

# October/November 2023

# Ad Clerum

Newsletter of the  
Archbishop of Sydney  
Circular No. 5/2023

## A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

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

I thank you all for your prayers last month during the first session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome. The month-long assembly was a time for prayerful discernment and reflection on a wide range of topics. I intend to share my thoughts on the synod and any implications for the archdiocese in due course.

This month I will be ordaining Ronny D'Cruz and Zlejkovic to the priesthood. This follows the priestly ordinations of Richard Sofatzis and Matthew Lukaszewicz in September. We are wonderfully blessed to have four new priests in the archdiocese this year! I thank you for your presence at their ordinations as well as the continued prayers, support, and encouragement offered to your new brother priests.

A reminder that the Pre-Advent Clergy Conference is taking place on Friday December 1 at the Cathedral College Hall and Crypt. These gatherings are an important opportunity to come together before the end of the year in fruitful conversation and fraternity. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Following the request of the Holy Father Pope Francis and the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, we continue to pray fervently and faithfully for an end to the hostilities currently plaguing the Holy Land. We pray that Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, may fill the hearts and all of people, bringing an end to unspeakable horrors of war unfolding throughout the region.

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

*+ Archbishop Anthony*

## 2023

### Dates To Remember

#### Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2023

6–8 November 2023 - S3

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

#### Sacrosanctum Concilium Lectures

During the month of November starting with  
8th November 2023

See inside for more details

#### Archbishop's Pre-Advent Gathering

1 December 2023,  
SMC Precinct

#### Christmas at the Cathedral

From 14 to 25 December, St Mary's Cathedral

#### Clergy Afternoon Retreat

23 February 2024, St John Bosco, Engadine

#### Clergy Formation: People Management

5 and 19 March 2024 (2 day course)  
St Martha's Leichhardt

#### Live In 2024 Clergy Conference

8 to 11 April 2024, Novotel Wollongong

#### Intercultural Clergy Programme for 2024

29 April–1 May - S1 / 15 – 17 July - S2 / 4–6 November - S3  
Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

## 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 John Alt - RIP

Former Parish Priest of Meadowbank and Lidcombe  
27 October 2023

### Fr Kenneth Sargent - RIP

Former Parish Priest of Woollahra  
28 October 2023

### Mrs Pamela Mavis Porteous - RIP

Mother of Archbishop Julian Porteous  
8 October 2023

### Mr Joseph Francis - RIP

Father of Deacon Mervyn Francis  
21 September 2023

### Fr John O'Keefe - RIP

Former Parish Priest of Summer Hill before retiring in 2003  
17th September 2023

## 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 Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey and Fr Michael Kelly** who are currently unwell.

## For those being Ordained...

On Saturday 4 November 2023, at 10.30am **Deacon Rev. Ronny Jose D'Cruz** and **Rev. Zeljko Evetovic** will be Ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Please join me in congratulations on their Ordination. Please continue to keep these men in your prayers and they enter this new area of their ministry.

## CONGRATULATIONS:





### Fr Joseph Hamilton

has been awarded the D.Phil. for his work in patristics in the University of Oxford

### Fr Sebastian Wai Keet Hew

has been awarded the Licentiate in Sacred Scripture and the Bibeau prize for the highest marks in scripture at the Biblicum

## For special anniversaries occurring in November, December, January and February

I ask that you download the attached lists:  (November),  (December), and  (January) and  (February) 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 John Armstrong

Appointed a Member of the Committee for Ongoing Formation of Clergy from 4 October 2023 for a term of three years.

#### Rev Sheldon Burke CRS

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Joseph, Moorebank from 1 September 2023.

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Christopher, Holsworthy from 1 September 2023.

#### Rev Roberto Castillo

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

#### Rev Lawrence Cauchi

Reappointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

#### Rev Mervyn Francis

Reappointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

#### Rev Joseph Gedeon

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Jerome, Punchbowl from 15 September 2023 for a term of six years.

#### Fr Joseph Hamilton

Appointed as Rector of Domus Australia (Rome) from Nov 1 for a period of 2 years.

#### Rev Siale Hau

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Joseph, Belmore from 1 September 2023.

#### Rev Sebastian Hew

Appointed to Doctoral Studies at the Biblicum from 1 October 2023 for a term of five years.

### Rev Bijoy Joseph

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Joachim, Lidcombe from 1 September 2023.

### Rev Matthew Lukaszewicz

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Holy Family Catholic Parish, Mosman from 9 September 2023.

### Rev Samuel Lynch

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Risk Committee from 17 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev James McCarthy

Reappointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Matthew Meagher

Reappointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Joshua Miechels

Appointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Klaudio Milohanovic OFM

Appointed Chaplain to the Croatian Catholic Community from 1 October 2023 for a term of three years.

### Very Rev Van Vuong Nguyen

Reappointed Parish Priest of the Parish of St Felix de Valois, Bankstown from 12 December 2023 for a term of six years.

### Rev Mato Muckalovic OFM

Appointed Chaplain to the Croatian Catholic Community from 7 October 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Rex Paulraj

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of St Aloysius of Gonzaga, Cronulla from 1 September 2023.

### Rev Pasquale Pizzoferro

Appointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Mr Christopher Roehrig

Appointed Deacon of the Parish of St Joseph, Belmore from 1 October 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Thomas Stevens

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

### Rev Jacob Wang

Reappointed Chaplain to the Chinese speaking Catholic Community from 1 October 2023 for a term of three years.

### Rev Gerard Woo-Ling

Reappointed to the Board of the Clergy Remuneration System from 12 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Very Rev Julian Wellspring

Reappointed Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs from 16 November 2023 for a term of three years.

## NON-CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

### Ms Nicola Arvidson

Appointed a Member of the Committee for Domus 8.7 - Anti-Slavery Taskforce from 1 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Ms Lisa Bartak

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Risk Committee from 17 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Ms Rebecca Davies

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Risk Committee from 17 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Loretta Di Mento

Reappointed a Director of the Board of Sydney Catholic Schools Limited from 24 August 2023 for a term of one year.

### Ms Mary Digges

Reappointed a Director of the Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Early Childhood Services Ltd (Company) from 7 October 2023 for a term of three years.

### Mr Michael Digges

Reappointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Risk Committee from 17 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Ms Ruth Furber

Reappointed a Member of the Committee for Domus 8.7 - Anti-Slavery Taskforce from 1 November 2023 for a term of three years.

### Mr Mark McCrossin

Reappointed a Director of the Board of Sydney Catholic Schools Limited from 11 September 2023 for a term of one year.

### Mr Stephen Newton

Reappointed a Director of the Board of Sydney Catholic Schools Limited from 24 August 2023 for a term of three years.

### Professor Hayden Ramsay

Reappointed a Director of Sydney Catholic Schools from 1 December 2023 for a term of one year.

### Mr Peter Saccasan

Appointed a Member of the Senate of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 15 August 2023 for a term of three years.

Appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Catholic Institute of Sydney from 11 September 2023 for a term of three years.

### Mr Frank Zipfinger

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocesan Finance Council from 5 September 2023 for a term of three years.

## ONGOING FORMATION OF CLERGY

### Archbishop's Pre-Advent Gathering 1 December 2023 SMC Precinct

Dear Colleagues,

On **Friday, 1 December 2023**, the Archbishop will host the annual Pre-Advent Clergy Gathering in St Mary's Cathedral Precinct.

The event will commence at 2.30pm with registrations and refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.

The Program will be similar to the last few years, about which evaluations have been positive. We hope that the earlier date will allow many to attend before the Advent rush leading up to Christmas.

The Program will begin with the Archbishop's review of the year, followed by a Q & A session.

We then will move to the Crypt for a Penitential Liturgy, during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.

The Liturgy will finish with Benediction. The evening will culminate with the Advent dinner in the Cathedral Hall.

On the registration form, there will be an opportunity for you to submit a question to the Archbishop.

Please click here:  to register before  
**17 November 2023.**

Please try your best to join us.  
With every blessing,

*Fr Paul Monkerud*

*Chair, Ongoing Formation of Clergy Committee*

Enquiries: Maria Cavallaro: **9390 5888**;  
[maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org)

## 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 3:** 6 – 8 November 2023, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville.



## Ponticia Universita Gregoriana

The Pontificia Universita Gregoriana is inviting clergy and lay leaders from the Archdiocese to the Renewal Programme for Missionaries in 2024. Please click here  for further information.

## 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

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 Marriage Dispensations

Our sincere thanks to **Antonio Esquillon** for his efficient work in the Chancery generally over the past year, and for his work in processing Marriage Dispensations specifically – I know his timely assistance has been much appreciated by those clergy who have had to submit marriage paperwork over recent months.

Antonio will soon be moving to a new role at the University of Notre Dame and his last day working in the Chancery will be 17th November 2023.




Marriage dispensations will continue to be processed in the usual way: please continue to send your emails and paperwork to – [dispensations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:dispensations@sydneycatholic.org). You also can contact **Chancery** on **(02) 9390 5185**.

We wish Antonio all the very best for the future.

## Christmas at the Cathedral

Please find attached a flyer  for the Christmas at the Cathedral event from 14 to 25 December 2023 for you to start advertising in your parish.


## From the Liturgy Office

1. The Liturgy Office has produced a guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They can be found on the Liturgy Office's web-site at .
2. We have organised an event to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the publication of Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. In the lead up to the anniversary, which falls on 4th December, there will be **four public lectures** on the topic of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the post-Vatican II liturgical reform and the current state of the liturgy. The lectures will take place **on four Wednesday evenings in November 2023**; the first three lectures will take place at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia (10 Grafton Street, Chippendale), the final one will be in the Chapter Hall of St Mary's Cathedral as part of the Scholarship in the Cathedral series.

### The details are:

PAPER 1	
DATE	Wednesday 8th November 2023 6pm for 6:30pm start
LOCATION	UNDA, Broadway Campus, 10 Grafton Street (Moorgate Building)
PRESENTER	REV DR BENJAMIN JOHNSON, OFM Cap (UNDA)
TOPIC	'Proper Dispositions' for The Full Effects of the Liturgy. A Study of Sacrosanctum Concilium, par. 11
PAPER 2	
DATE	Wednesday 15th November 2023. 6pm for 6:30pm start
LOCATION	UNDA, Broadway Campus, 10 Grafton Street (Moorgate Building)
PRESENTER	DR SHAUN BLANCHARD (UNDA)
TOPIC	The Early Modern Roots of Vatican II's Liturgical Reforms

PAPER 3	
DATE	Wednesday 22nd November 2023. 6pm for 6:30pm start
LOCATION	UNDA, Broadway Campus, 10 Grafton Street (Moorgate Building)
PRESENTER	PROFESSOR TRACEY ROWLAND (UNDA)
TOPIC	The Speech of Christian Centuries: John XXIII, Paul VI and Benedict XVI on Liturgical Language
PAPER 4	
DATE	Wednesday 29th November 2023. 6pm for 6:30pm start
LOCATION	Chapter Hall, St Mary's Cathedral. Part of the Scholarship in the Cathedral series
PRESENTER	PROFESSOR CLARE JOHNSON (ACU)
TOPIC	Realising Sacrosanctum Concilium's vision: Liturgical maturation in the era of Pope Francis

For more details and to register, please visit the Liturgy Office's web-site at  Please share this information widely with your friends, colleagues, parishioners and anyone else who is interested in the topic of liturgy.

We hope to see many of you at those events!

The Liturgy Office team.

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**

## Mental Might 23

**We all need Communities of Belonging in which  
to know we are seen, heard and valued, so stay  
connected to those who know you and don't let  
isolation trap you;**

*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 

## CLERGY REMUNERATION AND CLERICAL FUND NOTICES

Thank you to those who attended the recent 2023 AGMs for both the Clergy Remuneration System (CRS) and Clerical Fund. The presence of clergy at these meetings is truly appreciated by the Board and Management Committee. Clergy will soon receive electronic copies of all the reports presented at both meetings.

Please phone the office on **9390 5166** if you require a hard copy.

Please note the new addresses of the Clergy Remuneration System (CRS) and Clerical Fund Offices:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

**PO Box 5040,**

**Alexandria NSW 2015**

STREET ADDRESS:

**38 Renwick Street,**

**Leichhardt NSW 2040**

CRS EMAIL: [office@sydneycrs.org](mailto:office@sydneycrs.org)

CLERICAL FUND EMAIL: [clericalfund@sydneycrs.org](mailto:clericalfund@sydneycrs.org)

## CLERGY REMUNERATION SYSTEM NOTICES

**THE NEW CRS BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:** Due to the small number of nominations the Archbishop accepted the Board's recommendation to appoint all those who nominated.

The new Board was announced at the recent AGM. A booklet with the Board Member's profiles will be electronically sent to clergy shortly, along with the reports presented at the AGM.

## CLERICAL FUND 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. 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.*

**NEW CAP LIMIT:** The Management Committee has decided to remove the two-year cap that was implemented with COVID, and return to the fixed annual cap of \$4000.

**YOUR CLERICAL FUND CLAIMS:** To assist with administration, the Committee appreciates claims being made on an annual basis.

Please remember that claims can only be submitted for medical expenses up to 2 years prior.

**THE LAST MEETING OF THE CLERICAL FUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2023** is scheduled for **Tuesday, 12 December**. We appreciate receiving your claims (via the Claim Form)  - by soft copy if possible - two weeks prior to the meeting date to [clericalfund@sydneycrs.org](mailto:clericalfund@sydneycrs.org)

*Board of Management, Clergy Remuneration System  
& 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: 


## 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.

## Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link:  to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2024.

With my best wishes.  
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP  
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

# THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY



## SAFE WORKING WITH CONTRACTORS



Working with contractors within your parish requires much more than the contractor turning up for the job. It is your responsibility to ensure all contractor paperwork is completed before work begins. **Part E: Using Contractors.**

***Your Parish WHS A Team***

Doug can be contacted for any WHS concerns on:  
Email: [douglas.oloughlan@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:douglas.oloughlan@sydneycatholic.org)  
Mob: 0466 486 731

See the Parish Intranet Site  
for all your WHS needs:  
**[sydarch.org.au/parish](http://sydarch.org.au/parish)**





# AGENCY NEWS


For October/November 2023

## CCD

### Children missing out on Sacraments

Half of our Parish children are in government schools.

Please ensure your SRE Catechist Coordinator is included in Sacramental Preparation planning to issue invitations in time.


Sacramental Preparation invitation letter templates and 'pre-register' tip are available here: 

N.B. some SRE Catechist classes do not start until late March so, if you start Sacramental Preparation before April, your SRE Catechists need the 2024 dates now, or as soon as possible this Term 4, in order convey invitations to public school students to take home to avoid families missing out on registering.

### Annual Catechist Mass, Cathedral

Clergy are invited to concelebrate with Bishop Danny on Sunday, 19 November: 2.15pm vesting for 2.30-3.45 Mass.

RSVP: [laura.argiro@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:laura.argiro@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

A list of your 20, 25, 30 and 40 Year Service Awardees is provided here: 

*Thank you*

As in past years, Parishes have again called just over 250 new SRE Catechists so far this year to be trained by CCD.

Thank you for your ongoing Catechist recruitment efforts, especially as we now have more parishioners working partly from home near their local public schools.

*Doug Mawhinney, CCD Parish Catechist Support*  
Tel. 9307 8330 | [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au)

## SYDNEY CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

Dear Fathers,

Formation and prayer have been recurrent themes at the universal synod taking place in Rome this month, with the pre-synodal retreat raising the question of how we might all be formed for communion that overflows into mission, that invites participation. As Advent fast approaches, there are opportunities for parish staff and parishioners for such nourishment, including short courses, retreats, our 'summer series' with visiting speakers to the Archdiocese, and our inaugural Purpose Conference for youth with registration

now open. With every blessing and thanksgiving for sharing these opportunities with your communities,

*Daniel Ang*

*Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation*

## 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 are delivering a series of online short courses. All parishes are encouraged to sign up for this **special offer** by gathering a parish group in person, either in the parish hall or in a parishioner's home. The group, after participating in the online session, can continue the discussion and share some refreshments together, enhancing the learning experience and building community.

The first topic, Goodness, Beauty, *Truth: An Introduction to Themes and Thinkers in Philosophy*, has been well attended, with a number of parishes participating with in-person gatherings.

The next course, **'The Scriptures: A Conversation with God Every Day'**, will be presented by Dr Peter Holmes

**Dates:** Thursdays 2, 9 and 16 November 2023

**Time:** 7:30pm – 8:45pm

**Mode:** Online via Zoom

The remaining topics are:

- Foundations of Theology (Mondays 4, 11 and 18 March 2024)
- Christology (Mondays 15, 22 and 29 April 2024)
- Moral Theology (Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 May 2024)

Cost (per short course):

- \$35 per person (plus booking fees)
- \$100 per Parish Group - unlimited number of participants gathered in-person (plus booking fees)

See the Didaskō Adult Faith Formation webpage for full details and to register.

## 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 the week commencing Monday, 30 October. 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.

## Invitation for your Parish Staff

### The Spring of Eternal Life (Jn 4:14)

The Parish Renewal Team is offering a retreat day for those employed in your parish, 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 and to meet staff from other parishes.

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

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


**Venue:** St Martha's, Leichhardt

**Address:** 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt, NSW 2040.

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

Register at 

## Advent Small Group Training for Leaders

Creating 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 online training sessions for any parishioners who have a desire to lead a small group, yet lack the confidence to take on the responsibility. Please invite your parishioners to attend one of the online training sessions which will be offered during November. Check  for session times and to register.

## Purpose Conference

Tickets are now on sale for the inaugural Archdiocesan youth conference – **Purpose Conference**, and the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites groups of high school students (*in years 9-12*) and young adults to be part of experience.

Purpose Conference will attract over 2000 participants from Sydney and beyond, and will include an array of unique, dynamic and engaging evangelisation elements including, but not limited to:

- World renowned guest speakers, **Jason Evert** and **Matt Fradd**



- Prayer and Sacraments (*including a solemn mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by Archbishop Fisher, and Adoration led by Bishop Richard Umbers*)
- Music ministry and youth rallies
- Outdoor festival and food stalls
- Competitions and prizes
- Catholic Expo and marketplace


**Please note: High school students are invited to attend during the day and young adults in the evening. Please see the details below:**

**Date:** 7-8 December 2023

**Location:** Rosebank College, Five Dock


**Time:** High School students (10am to 3pm) Young Adults (5pm to 10pm)

**Cost:** Only **\$60 for young adults** (*discount applies for groups of 5+*) and **\$50 for high school students** (*for high school tickets please contact Sydney Catholic Youth*)


Please visit  for more information and to purchase tickets, or contact **Sydney Catholic Youth** at **info@sydneycatholicyouth.org** or **0437863316**.

## Mass for Expectant Mothers and those Hoping to Conceive

All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 10 December, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St. Gerard Majella and St. Gianna Molla.

Registrations open soon. Register before 1 December for catering purposes at 

## Summer Series

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation presents the 2023/24 Summer Series with events for families, women and men including international speakers Matt Fradd, Jason Evert and Dr Christopher West. For event details and registrations, please visit at 

## TOB: Love & Responsibility Immersion Course

A not to be missed opportunity to break open St John Paul II's pre-papal work, Love & Responsibility in a weeklong immersion course with Dr Christopher West.

**Inclusion:**

- Five and a half days of live-in learning & interactive lectures (30 hours of graduate/master's level instruction)





## Partner with SCECS for Outside School Hours Care

### Looking for the right OSHC Partner for your Catholic Community?

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services (SCECS) currently operates 40+ OSHC Services within the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Our OSHC program is the ideal complement to your Parish Community, providing a safe and enriching environment for all students attending the Parish Primary School.

### What We Offer

- An environment that nurtures spirituality
- Qualified Coordinators & Educators
- Engaging and educational activities
- Homework support
- Nutritious snacks
- Safe and supervised play
- Convenient hours for working parents
- Vacation Care Available

**SCECS works in synergy with our school community, leading with grace and fostering a service which I am very proud to attest to.**

St Brigid's Primary School at Marrickville embarked on their partnership with SCECS in 2020. In our collaboration with SCECS, they have proved themselves to be deeply compassionate and caring of the students in their care. They are keen to foster positive partnerships with parents and students alike. The team at SCECS has dynamism and a passion for quality care, where there is deep respect for voice and collaboration with all stakeholders. They pride themselves on outstanding service whilst respecting the dignity of every child.

**Antonella Mazzucco | Principal**  
St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Marrickville





### Why Partner With Us


- Promote a sense of community grounded on Gospel values
- Enhance the overall student/family experience
- Support working families at the Parish School
- Boost enrolments and retention

### Contact Us

Contact us today to discuss how we can create a seamless partnership that benefits your parish, families, and children. Together, we can provide a safe and caring space for your families to utilise outside of school hours.

 [scecs.marketing@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:scecs.marketing@syd.catholic.edu.au)

 (02) 9568 8628

 [www.scecs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.scecs.nsw.edu.au)

- All course workbooks and materials to help you focus more on listening and receiving
- Daily Mass, adoration and Confession
- 5-night accommodation in a single occupied room and delicious meals throughout the week
- Time for relaxation and networking and
- Gorgeous retreat setting grounds to soak in God's natural beauty.

**Date:** 21-26 January 2024

**Venue:** Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

**Cost:** \$1900

To download prospectus and for registrations, visit 

## El Roi Women's Retreat

Catholic Women's Network in partnership with the MGL sisters invites all women to this wonderful women's retreat to take time out and prepare our hearts for advent.

**Date:** 17-19 November

**Venue:** Carmel House, Varroville.

**Visit:**  for more info and registrations.

## Men's Mass with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

All men are welcome to join the 'Viri Dei' Men's Group from St Jerome's for Mass with Archbishop Fisher OP with fellowship afterwards. Held on Monday, 11 December at Punchbowl Parish at 7pm.

## Adoration and confession available from 6pm

Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend - February 2024. The 'Of Life and Love' Marriage Preparation Weekend is a recognised marriage preparation course that will help engaged couples to understand sacramental, spiritual, and relational dimensions of marriage. Previously advertised for November 2023, the course has been postponed to the **24-25th February 2024 at St Luke's Revesby**. More information and registration at 

## CatholicCare SYDNEY

## FROM CATHOLICCARE Marriage Relationship Education Program

We are not meant to live in isolation, but to find and fulfill ourselves through the love of others - Gen 2:18, 21-25 - and through The Sacrament of Marriage we do form a lifelong intimate partnership of marital life and love. However, oftentimes young couples are unprepared for the reality of sharing all parts of their life and may struggle with some aspects of intimacy and connection. CatholicCare Sydney's Marriage Relationship Education program helps couples understand the bigger picture of marriage and provides guidance with communication skills, conflict, attachment, financial management, parenting, and building a stable healthy relationship.

Offering face-to-face couple and group sessions, CatholicCare Sydney is the first choice for couples seeking marriage preparation – the courses are evidence-based, acknowledge what couples do well, and celebrate the strengths of these relationships. The courses are offered in a variety of locations and day/time formats, and each couple is guided by a professionally qualified educator.

Contact [mre@catholiccare.org](mailto:mre@catholiccare.org) or call **02 9509 1234** for more information.

## Christmas Appeal

Young families across the Archdiocese of Sydney are finding it particularly difficult this year to manage the ever-increasing cost of living, and the anxiety and pressure will be amplified over the Christmas period. CatholicCare Sydney urges all our supporters and community members to visit our website [catholiccare.org](http://catholiccare.org) and go to the Donate page – our annual Christmas Appeal will launch in November, and we need donations large and small to enable us to support families in need. Providing Christmas hampers, gifts for children, and gift cards for groceries helps families find some joy and reminds us of the importance of helping others.

## 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](http://Catholiccare.org)

 [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

 **CatholicCare**



CatholicCare CEO Alastair McGibbon shares a message of thanks and reminds us of our guiding principle to carry out works of charity and love, particularly at this special time of year.

“Christmas is not only a time to celebrate and appreciate our blessings but also a time to reflect on the year we have had and look forward to the new year.

Please help us ease the burden on many families by giving generously to our Christmas appeal – help us to help families across Sydney look towards a brighter 2024.”

## World Teacher Day

Celebrated on 27 October, World Teacher Day is an opportunity to acknowledge those entrusted to educate and nurture our children, to help shape the next generation. The wisdom and expertise of teachers shine brightly, and this year they are celebrated as ‘gems’. But even the toughest of diamonds can lose some sparkle and need help to get back to their brightest – CatholicCare Sydney assists Catholic school leaders through the Thriving Leaders program, designed to support them in serving their school communities.

Thriving Leaders is a bespoke service focused on supporting primary and secondary Catholic school principals and leaders, encouraging resilience and reflection, as they manage the demands of their community role.

The service provides the opportunity to debrief with someone who understands the nuances of working in schools.

CatholicCare Clinicians work proactively with school leaders to maintain their wellbeing as they undertake their responsibilities in accordance with the mission, vision and values of the school community.

Thriving Leaders is well placed to understand the school context and unique pressures of leadership roles in Catholic Education.

Visit  for more information or call **13 18 19**.

## SAFEGUARDING

### Safeguarding Bite No. 60



### Clergy Working With Children Check (WWCC)

A reminder that all Clergy who hold faculties in the Archdiocese of Sydney require a current verified WWCC. Please provide your WWCC to [ministry@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:ministry@sydneycatholic.org)

the working  
with children  
check ★

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