



Ad Clerum

March/April 2023

Newsletter of the
Archbishop of Sydney
Circular No. 2/2023

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

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

It was a joy to see so many of you at our first Clergy Conference of the year last month. We were blessed with some illuminating presentations on the importance of the family and I pray that with God's grace we can use that information to assist us in our ministry to families throughout the Archdiocese of Sydney.

I was delighted to see a great turn out for the recent celebration of the Day of the Unborn Child. The procession following Mass from St Mary's Cathedral to NSW Parliament House was a powerful witness to God's care and concern for all human life, especially the most vulnerable, those in the womb.

As we journey towards Holy Week, I pray that the light of hope from Christ's tomb guides each of you and the communities that you serve to his boundless and life-giving love.

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

+ Archbishop Anthony

2023

Dates To Remember

Interdiocesan Retired (and getting
Ready for) Clergy Conference
Spirituality of Aging

13 April 2022

Seminary of the Good Shepherd

Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2023

1–3 May 2023-S1

31–23 August 2023-S2

6–8 November 2023-S3

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Finance A and B

4 and 25 May

Polding Centre

Walk with Christ

Sunday, 11 June 2023

St Mary's Cathedral Precinct

Worklogic Training Courses for 2023

14 June - Conversations that Matter @ Polding Centre

28 June - Professional Conduct in the Workplace @
Polding Centre

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Ongoing Formation

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

PLEASE PRAY...

VACANT PARISHES





Those pastors interested in an appointment to one or more of following parishes are invited to submit expressions of interest to the Vicar General by 14 April 2023:

- St Peter Chanel and St Joseph, Berala: Fr Thomas Kurunthanam, the current Parish Priest, will be on sabbatical from 31 July 2023 and will take up a new appointment upon his return.
- St Therese, Denistone: Fr Roberto Castillo, the current Parish Priest, has completed his 12 years in the parish.
- Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall: currently vacant and being Administered by Fr Peter Krigovsky.
- Lourdes Parish, Earlwood: Fr Patrick Njenga, the current Administrator, has expressed an openness to a new appointment.

For those that are sick in our community...

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 April, May, June and July

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

Deacon Richard Sofatzis is seeking a chalice

Deacon Richard Sofatzis, currently studying in Rome, is seeking a chalice ahead of his ordination to the priesthood, likely sometime later this year.

If any priest is in possession of a chalice that he would be willing to sell / provide to Deacon Richard, please contact him directly - Richard.Sofatzis@sydneycatholic.org

I RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS:

Rev Andrew James

Reappointed a Member of the Council of Priests from 21 February 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Benjamin Johnson OFMCap

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission from 6 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Peter Krigovsky

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall from 1 March 2023.

Rev Tomasz Lepek CSMA

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Kevin, Eastwood from 1 March 2023.

Rev Paul Mahony SM

Appointed Part Time Chaplain to the Portuguese Community from 10 March 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Dominic Nguyen

Appointed to the Staff of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd and Director of First Year from 5 January 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Pierluigi Passoni

Appointed Auditor for the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney and Assistant Priest of the Parishes of St Augustine of Hippo, Balmain and St Joseph, Rozelle from 1 March 2023.

Rev Hyeon Paek

Appointed Senior Chaplain to the Korean Catholic Community from 10 March 2023 for a term of three years.

Rev Moises Tapia Carrasco

Reappointed Assistant to the Vice Rector and Pastoral Director of Redemptoris Mater Seminary from 22 April 2023 for a term of one year.

Rev Manuel Santiago

Reappointed Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Curia, Illawarra in the Archdiocese of Sydney from 1 May 2023 for a term of three years.

Very Rev Bernard Thomas OFM

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of Mary Immaculate and St Charles Borromeo, Waverley from 1 February 2023.

NON-CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS:

Mr Michael Digges

Reappointed a Trustee of the Trustees of the Catholic Aged Care Sydney (TCACS) from 5 June 2023 for a term of three years.

Sr Mary Leahy RSJ

Reappointed Chaplain to the Apostleship of the Sea in the Archdiocese of Sydney from 1 March 2023 for a term of three years.

Sr Professor Isabell Naumann ISSM

Reappointed President of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 1 January 2023 for a term of five years.

ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY


OVERSEAS CLERGY INDUCTION PROGRAM

As you may be aware, the Ongoing Formation of Clergy Committee (OFCC) have been designing a program for Clergy who arrive from overseas to feel welcomed into the Archdiocese of Sydney. 2023 will see the first program given. The program runs for the entire year and will be given on the following dates:

- 1st to 3rd May
- 21st to 23rd August
- 6th to 8th November

All priests who have arrived in the Archdiocese from overseas are welcome to come. We are particularly inviting those who have recently arrived.

The program will cover topics such as our rich Indigenous Culture, General Information about the Chancery and who to contact in the Archdiocese, the Diocesan Structure, the Spirituality and History of the Church in Australia, the Pastoral Practice of Sacraments in Australia, Cultural Competency and understanding the richness of the culture each one brings to the Archdiocese. There will be a mixture of information sessions balanced with free time and getting to know others. There will be a mixture of information sessions balanced with free time and getting to know others.

If you would like to join us, please register here: 

We encourage you to come to all three sessions throughout the year as they make up a complete program.

One of the priests who attended our pilot program in November 2022 said:

"I had the best time this weekend. Not only was it enriching for myself, but I had so many questions answered... questions that I have had for years. This program has been a long time coming and I am so glad that we have this now in Sydney."

If you have any questions before registering, please contact: **Kylie Cullen** on **0403 453 620** or **Maria Cavallaro** on **0421 879 963**.

Other Formation Opportunities during 2023

So far in 2023 there have been a couple of opportunities for formation offered.

Afternoon Retreat – 17 February

The Afternoon Retreat held at Hunters Hill Parish was attended by some 26 clergy members. The afternoon was started with a spiritual reflection led by Fr Edmond Travers MSC, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Montbel Chapal and finishing with a great meal and fraternity in the evening.

There will be another opportunity for such a retreat later this year.

Clergy Conference – 16 March, Le Montage

On 16 March, 2023 the clergy meet at Le Montage for our first Clergy Conference of the year based around Families. The morning sessions saw Alastair McGibbon and his leadership head a panel, followed by Francine and Byron Pirola presenting on family and evangelisation.

The afternoon, was commenced with Karen Larkman, Director of Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity reminding clergy of their obligations with safeguarding followed by Fr Gerry Gleeson, the Vicar General talking on how safeguarding complaints are handled.

The afternoon concluded with Archbishop Anthony Fisher summarising the day.


The event was well attended with 220 people present, including 190 clergy.

Other Formation Offered In 2023

During 2023 there will be other formation opportunities include afternoon retreats, workshops in Governance, Finance, and Marriage Preparation.

The Worklogic courses on Conversations that Matter, and Professional Conduct in the Workplace will be offered again for those that were unable to attend this year.

An Interdiocesan Clergy Conference for Retired Clergy being held at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd.

We understand that it would be difficult to attend all the workshops offered during the year and therefore ask that you express an interest in the workshops you would like to attend by right clicking [HERE](#): 

We hope to see you during the year.

Fr Paul Monkerud

Chair, Ongoing Formation of Clergy Committee


For any enquiries please contact

Maria Cavallaro: 9390 5888

maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org

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:** 

FROM PONTIFICIUM INSTITUTUM ALTIORIS LATINITATIS - LINGUA ECCLESIAE, ROME

Your Excellency,
the Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis wish to inform you about the third edition of the intensive course of Latin as a spoken language Lingua Ecclesiae. The course is organized by us along with the Italian Institute for Classical Studies. The course will be held in Rome in September 2023 and it addresses exclusively to ecclesiastics who will spend the entire length of the course, i.e. one month, living together, guested by an ecclesiastic accommodation, carefully chosen. Beside the studying, the guests could dedicate themselves to several moments of pray that take place during the day.

In the past editions, we hosted almost 200 students who, coming from different dioceses of the Church, are now refining their juridical, philosophical and theological studies, or teaching Latin in their dioceses.

In the morning we hold lessons of Lingua Latina; in the afternoon the time is dedicated to personal study and optional courses of Latinitas Patristica, Latinitas Canonica and Latinitas Liturgica. Starting from this edition, we are introducing an additional support for the students:

in the afternoon it will be possible to attend further lessons devoted to deepen and repeat what has been taught in the morning.



Please note that, in case one is not able to come to Rome, a distinct LINGUA LATINA course will be available via zoom.

For the whole month and in every moment of the day the only communication language will be Latin (in the lessons as in the daily life). Since day one, the teachers of the Italian Institute for Classical Studies with a deliberated methodology, acquired through years of using the most efficient didactical methodology, will hold the lessons in Latin and guide the students to the acquisition of an active and passive usage of the language.

At the end of the study program, the students, even though the ones who didn't have any previous knowledge

of the Latin language will be able to read and understand comfortably Latin texts that constitute the precious treasure of the spiritual and cultural tradition of the Church. Besides, having passed the exams, the students will acquire a maximum of 25 ECTS, guaranteed by the Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis of the Università Pontificia Salesiana.

We hope that your kind courtesy will help us in sharing the information with those who might be interested.

Thanking you for your time and attention, we attach some informative material  in order to shed some light on the nature and the goal of the courses. You can also visit the website 

Yours in Christ,

Prof. don Miran Sajovic

Preside-Decano

Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis

Prof. Federico Pirrone

Presidente

Istituto Italiano di Studi Classici

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

CCI Insurance for Parishes

Please note that CCI will not insure parishes for Cyber Insurance. This is due to CCI having no way of validating whether parishes have ICT processes in place that reduce

the risk of cyber-attacks. Given the sensitive nature of the financial and personal information that is held on our parish ICT systems, this represents a significant financial and reputational risk to parishes and hence the Archdiocese.

In view of this reality, the Archdiocesan ICT team will be commencing a review of parish ICT systems in the coming months, with the aim of significantly improving the relevant technology and reducing parish vulnerability to cyber-attack. As a result, certain parishes may incur an initial cost to implement the necessary upgrades. This cost, however, is negligible as compared with the potential loss that might result from a data breach or other hacking event.


Moreover, if the Archdiocese is able to validate each reviewed parish once the upgrades have been completed, then CCI may extend insurance cover to include those parishes.

Terrigal Apartment

Priests are reminded of the availability of the apartment at Terrigal for holidays. This apartment has three bedrooms and is a very convenient distance from the beach. For those wishing to book accommodation at Terrigal please contact **Sebastian Condon** on (02) 9390 5185 or Email: sebastian.condon@sydneycatholic.org

From CCD

Sacramental Preparation – how to invite Catholic families in Public Schools

To provide Catholic families in Public Schools with Sacramental Preparation information, advice and sample letters are provided here: 

Thank you for your ongoing SRE Catechist recruitment efforts that are bearing fruit, especially as more parishioners work from home and may have time to serve as a SRE Helper or Catechist in their nearby public school,

Doug Mawhinney

CCD Parish Catechist Support

Tel. 9307 8330 | office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Media monitoring service

The Archdiocese subscribes to a media monitoring service that provides a twice-daily email report on media items relevant to the Church in Australia. The format of the email allows for more articles to be provided than what appear in the daily CathNews email. Links to articles are provided, and most articles are provided without the need for a subscription to the newspaper itself. If you would like to be added to the list to receive media clips, please email **Michael Kenny, Communications Manager** (michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org).

From the Liturgy Office

The Liturgy Office's web-page is up and running again.

Please have a look and direct to it anyone who may be interested in what we do.

On the web-page you can find some guidelines and resources, schedule of our courses and plans for upcoming events, feedback forms, etc.

The address is the same as it was before: 

The Priests parishes can again access our Library Collection via our web page: 

The Liturgy Office team

(Dr) Mariusz Biliniewicz

Director, Liturgy Office

Marriage Forms – updated versions available on Sydney Clergy Intranet and Parish Intranet

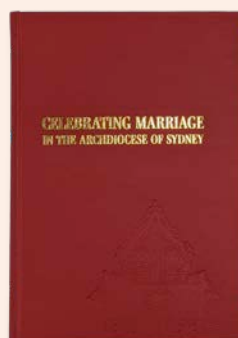
Please note there have been updates made to the following editable marriage forms:

- Permission for Mixed Marriage/Disparity of Cult
- Prenuptial Enquiry Form

Please delete all previous versions of these forms and download the updated version.

Please contact **Lynelle** if you require further information – lynelle.lembryk@sydneytribunal.org.au

Red Book Pastoral Tip No. 17



“Sometimes a PP is asked if a non-Catholic Priest or Minister could use the Catholic Church building for a wedding.

The reasons for this can be many and varied. In general Catholic Churches are reserved to celebrate Catholic ceremonies only.

Any exception would require careful discernment but sometimes permission is given.

If such a request is made to a PP and he supports the request, he should consult further with the Chancery before a final decision is made.”

Fr Julian B Wellspring EV JV

News from the Plenary/Synod Council Working Group

A submission from CAS was sent to the Secretariat for the Synod Bishops in response to the Continental Phase Document for the assembly for Oceania in Suva.

The submission was developed from a meeting on November 19 at Mary MacKillop Place. A synthesis of the report was provided to Archbishop Anthony prior to the meeting.

We are now waiting for the release of the document being developed from the Suva assembly.

Support for the Catholic Mission Conference One Heart Many Voices

The archdiocese has agreed to support ten parish ambassadors to attend the Catholic Mission conference with the theme of Synodality to be held from May 3 to 5.

Liaison Officer Role for the Working Group

I will be concluding my role as liaison officer for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for the Plenary Council/Synod Working Group as I have been elected to the NSW Regional Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The contact for the working group will now be Dr Sandy Lynch, co-chair of the Working Group. Sandy's email address is sandra.lynch@nd.edu.au

The Archdiocese will keep our archdiocesan contacts informed of communication from the General Secretariat of the Synod.


Thank you for your support over the past two years. I have enjoyed working with the parish ambassadors and deaneries. I will continue to pray for you all as you continue the synodal journey

Sr Jo Brady RSJ

Plenary Council/Synod Liaison Officer

*On behalf of Bishop Terry Brady and Sandra Lynch,
Co-Chairpersons, Sydney Archdiocesan PCSWG*

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 



Mental Might 20

Every one of us is living with different forms of disability, and it's healthiest for us all to celebrate our differences as strengths, not faults.

Dr Robbie Lloyd

Research & Project Officer, Justice and Peace Office

SYDNEY CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

Dear Fathers,

There are a number of opportunities for formation and prayer in the months ahead, which may be of interest to your parish teams, leaders and parishioners. This includes marriage preparation and enrichment opportunities following the focus of the March clergy conference on marriage and family.

With best wishes

Daniel Ang

Visit of Sherry Weddell

The Parish Renewal Team has engaged Sherry Weddell, international speaker and author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, to visit the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney in May.

Following on from Sherry's last visit in 2019 when she spoke about discipleship and the thresholds of conversion, Sherry will return this year to speak on the topic **"Charisms: The Power of the Holy Spirit Unleashed"**.

All clergy are invited to attend with their lay leaders as Sherry unpacks the presence of charisms in our lives and parish communities, the power of the Holy Spirit working in each one of us toward the building up of the Kingdom of God. When people discover their charisms, they seek to put them at service of the Gospel in the Church and the wider community.

Please see dates and venues below with more details to follow in coming months:


- Monday 22 May 2023, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Liverpool Catholic Club
- Wednesday 24 May 2023, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield



Theology of the Body Courses

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation has partnered with the Theology of the Body Institute to bring their online

courses to Sydney, led by Dr Christopher West, following his visit to Sydney earlier in the year.

The course represents an opportunity to invite young leaders and others interested to engage with the foundations of Christian anthropology as they seek to live their faith in an increasingly complex and challenging culture. Registrations for the course are now open via  and promotional material is included in the weekly bulletin notices sent to your parish.


The Annual Camino of St Joseph

The Annual Camino of St Joseph is an overnight walking pilgrimage for men which will take place this year from 28–29 April in the Archdiocese in honour of St Joseph the Worker (1 May). For more information contact **Ivica Kovac** on **0403 201 444** or ivica.kovac@sydneycatholic.org




Marriage Preparation

The Archdiocesan marriage preparation course, 'Of Life and Love', will be offered from the 20-21 May at St Christopher's Parish, Holsworthy. The course will provide opportunity for formation from marriage experts, time for reflection, couple discussion and reception of the sacraments.

Register by the 10 May at 

Note: A second Marriage Preparation Program will be offered in November 2023. Details to follow.

Marriage Enrichment

Please invite the married couples in your parish to renew and enrich their vocation by attending the following enrichment opportunities available this May, featuring U.S. speaker **Chris Padgett**. More information and registrations at 

- **'Embrace Evening'**, a night of renewal for marriage. 6pm-9pm on Friday 12 May at St Thomas of Canterbury Lewisham.
- **'Called to Love'** – day retreats to enrich married couples in their vocation, from 9am – 5:30pm Saturday 13 May at Holy Cross College Ryde; and 9am – 5:30pm Sunday 14 May at St Jerome's Punchbowl.

A Call for Sponsors

We would like to invite priests and deacons to identify married couples in their parish who could serve as sponsor couples, accompanying engaged couples in their preparation for marriage in their own parish.

For more information, visit  or contact our Marriage Support Officer, **Hashya Weerakkody** at hashya.weerakkody@sydneycatholic.org

Regional Support from Sydney Catholic Youth

Towards the end of 2022, Milad Khalil (Team Leader for Sydney Catholic Youth) worked towards implementing a new structure for the Sydney Catholic Youth team.

The new structure took effect in January 2023 and includes the appointment of one Youth Officer per region of the Archdiocese. Each Youth Officer will work to serve their region, deaneries, parishes and school communities, to ensure young people have every opportunity to grow in their faith and are connected to their local Catholic communities.

Please see the names of the team members, their respective roles and allocated regions, and do not hesitate to reach out to your regional youth officer for all things youth ministry.

Milad Khalil: Team Leader

Contact:

milad.khalil@sydneycatholic.org or **0413 242 901**

John Nguyen: Youth Officer - Region A

(Western, South Western and Central Deaneries)

Contact:

john.nguyen@sydneycatholic.org or **0432 342 039**

Catherine Phillips: Youth Officer - Region B

(Concord, Northern and City Deaneries)

Contact:

catherine.phillips@sydneycatholic.org or **0468 794 386**

Anna Harrison: Youth Officer - Region C

(Eastern, St George and Sutherland Deaneries)

Contact:


anna.harrison@sydneycatholic.org or **0434 733 163**

Fidelis + WYD Formation for Young Adults

Fidelis is a monthly gathering of young adults from across Sydney and takes place on the last Wednesday of every month. Fidelis is a unique opportunity for young adults to gather for fellowship, food, music, catechesis and prayer.

Fidelis returns in March 2023 and this year, each Fidelis night will also act as a formation opportunity for those who

will be travelling to WYD23 in Lisbon. All Fidelis nights will take place at St Joachim's Parish, Lidcombe from 6-9:30pm.

All young adults are invited to attend and to keep up to date with Fidelis events, please visit  or the **Fidelis Instagram** and **Facebook pages @fidelis_sydney**.

Purpose High

An important part of the work of Sydney Catholic Youth is to offer faith-based events and initiatives for high school students. This year, Sydney Catholic Youth launched 'Purpose High', which aims to lead teens into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church and to inspire and form a generation of faithful young leaders.

Purpose High offers engaging and interactive seminars, workshops, programs and events on topics including but not limited, Purpose and Meaning, Love and Relationships, Catholic Faith and Leadership Development. One of the main aims of Purpose High is to build relationships with teens within their schools and to then draw them to parish life.

If you are interested in bringing Purpose High to your local Catholic community, please contact SCY Team Leader **Milad Khalil** at milad.khalil@sydneycatholic.org or **0413 242 901**.

Walk with Christ

Sunday, 11 June 2023

To celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi this year, the **Walk with Christ event will be held on Sunday, 11 June at St Mary's Cathedral precinct and surrounding areas**. All parish priests are encouraged to attend the event and invite their communities to join them. The Archdiocese is able to provide buses again this year for those bringing large groups and travelling longer distances. More event information and bus registration details will be released in the next few weeks. In the meantime, please save the date in your calendars.

Yours in Christ,

Daniel Ang

Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

CLERGY REMUNERATION NOTICE

EASTER DUES: Please remember to distribute the Easter Due envelopes during the Season. Ensure that they are left on the pews and are obvious to those who attend, especially at this time. Consider dedicating a Tap&Go machine to Easter Dues, possibly with vibrant signage! If you require more envelopes, please contact the office on **9390 5166**.

BALLOT 2023: The current Board of the Management's term ends in late 2023 and a call for nominations will take

place mid-year. Please consider nominating if you are interested in helping to manage the System, for the betterment of our brothers, over the next few years. Meetings will be held at St Martha's Leichhardt, on most months and run for a few hours.

**Board of Management,
Clergy Remuneration System**

CLERICAL FUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTICES

ARE YOU OVER 65? All clergy over 65 are encouraged to apply for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. Sign up via the Services Australia website, which leads you step-by-step through the process. (If you have recently applied for the Disaster Recovery Payment – this will be an easier procedure – as most of the work will have been done.)
*NB: It is important to note that Exempt Fringe Benefits (eg S57 FBTAA exemption for benefits provided by a religious institution to its religious practitioners) are not **Reportable Fringe Benefits** and, therefore, not treated as **Adjusted Taxable Income** for the purposes of assessing eligibility for the Seniors Health Care Card.*

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, 13 June 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

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of our brother, John de Luca, who departed this life on 18 January, so soon after the death of our former Secretary, Peter Maher.

John's wisdom and intellect were integral to the Committee's deliberations and he, along with Peter, will be truly missed. May they both rest in peace.

We are pleased to announce that Fr Danai Penollar has agreed to join the Committee for the remainder of the term of the current Committee. We will seek to appoint another of our brothers to fill the position recently left vacant by John's passing.


Finally, the first meeting of the Clerical Fund Management Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 14 March 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: 

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: 


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 2022/23.

Tantur Ecumenical Institute

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

Totus Tuus



■ Fr Michael Lanzon

The Ephpheta chaplaincy has been a rewarding ministry these past eight years. Getting to know the Deaf community has benefitted me personally. I've also learnt something of Deaf culture and will try to share some pastoral ministry tips I have learnt.

I tend to be focused in my thinking and attention. Learning sign language demanded attention to detail. I needed to learn to see the subtle changes in body language and, especially, the rapid movements of the fingers. I had found reducing the complexities of the faith to simple, orderly explanations quite difficult, e.g. to preach with language the whole congregation could understand. Again, Deaf ministry required this simplification, and encouraged a very straightforward ordering of communications. An explanation that flowed visually and naturally was preferred, like a long movie scene taken in one shot.

Auslan (Australian Sign Language) has its own grammar. Sometimes the ordering of concepts reminds me of the Greek and Latin learnt in seminary, e.g. the verb is often placed at the end. This makes simultaneously signing and speaking prayers quite difficult and a bit stilted, but not impossible.

I have found myself inspired by the patience of Deaf people. They have exemplified strong and resilient faith, and selfless generosity in works of mercy.

Serving Deaf and hard of hearing people pastorally be-

gins with engaging with the individual. Circumstances differ dramatically from person to person. Some Deaf read lips, some can speak, some don't sign at all, and some have other challenges or disabilities. Hard of hearing people might have a Cochlear implant or be disinclined to use sign language.

You should try to communicate squarely face-to-face. This way, your enunciation, facial expressions, and body language are clearly visible. Presuming you don't know sign language, a written message in simple English, with short words and sentences is usually a good start. I say 'usually', because there is no guarantee that a Deaf person has learnt English reading and writing. Perhaps, without phonetics, they struggled to learn English?

Take the cue from the person in front of you. He or she may have a preferred interpreter. For many

Deaf, booking an interpreter is normal for important occasions. However, know that interpreters are expensive and government support only goes so far. Always look at the Deaf person who is communicating with you, not the interpreter!

Qualified interpreters have a good sense of the best places to stand, suitable lighting, and the relative difficulty of translating a prepared text. They may be able to recommend simpler words. A printed copy of a presentation is often useful, especially if it is written in simple English and provided in advance. Note that a Deaf person will need time to read a provided text, so you should provide a pause

for reading. Keep it short. Reading sign language or text in a second language is taxing.

Generally, strong, diffuse lighting with a simple background is best for reading sign language. Be sure to provide Deaf with a well-lit place at the front of processions and liturgical events to allow them line of sight. Culturally, it is common for Deaf in the front pews to sit, even when the congregation is standing, so that the line of sight for Deaf behind them is preserved.

Sacramental preparations require a little extra work. Retreats and courses may be navigable with an interpreter, but generally it is better to have a simplified course prepared and for the priest to engage directly with the help of an interpreter. The Deaf person/s should be asked their preference. Access to communal events helps foster involvement in the life of the parish and is much appreciated.

Often, Deaf have a poor experience of the Sacraments. E.g. Mass can be terribly boring when you understand almost nothing of what is happening. A Powerpoint or printed homily can help for Mass and other events. Priestly garb, and a name tag or card can smooth introductions.

Of course, if in doubt or needing assistance, the chaplaincy, which covers Sydney, Parramatta, and Wollongong is eager to help.

God bless,

Fr Michael Lanzon

Chaplain for the Deaf and hard of hearing

Fr.Michael.Lanzon@ephpheta.org.au

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



**Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY**

THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY



Have you thought about
a defibrillator?



- Fully automated.
- Tells you when it needs recharging.
- Easy to use.
- Minimal training.
- Can be fully maintained by supplier.

Parish WHS A Team

See the Parish Intranet Site
for all your WHS needs:
sydarch.org.au/parish



AGENCY NEWS

For March/April 2023

From CatholicCare

Expanded Physio and Allied Health Services at your fingertips – CatholicCare Sydney and Australian Catholic University partnership

The Integritas Allied Health clinic in Cabramatta West has expanded to offer much-needed allied health services to meet community demand and is welcoming new clients without the need for medical referrals and without lengthy waitlists.

Integritas, a partnership between CatholicCare Sydney and the Australian Catholic University, is not only helping guide aspiring therapists through specialist placement under the expert eye of health professionals but also providing at-home or in-clinic therapy to clients of all ages.

Providing Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech Therapy, the services help to assess, treat, and prevent a wide range of health conditions and are available through your Home Care support package, NDIS support package, Medicare, or on a fee-for-service basis.

Integritas provides all clients with the opportunity to have a voice in their own treatment, and to build their own personalised therapy team, engaging with more than one specialist at the clinic to enable them to achieve their goals – be it reaching milestones like sitting and position changes, building with blocks or mastering the art of holding and drawing with pencils, recover and rehabilitate following surgery, develop new motor skills, or even to face challenges with eating, feeding, and communication.

The person-centred evidence-based and cost-effective healthcare is delivered to children and families, young people, adults, and older people. At all times the dignity and decisions of the client are respected, allowing for high levels of trust between the service and the client to develop.

Integritas Allied Health can be delivered throughout the inner west and southwestern Sydney in a client's own home or at the purpose-built practice rooms in Cabramatta West.

Visit the website 

Email: clinical.therapies@catholiccare.org

Call **13 18 19** for more information.

CatholicCare Companions - offering support, connection and belonging

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble" - —Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The CatholicCare Companions program offers companions for anyone who is vulnerable and isolated and in need of support, ensuring those who fall are not alone, whether that fall is emotional, physical, or mental. Providing someone to walk alongside vulnerable people, to help them reconnect with the community and build a sense of belonging directly connects with CatholicCare's purpose and vision.

"Whilst companionship is not the same as a friendship, it does include real warmth and a comfortable rapport and empathy between the two individuals," says Paige Bullen, Project Manager Community Chaplaincy.

"There is a lot of learning and strength to be derived for both people."

The ability to reach out and help another, to give time and an open heart to a stranger is an incredible act of generosity, particularly today when we are time-poor and overwhelmed by our own struggles. Walking in solidarity with others, putting ourselves in their shoes, and understanding their needs responds to the Sacred Ground proposal made by Pope Francis – the simple act of accompaniment, presence, and attentiveness to another. CatholicCare Companions connects those who are feeling alone with a community of people who care – calling **13 18 19** can make

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

13 18 19

[Catholiccare.org](https://catholiccare.org)

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

 **CatholicCare**

a big difference to the health and wellbeing of those who feel isolated or overwhelmed by some of life's challenges.

CatholicCare Sydney also welcomes those who would like to walk beside others and provide support and compassion as a volunteer companion – information sessions and training are held regularly – call **13 18 19** to take the first steps towards helping others.

FROM SYDNEY CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (SCECS)

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS) is proud to announce the opening of two new centres in the parishes of Caringbah and Coogee, strengthening and adding value to the existing Catholic network of Early Childhood Education and Care Services. The purpose built Caringbah centre provides education and care for 76 children whilst the Coogee centre is a newly renovated existing building located on-site of St Brigid's Parish providing care for 98 children. Both centres opened in January/February this year and have been well received in the community.

The Coogee centre occupies the site of the original primary school and sits beside the church. It is a large centre which has an additional external building for preschoolers. "The children move from the old school building, into the modern outdoor room which allows them to have direct access to the beautiful tree-filled playground," Ms Pahor said. "It still has the original features of the old school, however with the new renovations, the centre has a refreshed interior."

The playground has been renewed with new planting, improved safety features, set in a beautiful, child friendly natural environment.



Mrs O'Connor said taking on a pre-existing children's service was a first for SCECS. "We have been thrilled with the positive response from the Parish Community with a

high demand for places, especially in the babies room. Caringbah has also had exceptional interest immediately on announcing our Open Day."

"Building relationships with the families and ensuring that the children have access to wonderful resources and highly qualified teachers is always our priority at SCECS," she said. Ms Pahor said "It's an exciting challenge to open two new centres, building a community hub and so far the feedback from our families have been extremely positive. The demand for care in both areas is reflected in the number of children that have commenced at both centres"

SCECS is always looking for opportunities to connect with the parish and wider community. "Our vision is to enable every Catholic family to access high quality education from birth through primary school. Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS) operates Outside School Hours Care and Early Childhood Services at over 40 Catholic Parishes across Sydney. SCECS is not-for-profit, registered charity, where surplus funds are reinvested back into our services to provide exceptional education and care environments.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Training for 2023 Safeguarding Conference 1 June 2023, Waterview, Sydney Olympic Park

Dear Clergy

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the Safeguarding Office and the commitment you have shown over the past 7 years in completing mandatory safeguarding training requirements to meet our responsibilities under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) and the Office of the Children's Guardian NSW, Child Safe Standards.


In 2023, rather than inviting you to attend a safeguarding training session at the Polding Centre as we have in previous years, we have planned an interesting and informative Safeguarding Conference at **Waterview, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park on 1 June 2023**. The Conference will run from 10.30 – 3pm with registrations commencing at 10am and will include a delicious lunch and opportunity to meet and speak with your fellow clergy during lunch and break times.

Our decision to hold a Safeguarding Conference rather than providing a new 2023 training session is in response to changing compliance requirements within the Safeguarding space in terms of our accountability to statutory bodies and Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL). The Archdiocese as a whole, including parishes, chaplain-

cies and agencies will be audited by ACSL this year, ACSL will produce a public report on the Archdiocese compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS). Some parishes and chaplaincies are across this; however, others still have some way to go.

To assist you in understanding your obligations in relation to Safeguarding and to give you the opportunity to ask questions, we have invited three very interesting and relevant speakers. Our guest speakers are:

- **Ursula Stephens**, CEO of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd
- Detective Acting Superintendent **Gillian Lister**, NSW Police Force
- **Mr Stephen Kinmond OAM**, NSW Children's Guardian

There is no cost to attend this Conference as it replaces your annual safeguarding training requirement and covers your safeguarding training obligations for 2023. We very much look forward to seeing you at the Conference and ask you to confirm your attendance at the link 


Cancelled Safeguarding Training sessions for 2023

In lieu of the Safeguarding Conference on 1st June the following Safeguarding Training sessions have been cancelled:

- Level 1 Training on Thursday, 13 July 2023
- Level 2 Training on Tuesday, 25 July 2023
- Level 3 Training on Tuesday, 14 November 2023
- Clergy Module Communicating with Children and Young People on Thursday, 20 April
- Clergy Module Understanding Grooming on Thursday, 18 May
- Clergy Module Understanding Trauma on Wednesday, 14 June

If you have registered for any of the above training sessions, please contact **Anna Sammut** via email **anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org**

Working With Children's Check Administration Guidance


It is important that every WWCC you have for workers and volunteers is verified by you on the **Office of the Children's Guardian employer Portal**. You need to ensure that details and contact information are correct and up to date. Below the Safeguarding Office has put together a WWCC Administration Guidance checklist for Parishes and Chaplaincies to use 

Anna Sammut
Safeguarding Officer - Training and Development

Safeguarding Bite No. 58



2023 Safeguarding Conference

Click here  to register for our 2023 Safeguarding Conference on 1st June 2023.

The Safeguarding Team