain from receiving the Chalice. It is important that no one feels pressured to receive from the Chalice; this should be a free and well-informed individual decision in the light of the reasonable precautions that parishes can take; and some Masses will lend themselves to this more easily, e.g. smaller weekday Masses.

I would draw your attention to No. 85 in the General Instruction on the Roman Missal: 85. It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the instances when it is permitted, they partake of the chalice (cf. no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion will stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated.

A number of priests, and many parishioners, have inquired about resumption of Communion from the Chalice. This is therefore a 'teaching moment' in our communities – which gives us the opportunity to further catechise our people. The key points to explain are:

1. Why the Body and Blood of Christ should always be received from a minister, not taken by oneself; hence, there should be no 'self-intinction' from the Chalice, nor taking from the Ciborium.
2. Why reception from the Chalice more fully signifies a person's share in the Sacrifice of the Mass.
3. Why Christ is fully present under both species of bread and wine, so a person who receives under only one species, is no less graced. Wherever Christ is present, he is wholly present.

4. That the Church recognises two equally valid and respectful ways of the receiving the Body of Christ, on the tongue and in the hand. It may be helpful to remind people of the ancient tradition that we hold our hands, one on top of the other, to "make a throne" for our Eucharistic Lord. In the case of those wishing to receive on the tongue, it might also be helpful to explain how they can do this in a way that is more hygienic for themselves, the priest and others.

Marriage Dispensations Update

Lynelle Lembryk has left the Dispensations role to undertake a new role in a parish. Her last day was Wednesday 26th July 2023. **Antonio Esquillon** in the Chancery will be assisting with the processing of marriage dispensations until further notice.

Effective immediately please send all Australian Marriage Dispensation requests only to the dispensations email address: dispensations@sydneycatholic.org.

To assist with the transition, we ask that you:

- **email the request several months before the wedding** – please do NOT leave the request to the week before the wedding!
- **note the date of the wedding and the couples surnames in the subject line.** This assists with filtering paperwork and identifying more urgent matters.

Overseas Marriage Paperwork

- For overseas weddings we require the original paperwork. We cannot process overseas marriage paperwork via email.
- **At least 3 months notice** should be given to allow time to liaise with the couple and obtain any missing documentation. This also allows time for postage as the original documents are sent to the overseas diocese.
- **Postage Envelopes:** if providing an envelope for postage please do NOT send an International Registered Post envelope. Please use **International EXPRESS Post**. The registered post does not have tracking and takes a lot longer to arrive at its destination. We have had instances where the paperwork has been lost. International EXPRESS Post provides detailed tracking and generally arrives at its destination within 10 business days.
- **If no postage envelope is provided** the couple will be asked to collect the paperwork and organise postage. Please note from 1st September the couple will need to collect the paperwork from Leichhardt.

Dispensation/permission Request Numbers

2023 has seen a significant increase in dispensation/permission requests due to the flow on effect of COVID wedding cancellations.

- Australian Dispensation/Permission Requests
 - Jan 2023 – current: approx. 350
- Overseas Marriage Paperwork
 - Jan 2023 – current: approx. 150


Important to Note: The processing of marriage dispensations/permissions for local and overseas marriages is handled by **1 part-time staff member** hence the importance of sending applications well in advance.

FROM THE LITURGY OFFICE

Baptismal certificates for liturgical ministers

The Liturgy Office has decided to discontinue the practice of asking participants in our courses for a copy of their baptismal certificate. We will now ask that all the necessary checks (baptismal certificates, Working With Children Checks, etc.) be done on the local, parish level. We know that this is already happening in most places and we believe that parishes are indeed the most suitable places to choose and vet their own candidates for liturgical ministries.



This is no small responsibility, given the centrality of the sacrament of baptism for Christian discipleship and ministry, however we are confident that it can rest safely with parishes and their pastors.

This means that from now onwards the Liturgy Office will be asking the participants for **just one document**, that is, the registration form which can be downloaded from our web-page . As has been the case so far, the registration form will need to be signed by the pastor as a proof of your endorsement of the person. However, the final sentence on the form has been slightly amended and will now read: "I wish to advise that this parishioner has been selected by me as a suitable candidate for liturgical ministry of ... **being a baptised and practicing Catholic** of excellent character and a regular worshipper at my parish."

Candidates for instituted ministries (lectors and acolytes) will still need to present us with their baptismal certificates before institutions, should these institutions resume. However, this can be done in the process of preparation for the ceremony.

Should you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

Architectural Guidelines

Please find HERE  a short guideline/policy on how to proceed with building and renovating churches, chapels and oratories in the Archdiocese. The document can also be accessed through the Liturgy Office's web-site at: 

Should you have any questions or comments, please get in touch.

May God bless you in your ministry,

Mariusz Biliniewicz
Director of the Liturgy Office

Chancery Relocation: New Postal Address

As you are aware, the Chancery is relocating to Leichhardt from September 2023.

In anticipation of that move, there has been a change of postal address. All mail that would normally be sent to the Polding Centre should now be addressed to:

Locked Bag 5040
Alexandria NSW 2015


That locked bag is already functional and will continue to operate once the Chancery moves to Leichhardt. Please update your address books and contact details to reflect this change.

Mental Might 22

Clergy and Lay Pastoral Carers carry a heavy burden of others' need for support, so let's remember to check in with them and see how they're travelling as a regular part of parish community interaction.

Dr Robbie Lloyd
Research & Project Officer, Justice and Peace Office

Plenary Council Website

What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change? For all your Plenary Council needs and resources, please go to this website 

FROM PARISH SUPPORT TEAM

New Award Rates Applicable to Parish Staff and Increased Superannuation Guarantee Payment – effective 1st July 2023

From the 1st of July 2023, the Federal Government has legislated an increase in the minimum wage, and an increase to the Clerks and Miscellaneous Awards. An increase to the Superannuation Guarantee to 11% also takes effect from this date. For those parishes and communities who make use of the Chancery Payroll Bureau (CPB), these legislated amendments have been seamlessly implemented and no further action is required.

Those individual parishes and communities who have chosen to not make use of the CPB bear the responsibility to ensure their compliance. Any parish or community requiring further assistance should contact **Parish Support (02) 9390 5233**, without delay.

Please note that if at any stage while undertaking their functions, a Fair Work Inspector forms a reasonable belief that an entity has contravened a term of a modern award, there are a range of outcomes that may occur that may lead to an infringement notice being issued (penalties up to \$2,200) or litigation against the entity.

Donations & Bequests

As we move into the season preparing the Parish Financial Report (PFR) all parishes are reminded of the Decree from the Archbishop of Sydney, dated 31 July 2015, that the acceptance or refusal of a bequest to which is attached some qualifying obligation or condition, requires approval by way of an application for an Act of Extraordinary Administration.


Any clarification required when such instances arise, should be directed to **Parish Support (9390 5233)**. Australian Taxation Office Compliance: Know Your Obligations

FROM SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

2023 Archdiocesan Pastors and Principals' Meeting – 15 September 2023

All Archdiocesan priests are invited to attend the 2023 Archdiocesan Pastors and Principals' Meeting on Friday, 15 September. The meeting will be held at the Waterview, Bicentennial Park, from 10.00a.m. - 3.30p.m.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss practical ways of strengthening the relationship between parishes and schools.

Please click on this link  to register for the event and submit any dietary requirements and parking requirements you might have. Please contact **Ms Lee Ann Xavier**, the Executive Assistant to the Director of Mission & Identity, via leeann.xavier@syd.catholic.edu.au for further queries in regard to this event.

Anthony Cleary
Director

Mission & Identity Directorate



FROM ICT

Dear Fathers,

As part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney ICT Services teams efforts to provide improved services to Clergy and administrative staff we are moving all email accounts to the Microsoft 365 platform.

The benefits of moving your email to this new platform include improved spam protection, further integration with modern apps, and larger mailbox sizes. It is now time to move all the email accounts held by clergy across to this system. We will be migrating your email across to the new platform on August 17th. On the day of migration there should be minimal impact to you. The process is automatic and does not generally require any input from you, beyond a potential restart of your email client. Mobile users may need to set up the account on their device again, if it does not automatically reconnect.

If you are having trouble with your email post migration:

- Webmail can be accessed by signing in to  with your email address and password.
- Visit the ICT Helpdesk portal at  for guides or to log a job with the ICT Helpdesk
- Call the **ICT Helpdesk** on **02 9390 5955** for urgent assistance.

Regards,

Pip Wells, ICT Manager

CLERGY REMUNERATION NOTICE

PASTORAL REVENUE RETURNS FOR JUNE 2023 DUE NOW

Thank you to those who have submitted their June Returns. We need to receive your outstanding Returns **as soon as possible** but **no later than 21 August 2023** – to enable entry into the Survey of Pastoral Revenue Returns for the Financial Year Ending June 2023. Thank you and your staff in advance.

BALLOT FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The current Board of the Management's term ends in October 2023. Nominations have now closed. Thank you to all those who have nominated.


Board of Management
Clergy Remuneration System

CLERICAL FUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTICE

YOUR CLERICAL FUND CLAIMS

To assist with administration, the Committee appreciate claims being made on an annual basis. Please remember that claims can only be submitted for medical expenses up to 2 years prior.

The next meeting of the Clerical Fund Management Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 26 September 2023. We appreciate receiving your claims (via the Claim Form)

 - by soft copy if possible - two weeks prior to the meeting date. Our new email address is: clericalfund@sydneycrs.org

Clerical Fund Management Committee

Supply

To help cover our priests in parishes and to allow them to plan sabbaticals we are in search of men who are able to help out in the parish with supply.

We are also looking for priests who are able to celebrate weddings on weekends all over the Archdiocese.

If you are able to help please fill in the form below:

If you are able to help please fill in the form: 

Can you celebrate Mass in another language?

We often have calls asking for priests who can say Mass or minister to people in a foreign language outside those languages that are supplied by our foreign chaplains.

This may be Mass but it also includes visiting the sick, the Last Rites, Marriage Preparation, and general pastoral care.

We are currently working on a register of clergy who can say Mass in a language other than English.

If you are able to help please send an email with your name and the language you can say Mass in or fill in the form below.

Google form here: 


Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link:  to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2023.


Important News about WWCC renewal

Please note this important information from the Office of the Children's Guardian:

PERSONAL DETAILS MUST BE UPDATED


Everyone who holds a Check is now legally required to update their contact details, including any name or address changes, within three months – just like your driver licence. And like your licence, penalties will apply for people who don't update. Updating your details is simple – go to  and follow the directions. You can even find your Check number here if you don't have it to hand.

Office of the Children's Guardian

For information and to renew your WWCC number click here: 

Please advise the Chancery when you have updated your WWCC number.

Sabbatical/Formation considerations Engaging Your Faith

Engaging Your Faith is a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College, including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si'*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion: 

Institute for Continuing Theological Education

Pontifical North American College – Rome

Please click on the link:  to find out what the PNAC is offering for Sabbaticals and formation in 2023/24.

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY



ELECTRICAL TEST AND TAGGING OF EQUIPMENT



FAULTY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL FIRE IN BUILDINGS. HAVE YOU ORGANISED YOUR TEST AND TAGGING WITH YOUR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR?

Your Parish WHS A Team

Doug can be contacted for any WHS concerns on:
Email: douglas.oloughlan@sydneycatholic.org
Phone: 02 9390 5153
Mob: 0466 486 731

**See the Parish Intranet Site
for all your WHS needs:**

sydarch.org.au/parish



AGENCY NEWS

For August 2023

SYDNEY CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

Dear Fathers,

There are a number of opportunities for parishes in this second half of this year to support the formation of their lay leaders, with courses and training coordinated by our Sydney Centre for Evangelisation and our partners in mission. This includes faith formation with UNDA and a retreat day for parish staff we look forward to hosting later in the year. Please find details of these opportunities below, with clergy and parishioners encouraged to subscribe via the links provided for direct updates and further details.

With every blessing and thanksgiving for your ministry,

Daniel Ang


Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

Raising Fathers Events – 29, 30, 31 August 2023 and Men's Conference – 16 September 2023

All dads and father figures are invited to the 'Raising Fathers' event with Robert Falzon, author and founder of the menAlive movement.

Robert will unpack how dads can embrace their vitally important task and vocation as life coaches, mentors and role models to their kids.

SAVE THE DATE: All men are invited to gather at the 'Maximus Men's Conference' to be held on Saturday September 16 at St Mary's Cathedral Hall.

For more info, dates and registration details for the above events, visit 

Didaskō Adult Faith Formation


In response to the many requests that we receive for faith formation, we have partnered with the **University of Notre Dame Australia** who will deliver a series of 5 online short courses commencing in October 2023. Each course will consist of three evening sessions which will be presented online via Zoom. Topics will include:

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Foundations of Theology
- Scripture
- Christology
- Moral Theology

Cost (*per short course*):

\$35 per person (*plus booking fees*)

\$100 per Parish Group - unlimited number of participants gathered in-person (*plus booking fees*)

Parishes are encouraged to sign up for this **special offer** by gathering a parish group in person, either in the parish hall or in parishioners' homes. After participating in the online session, the group can continue the discussion and share some refreshments together, enhancing the learning experience and building community. Full schedule coming soon on the GMD Events page 

Retreat Day for Parish Staff - The Spring of Eternal Life (Jn 4:14)

The Parish Renewal Team is offering a retreat day for parish staff to be refreshed and renewed in their work of serving Christ and His Church. We encourage you to send your staff to one of the days on offer, as an opportunity for professional development in prayer and witness.

The day includes Mass, talks, prayer, quiet time and reflection, morning tea and lunch.

Dates: Wednesday 8 November 2023 OR Thursday 9 November 2023, 9:30am – 3:00pm.

Venue: St Martha's, Leichhardt Office

Become a CatholicCare Companion

CatholicCare is searching for volunteers to be with people as they experience times of change, challenge and uncertainty.

If you are a good listener who is caring, non-judgemental and compassionate, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, please call Jacqui Willoughby, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0426 773 658 or 13 18 19.

To find out more call

131819

Catholiccare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

 **CatholicCare**


Location: 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt, NSW 2040.

Cost: \$10 per person (plus booking fees)

Register at: 



Subsidies for the Areté Centre's 2024

Foundations of Missionary Leadership Course

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation has a limited number of partial subsidies available for parishioners of the Archdiocese of Sydney who would like to undertake the Areté Centre's 2024 Foundations of Missionary Leadership course .

To apply for a subsidy or to find out more, contact parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org. Please note that places for this course and subsidy will fill quickly.

Oremus: Foundations of Prayer Series and Retreat

Please invite your lay faithful to strengthen their prayer life by joining an online series  on Wednesday nights 6, 13 and 20 September, followed by a day retreat  on Saturday 28 October. It is possible to attend either or both events. Topics include: The Foundations of Prayer, Praying in the Catholic Tradition and Praying with Others. We hope this will not only deepen personal prayerfulness, but also provide encouragement to pray concretely and communally for the needs and mission of our parishes.


For more information see www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Advent Companion

The Parish Renewal Team is creating an Advent Companion, titled *Listen to the Word: Prepare for His Birth*, which will be delivered to parishes of the Archdiocese in early November. The resource will provide an opportunity for the faithful to come together to pray and to prepare for the coming of Christ. While some people may use the resource within the context of a parish Advent group, we are also happy for you to encourage each parishioner to take a booklet home for individual or family prayer, so keep this in mind when considering your preferred quantity. We will contact you via email regarding quantities and distribution in the coming months.


Advent Small Group Training for Leaders

Offering small groups during Advent is a simple way of nurturing a culture of prayer in the parish community, and of building up and equipping new leaders. The Parish Renewal Team provides training sessions for any parishioners who would like to do this, but would benefit from some tips and encouragement in order to take on the responsibility. Please invite your parishioners to attend one of the online

training sessions which will be offered during November. Check  in October for dates and times.

Fidelis and Post-WYD gatherings for Young Adults

The regular Fidelis young adult evenings will resume in August (post WYD). Fidelis evenings will be an opportunity for the usual ongoing formation and fellowship as well as monthly post WYD gatherings for pilgrims who would like to continue to connect with other pilgrims and deepen their faith.

All Fidelis nights will take place on the last Wednesday of every month at St Joachim's Lidcombe from 6:30-9:30pm. To keep up to date with Fidelis, please visit the Fidelis Facebook page .

Purpose Conference

This December, the Archdiocese of Sydney will be offering an event that will invite high school students and young adults to a large evangelisation initiative, namely, 'Purpose Conference'.

The inaugural 'Purpose Conference' will be a unique, dynamic and formative event that will offer young people from across Sydney (and Australia) the opportunity to celebrate being Catholic and to inspire a generation of intentional disciples. It will also act as a great post WYD event.

Purpose Conference aims to attract over 2000 participants over the two days. It will include international and local guest speakers, youth festival, workshops, prayer and liturgy, expos and opportunities to connect with clergy and parishes.

The Conference will cater specifically to High School students (years 9-12) during the day and young adults at night. One of the major goals of the conference is to create an evangelisation opportunity that caters specifically to the Sydney demographic and directly involves Sydney clergy and agencies in it's planning and execution. It is hoped that Purpose Conference will become an anchor point by which local and regional youth ministry efforts can come to a climax every second year and compliment larger initiatives like WYD and ACYF.

Please see the details for your planning below:

Dates: 7-8 December, 2023

Location: Rosebank College, Five Dock

Audience: Students in years 9-12 and young adults (separate programs will run for both groups)


Life Marriage and Family Sunday – 22 October 2023

All families are invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 22 October, with an opportunity for

renewal of marital promises and a special blessing for families. After Mass, couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries will be presented with certificates by Bishop Umbers at the Cathedral Hall. Tea & coffee available. Please note registrations are essential to receive a certificate.

Register before 6 October at 

SmartLoving Parish Sponsor Couples

Do you know a married couple in your parish that is a joyful witness of the sacrament? Encourage them to be a sponsor couple and accompany your engaged couples who are using the SmartLoving marriage preparation program. Their support and encouragement are invaluable for engaged couples! Learn more about the parish sponsor model here 

Women's Ministry in Parishes



Do you have a women's ministry or women's group gathering (e.g. prayer group, bible study, etc) in your parish? We'd like to know! The Catholic Women's Network (CWN) in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is developing a directory of local Catholic women's activities to help connect the women in Sydney and share faith journeys with each other. Please contact **Helena Roumanus**, CWN Project Officer at catholicwomensnetwork@sydeycatholic.org or visit: 


New Sacramental Resources Available

Two new alternative resources are now available for parish sacramental coordinators to incorporate into their programs and processes of initiation. For more information on the SALT Approach and Fr Michael Lanzon's sacramental resource, please contact **Simon Yeak**: 0427 536 356 / simon.yeak@sydneycatholic.org.

Theology of the Body Courses in Australia

In partnership with Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Theology of the Body Institute in-person and online courses are now more accessible locally, with live sessions with Christopher West and well renowned lecturers. Partial subsidies available to students with endorsement from Parish Priests.

- August 14-15 **Theology of the Body 2: "Into the Deep"** 
- October 9-10 **Theology of the Body 1: "Head and Heart Immersion"** 
- December 4-15 **Writings of John Paul II**.

For more information or to register, visit sydneycatholic.org/TOBI  or email tobi@sydneycatholic.org

SAVE THE DATE: January 21-26, 2024 - Theology of the Body: Love & Responsibility (6 day in-person) Immersion Course in Sydney with Christopher West. More information and registration details to follow!

*Daniel Ang
Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation*

FROM CATHOLICARE

Volunteers help combat loneliness and isolation

"How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others!" Pope Francis

CatholicCare Sydney's team of committed volunteers is growing, and welcoming new members from any background aged anywhere between 18 and 80. Volunteers perform an act of charity through their roles providing companionship, practical support, conversation, and connection to those in vulnerable situations, older adults, those who are isolated, and those with serious or life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones.

CatholicCare Sydney has volunteer opportunities across the Archdiocese of Sydney, working in a CatholicCare office, in the community, or from your own home. If you have time in your life and space in your heart to give to another, please call **13 18 19** or email volunteers@Catholiccare.org and join the Community of Care.

If you need a companion or some assistance and support, please reach out to CatholicCare Sydney and make a connection with Companionship Visitors, Community Support Callers, or a Helping Hand in the home. Whether it is a friendly chat on the telephone, transport for shopping or appointments, a shared activity, or just a cup of tea and a sandwich together at home, the Community of Care provided by volunteers ensures CatholicCare Sydney provides a wraparound service of hope and comfort to help individuals and families to thrive.

Support for children and families facing conflict and separation

There are times, according to Pope Francis, in which separation is inevitable and even morally necessary to shield a spouse or young children from intimidation, violence, neglect, and indifference.

During this difficult period, CatholicCare Sydney offers a range of supports including Keeping Kids in Mind, Owl Kids, and Family Dispute Resolution. All professional family separation services provided for both practical and emotional needs put the children first.

Keeping Kids in Mind offers a wide range of services that foster psychological and social wellbeing and build resilience in children and their families following separation, please call **1800 55 46 46**.

Owl Kids is a child-centered art and leisure therapy support group for children aged 7-12 years with separated

parents. The program allows children to creatively express themselves, helping them to make sense of their world and navigate through the changes they may experience, whilst also connecting with other children going through similar emotions.

Get in touch with the **Bankstown Family Relationship Centre** at (02) 9707 8777 or email reception.frc@catholiccare.org


Family Dispute Resolution provides accredited, impartial, and supportive mediators to assist with constructive arrangements between separated parents. For assistance with practical parenting arrangements and communication, property, and financial arrangements, and help navigating the family law system, please call 13 18 19. Mediation offices are located in Sydney City, Lewisham, Bankstown, Liverpool, and Sutherland.

Leaving a legacy to be proud of

A gift in your will to CatholicCare Sydney can help people in all stages of life find an easier tomorrow. CatholicCare Sydney supports families and those in vulnerable situations with relationships, parenting, ageing, disability, and mental health concerns.

Bequests in support of CatholicCare's work change lives. Remembering your family and loved ones is your priority, but if you choose to then leave a gift in your Will, no matter how small, it will be valued, appreciated, and used effectively.

CatholicCare Sydney has partnered with the online Will-writing platform Safewill to guide you through preparing a Will and leaving a gift, or bequest, to charity.

By nominating CatholicCare Sydney you're leaving a legacy for the future of the most vulnerable children and families, and CatholicCare Sydney friends and supporters can write their Will with Safewill for 50% off – visit catholiccare.org or Safewill.com/catholiccare  for more information and advice.

SAFEGUARDING

Office of the Children's Guardian new enforcement powers and penalties

From 1 February 2023, Part 9A of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 came into force, which allows the Children's Guardian to take action to ensure organisations such as the Archdiocese of Sydney comply with the Child Safe Standards. This means where organisations do not comply with the Child Safe Standards, the Children's Guardian can:

- issue a compliance notice to the organisation, or
- accept an enforceable undertaking from the organisation.

If an organisation fails to comply with a compliance notice or enforceable undertaking, the Children's Guardian may commence proceedings to issue penalties.

The Children's Guardian will rely on these enforcement powers, where organisations demonstrate persistent, or deliberate non-compliance with the Child Safe Standards.

The Children's Guardian approach to monitoring organisations is strengths-based and focused on what works best for children, not prescriptive compliance. Monitoring may include reviewing an organisation's systems and processes. They might also inspect an organisation's premises, with permission from the head of the organisation. The Children's Guardian also have the power to direct an organisation to complete a Child Safe Self-Assessment.

The Children's Guardian can also issue a monitoring assessment report to help an organisation improve its compliance with the Child Safe Standards. The organisation must respond to the recommendations made in that report.

2023 Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd Audit of the Archdiocese of Sydney

In 2023 Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) will be auditing the Archdiocese of Sydney's Parishes, Chaplaincy



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Communities and Agencies to ensure compliance with the 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS). ACSL will conduct site visits to a number of Parishes, Chaplaincy Communities and Agencies as well as conduct informational interviews with key staff in those Parishes, Chaplaincy Communities and Agencies.

The Safeguarding Office has been preparing Parishes, Chaplaincy Communities and Agencies for this audit via the annual Self-Assessment and providing information and handy hints through Safeguarding Training and Newsletters.

Below the Safeguarding Office has put together some handy hints in order to prepare yourself and your community for the upcoming audit:

- Ensuring that all relevant clergy, religious paid staff, including volunteers and students (over 18 years) working directly with children have provided a current WWCC which you have verified through the Office of the Children's Guardian online portal.
- Ensuring that all relevant clergy, religious paid staff, including volunteers and students (over 18 years) working directly with children have read and signed the

Archdiocese Code of Conduct for Working With Children and records are maintained to support this.

- Ensuring all lay workers, paid staff and volunteers who hold a WWCC have completed the Safeguarding induction training program prior to working with children and records are maintained to support this.
- Ensuring all lay workers, paid staff and volunteers who hold a WWCC have completed the Safeguarding Refresher training program three years after completing the Safeguarding induction training and records are maintained to support this.
- Ensuring Risk Assessments are completed whenever there is an activity or event where children are present such as children's liturgy, youth groups, sacramental programs and retreats.
- Ensuring key contact people within your community are identified and this information is easily accessible to everyone in the community.
- Ensuring the Archdiocese Child Safeguarding Policy is published on your website, in the parish bulletin, and newsletter at least once a year.
- Ensuring items from previous years Self-Assessment Continuous Improvement Plan have been completed or are in the process of being completed.

Anna Sammut

Safeguarding Officer - Training and Development

Safeguarding Bite No. 59



Three things to do in your Community this week:

- Display Safeguarding Commitment Statement Poster.
- Ensure Safeguarding notice is in all future bulletins.
- Ensure Safeguarding is a permanent standing agenda item at all Parish Council or team meetings.

The Safeguarding Team

