



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION WITHIN THE DIOCESE

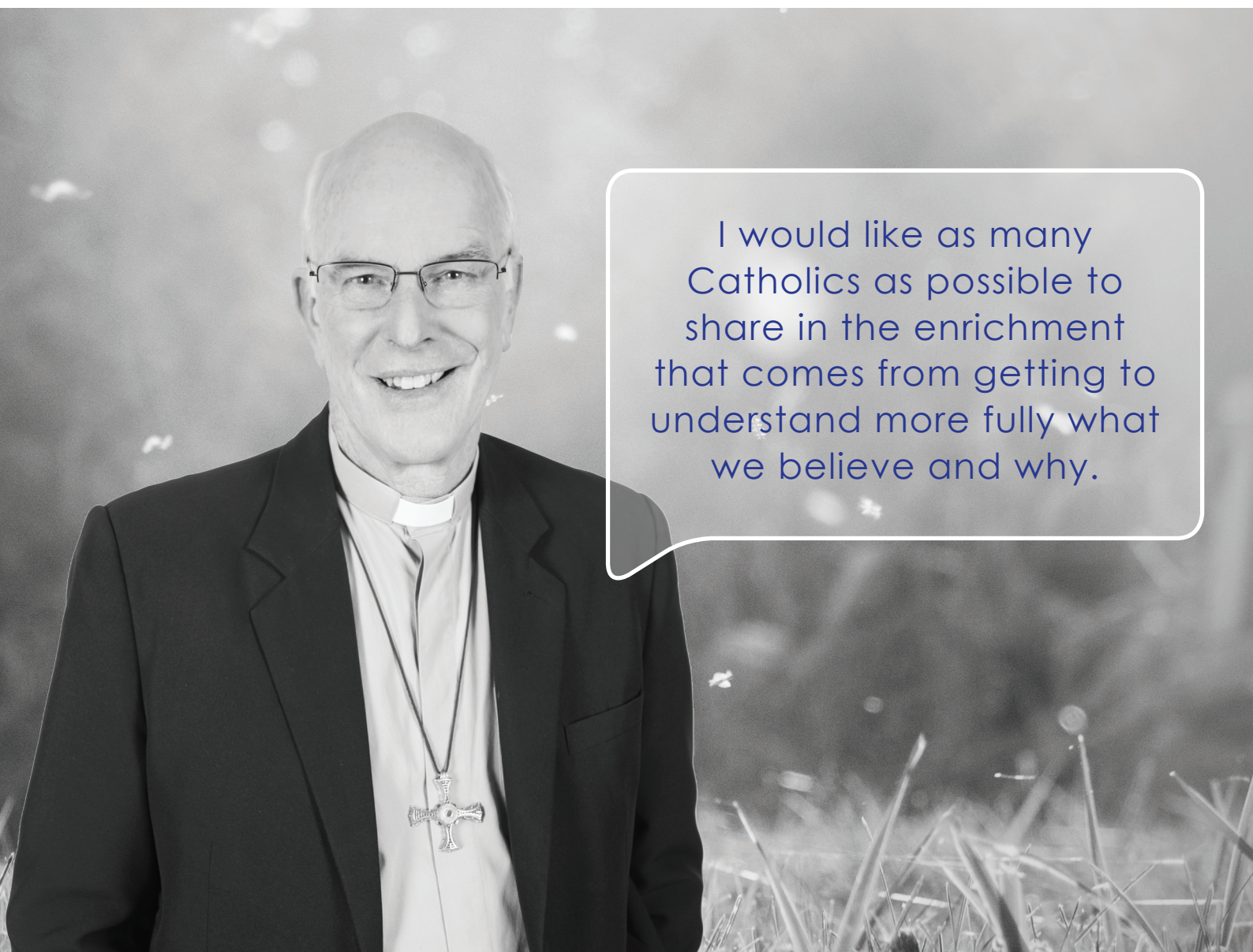


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Foreword



I would like as many Catholics as possible to share in the enrichment that comes from getting to understand more fully what we believe and why.

Throughout my life I have been grateful for the opportunities I have had to deepen my appreciation of our Christian faith through formation as an adult.

The foundations that were laid in my seminary courses in Scripture, Theology and Church History have enabled me to go on reading, talking and learning all through life. Understanding the basis of our faith has freed me from reliance on the security of simple catechism answers of childhood, and yet it has given me also a certain discernment about what St Paul called 'every new wind of doctrine'.

I would wish every believer to be neither locked in the past nor apt to fall victim to everything trendy. I would like as many Catholics as possible to share in the enrichment that comes from getting to understand more fully what we believe and why. Why did Jesus suffer? How has our Mass been understood down the centuries? Where do we stand on evolution? Do our sexual ethics make any sense in the modern world? Why are the fundamentalists wrong to take all of the Bible literally? People ask these things, and the answer is not, 'It's a mystery'. Neither is the answer, 'Well, I think....'

Opinions in religion are only as good as the real knowledge and understanding that underpins them. Study corrects uninformed opinions as well as opening up minds to deeper understanding. Both are valuable services to the believer who wants to be able to believe in believing.

The following pages set out a range of formative experiences and courses that are available in the diocese to enable our people to deepen their understanding of our faith, ranging over scripture, theology, church history, spirituality and formation for ministry. It is my hope that many, many people will take the opportunity of participating in these courses, and that it will be enable them to live more informed and engaged Christian lives as disciples of Jesus.

Most Reverend William Wright,
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

Adult Faith Formation Council

Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything

Our Vision

We are formed in Christ, animated for discipleship, community and mission...

Our Mission

We provide opportunities and resources for people and communities to deepen faith in Christ through accompaniment, education and formation

Our Values

- ▶ God's presence permeating all reality
- ▶ God's Spirit alive and active in each person
- ▶ The human thirst for what is good, true and beautiful
- ▶ The journey that is life
- ▶ Receiving and sharing the living tradition
- ▶ Openness to all
- ▶ Face to Face engagement

Our Aims:

In practice the ministry of Adult Faith Formation in the diocese seeks to

- ▶ Be true to the vision of Face to Face (Diocesan Assembly 2007)
- ▶ Respond flexibly to personal, parish and group needs for faith formation
- ▶ Assist in forming and educating disciples, ministers, and communities for mission.
- ▶ Affirm people as lifelong teachers and learners.
- ▶ Respect people's life journey: reflecting on experience in the light of the gospel.
- ▶ Foster holistic spirituality

Adult Faith Formation Roles

Adult Faith Formation Council (AFFC)

- ▶ Coordinates and supports the ministry of all Adult Faith Formation providers
- ▶ Consults, advises, networks, liaises with other bodies
- ▶ Recommends, develops and evaluates AFF programs/courses to meet needs

The Council is supported by the

Adult Faith Formation Office (AFFO): secretariat to the AFFC

- ▶ Networks with parishes and regions
- ▶ Consults, identifies and addresses issues
- ▶ Promotes opportunities
- ▶ Sources presenters/speakers
- ▶ Administers AFFC-initiated courses and pathways

FORMAL AFF

- ▶ Christian Ministry: Integrity in the Service of the Church
- ▶ Christian Formation Course
- ▶ Office of Faith and Life

- ▶ Catholic Schools Office
- ▶ Diocesan Councils/ Agencies
- ▶ External Courses (eg. BBI; online courses)

INFORMAL AFF

- ▶ Faith sharing groups
- ▶ Apostolic groups
- ▶ Retreats & Reflection days
- ▶ Theological reflection
- ▶ Conferences, seminars, workshops
- ▶ Personal reflection/ reading

- ▶ Discernment
- ▶ Fostering spirituality
- ▶ Spiritual direction
- ▶ Liturgy

Exploring Faith directory

▸ Formative Experiences

Retreats, Reflection Days, Seminars, Workshops, e-conferences, Faith-sharing Groups, Christian Meditation, Spiritual Direction, Change Loss & Grief programs, Marriage Education, Myers Briggs

▸ Foundational Courses

Christian Ministry - Integrity in the service of the church
TWECC Christian formation course

▸ Diocesan Pathways

SPIRITUALITY PATHWAYS

Self-Awareness;
Communication

Prayer Workshops

Theological Reflection

Discernment Workshop

SCRIPTURE PATHWAYS

TASTE AND SEE COURSE

The World of the Bible

Exploring Exodus

Samuel & Kings

Prophets

Wisdom Books

New Testament

Stepping out with Paul

Meeting Jesus in Mark

Matching Stories with
Matthew

Joining the Johannine
Journey

THEOLOGY PATHWAYS

Catholic Beliefs:
Creeds, Trinity, ...

Jesus of History
Christ of Faith

The Eucharist

Sacraments in the Life of the
Church

Church in the World.
Social Justice Teaching

Ministry in the Church

Morality & Ethics

Church History II

MINISTRY PATHWAYS

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Ministry Workshops

Remaining Faithful (SCAE)

RCIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SRE/Catechist Formation

Parish Sacramental Teams

Children's Liturgy of the
Word

Pastoral Care Workers

OTHER MINISTRIES

Stepping Stones
(Bereavement)

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Support Workshops

► Formative Experiences

ANAWIM PRAYER AND RETREAT CENTRE, WANGI WANGI

"Anawim", a ministry of the Lochinvar Sisters of St Joseph, offers hospitality to anyone seeking space, solitude and unstructured time in an atmosphere of quiet and peace; private retreats throughout the year (except during January); directed retreats upon request; days of prayer and reflection; spiritual direction and facilities for groups wishing to organise and conduct their own retreat, seminar or program.

Contact: Sr June Flynn RSJ

Address: 16 Wangi Point Road, Wangi Wangi, NSW 2267

Phone: 02 4975 1436

Email: june.flynn@ssjl.org.au

CAFÉ DVDS + BOOKLETS

- Knowing God Better
- Knowing God Even Better
- Believe
- Life to the Full
- Saints
- Walking in the Spirit
- Dare to Believe
- Youth Resources
- Alive
- Joy of the Gospel
- Pass It On
- You, Your Children and the Catholic Faith
- Baptism, & Confirmation
- First Communion & Reconciliation
- God Speaks through the Church

A RETREAT WITH' SERIES

- A Retreat with Matthew: going beyond the Law
- A Retreat with Mark: embracing discipleship
- A Retreat with Luke: stepping out on the word of God
- A Retreat with John the Evangelist: that you may have life

MERCY SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, TORONTO

Welcomes adults of all faith traditions seeking to take time and space to nurture and deepen their own spiritual journey. The yearly program offers a wide variety of reflection times both residential and non-residential, as well as day programs. The highly-qualified facilitators come from around Australia.

Accommodation is available for self-catering self-directed retreat times of 2 – 6 days. Spiritual companioning sessions are available by appointment.

This centre situated on the shores of Lake Macquarie, is conducted by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Institute of Sisters of Mercy website: <http://institute.mercy.org.au/toronto>

Contact: Anne Ryan RSM

Address: 26 Renwick Street, Toronto, NSW 2283

Phone: 02 4959 1025

Email: mercyltoronto@mercy.org.au

THE EMMAUS DVD SERIES

- Australian Spirituality
- Beyond Death
- Conscience
- Discipleship
- Eucharist
- Forgiveness
- Good News
- Jesus Christ
- Liturgy

SYMBOLON DVD RESOURCES

- A Journey of Faith
- Divine Revelation
- The Bible
- The Story of Salvation: Creation, Fall, Redemption
- Who is Jesus?
- The Paschal Mystery
- The Holy Spirit Why do I Need the Church?
- Baptism and Confirmation

Borrowing Enquiries

The Dilley Library at St Joseph's Convent Lochinvar can be accessed online. Register as a borrower at <http://tiny.cc/DilleyLibrary>. Contact the Adult Faith Formation Office on (02) 4979 1134 or email Sharon.Murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

REFLECTION DAYS

By arrangement with Adult Faith Formation Office. For reflection days at Other Centres see diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith.

E-CONFERENCES

See Broken Bay Institute:

www.bbi.catholic.edu.au

PARISH GROUPS

Resources for Lenten groups, Advent groups etc. See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Liturgy, then The Liturgical Year.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY AND FAITH-SHARING GROUPS

A wide range of books and audio-visual resources are available for borrowing. See below for some examples: *Café*, *Symbolon* and *Emmaus* resources.

- Mary
- Ministry
- Prayer
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Scriptures
- Stages of Faith
- The Church
- The Creed
- The Cross
- Vatican Two
- World Today

- The Eucharist
- A Walk Through the Mass
- Marriage & Holy Orders
- A Catholic Moral Vision
- Marriage & Sexuality
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Dignity of the Human Person
- Reconciliation & Anointing of Sick
- Mary & the Saints
- Last Things

► Formative Experiences continued

LIVING WATERS MEDITATION AND SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

Living Waters Meditation and Spirituality Centre is available for all those who are seeking spirituality, healing, meditation, prayerful support or Spiritual Direction. We are a community of people who pray by reaching into our deepest centre of being. "The all important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are," John Main OSB.

Contact: Anne Cuskelly

Street: 34 Kenrick Street The Junction NSW 2291

Phone: 0407 436 808

Email: annecuskelly@hotmail.com

See diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith, then Retreats and Reflection Days

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AND SUPERVISORS

A list of trained spiritual directors can be found on the diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Understanding Change, Loss and Grief

This learning experience will deepen one's own knowledge of grief and

increase one's awareness of the needs of others who are grieving.

Exploring Seasons of Grief

Using the metaphor of the changing seasons participants explore the physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual dimensions of their grief.

Parent Program

Supporting children and young people through family change and loss can be challenging. This learning experience seeks to enhance family relationships by supporting parents to better understand the experience of death, separation and divorce from a child's perspective. See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Church & Community, then Change Loss Grief.

MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The Diocese provides two pre-marriage programs for couples preparing for marriage.

Before We Say I Do is a group program held over two Saturdays.

FOCCUS Program is an inventory program with personalised couple discussion with a Relationship Educator held across three 90-minute sessions facilitated in the evenings.

Both programs explore the research on creating strong sound friendship of an intimate relationship which increases trust, long term commitment in marriage whilst assisting the couple to live out their vows daily. Couples learn how to strengthen

their friendship and intimacy which determines how they manage conflict.

The ENHANCE Program is offered for couples that are already married or in a committed relationship and are looking to re-vitalise their partnership and renew their commitment to each other through exposure to the same research findings. For more detail see diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Getting Married.

Bringing Baby Home (BBH) is a two-day workshop for couples who are expecting a new baby or have young children. Workshops are led by supportive facilitators who have been trained to help expecting couples and new parents in the transition to parenting which at times can be exhausting and overwhelming.

Bringing Home Baby Workshop aims to build the skills needed to have happy, healthy, strong family relationship – even during challenging times. See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Church & Community.

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR WORKSHOP

Understanding one's personality type and preferred behaviours; Understanding the different behavioural preferences of other individuals, the attributes and gifts of all the individuals in the group; Developing strategies to enhance interpersonal relationships.

For more detail see <http://tiny.cc/DLG-MBTI>



► Foundational Courses

Christian Ministry

INTEGRITY IN THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH

This program is based on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) 2012 document “Integrity in the Service of the Church”. It is essential that all who perform paid or unpaid work in the service of the Church become aware of, understand and comply with its principles and standards.

The eight 3-hour units are offered free of charge to lay people who are currently serving, or seeking to serve, in a parish or diocesan ministry position, including those in parish leadership, administrative personnel (secretaries, office managers, etc), diocesan and parish councils, Sacramental Teams, RCIA teams, Youth Ministry Teams, Bereavement, Caring and Funeral Ministry Teams, Chaplains, SRE teachers, Apostolic Groups and those exercising liturgical ministries

UNITS (THREE HOURS/UNIT)

- 1. Integrity in the Service of the Church - living the Word**
Foundational Unit: Introduction to document from the ACBC, outlining principles and standards for lay church workers in the Catholic Church in Australia.
- 2. The Word of the Lord - Revelation**
Our Catholic understanding of revelation and scripture within the life and faith of the Church.
- 3. Discipleship - responding to the Word**
The life and mission of Jesus: our baptismal call; ethical living as disciples today.
- 4. Church - emerging from the Word**
Vatican II ecclesiology; Overview of the nature and structures of our diocesan Church.
- 5. Human Relating and Pastoral Care - relating according to the Word**
Focus on the skills of active listening, empathy, self-awareness; care of self, community, other.
- 6. Call and Discernment - listening to the Word**
Understanding discernment; living as a discerning person/ community
- 7. Catholic Worship and prayer - embodying the Word**
Our Catholic understanding of liturgy and prayer
- 8. Integrity in the Service of the Church - serving the Word in ministry**
Legislative and practical issues around duty of care, ensuring that church workers and those they serve are safe in ministry. Panel and Q&A discussion: Right Relationships; Protection of the Vulnerable; Workplace Safety



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith





► Foundational Courses continued

Christian Formation Course

The Christian Formation Course is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Christian Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and spirituality.

UNITS (THREE HOURS/UNIT)

1. Journey of Faith

Human relating and basic communication; Reflection on life experiences in the light of faith; participants' experience of encountering God in life and their own faith journey

2. Revelation of God

Images of God; Essence of revelation: Overview of Vatican II's Dei Verbum: Christ – the Word of God – present in the living Tradition; Revelation vs Fundamentalism

3. Revelation in Scripture: Old Testament

The world of the OT; The experience of exodus and the covenant; The experience of exile as a lens to interpret the story; Prophetic voices that shaped the chosen people.

4. Revelation in Scripture: New Testament

The scope and purpose of the NT; Paul: Apostle to the Gentiles; Gospel portraits of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of Faith; interconnecting scripture, prayer and daily life.

5. People of God

Contemporary Church – the centrality of Vatican II; Lumen Gentium; Mystery, Communio, People of God; Authority; Priesthood of all; Role of the Laity

6. The Church from Age to Age

The Beginning: Through the Dark Ages to the Age of Faith; Middle Ages; Reformation and beyond: New beginnings and old prejudices; The Modern Age

7. Sacramental Life of the Church

The sacramental nature of human life; Foundations for Sacramental theology in the Paschal Mystery; Sacraments of Initiation; Other Sacraments

8. Liturgical Life of the Church

Some key liturgical documents, the building blocks of Catholic liturgy: principles and norms; symbol and ritual; structure and elements; some rites of the Church



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith, then Formation Opportunities



▸ Diocesan Pathways

Spirituality Pathways

This pathway explores the many different ways to pray and to respond to the Gospel in our daily life. It looks at the various spiritualities e.g. Franciscan, Benedictine, and how they can become a way of looking at the world through the eyes of faith. It can help us recognise the presence of God in our lives.

SELF-AWARENESS IN COMMUNICATION

This unit focuses on the theoretical and practical issues of ourselves as communicating persons on the journey of faith, exploring the self, the other and the process itself.

PRAYER WORKSHOPS

This unit includes the nature and dynamics of prayer as an encounter; the influence of images of God/images of self on one's prayer; the effect of feelings and desires on the relationship; blocks (resistances) to relating; types of prayer.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

An intentional process for exploring individual and corporate experience in conversation with the wisdom of a religious heritage.

DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP

Focuses on the Catholic understanding of discerning one's calling by God to our own particular roles and activities in the life and mission of the Church; through the Ignatian tradition, Jesus in scripture and human and personal history.

Scripture Pathways

The Taste and See program is a systematic formation in the Catholic understanding of Scripture inviting participants to listen like a disciple and become a living word of God in the world today. It covers both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

TASTE AND SEE UNITS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.1 Introducing the world of the Bible | 2.1 Focusing the lens on the New Testament |
| 1.2 Moses, Mountains and Monuments: Exodus | 2.2 Stepping out with Paul |
| 1.3 "Of Cabbages and Kings..." Books of Samuel and Kings | 2.3 Meeting Jesus in Mark |
| 1.4 "I have put my words in your mouth..." The Prophets | 2.4 Matching stories with Matthew |
| 1.5 "Hear, for I will speak noble things ..." Wisdom Books | 2.5 Looking into Luke |
| | 2.6 Joining in the Johannine Journey |

► Diocesan Pathways continued

Theology Pathways

For those who wish to deepen their understanding of the material presented in the Christian Formation Course, a range of units will be offered.

THE CREEDS AND CHRISTIAN TRADITION

The relevance of human experience in the story behind the Creed; the nature and significance of “belief” in the life of communal faith; Paschal Mystery in Sacred Tradition’s way of prayer, worship and belief; Nicene Creed; praying of the Creed in Sunday Mass, the continuing significance of core elements of the Creed in contemporary life.

JESUS OF HISTORY; CHRIST OF FAITH

images of Jesus that I /others have; the Quest for the Historical Jesus; the Resurrection and its significance for the Christ of Faith; the New Testament interpretations of Jesus; Jesus and Salvation; Jesus: True God and True Man.

EUCCHARIST

Foundations for Eucharistic theology in Christ’s Paschal Mystery; Sunday Eucharist as the ‘source and summit’ of Catholic life; the Eucharist as memorial, sacrifice, thanksgiving, worship, Eucharistic understandings for contemporary life: intercommunion; real presence and transubstantiation.

SACRAMENTS

The sacramental, revelatory nature of human life; foundations for Sacramental theology in the Paschal Mystery: Sacraments within the liturgical life of Sacred Tradition; recovery of the theology of *communio* [1 Cor 11-12];

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Context of the Contemporary Church – the centrality of Vatican II with emphasis on *Gaudium et Spes*; the Church’s Social Teaching; Social encyclicals; social justice issues; Ecumenism and Inter-Faith

MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Ministry in the New Testament; history of ministry in the church; ministry and theologians; ethics and ministry; priesthood of all the faithful; ordained and lay ministries; discernment of gifts for ministry..

MORALITY AND ETHICS

Faith and morality; the history and development of Catholic morality; theology of grace; theology of sin; Conscience; examination of specific moral issues

CHURCH HISTORY II

Understanding key events and themes in the church’s history; the changing and developing nature of the Church; Church’s struggle to be faithful to the intentions of Jesus and the praxis of the early Church.

Ministry Pathways

The word ministry comes from the Greek word meaning service. There is a variety of ministries. Some are liturgical, others are catechetical and pastoral. While all the baptised are called to build the Reign of God on earth, ministers are called to do so in a public way. They are formed and commissioned by the community to serve the community.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Powerful Points provides a good parish-based introduction for all the major liturgical ministers. There are presentations and presenters’ notes for every unit. Available from **Liturgy Brisbane** <http://liturgybrisbane.net.au/store/publications/liturgy-preparation/powerful-points-for-liturgical-ministers.html> as CD or digital download. Units include:

- Liturgical Ministers: Introduction which introduces the general concepts applicable to all liturgical ministry
- Ministers of the Word
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- Music Ministers
- Ministers of the sick and dying
- Ministers of Hospitality
- Altar Servers – Junior and Senior
- Lay leaders of Liturgy
- Ministers of Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy Preparation Teams

There are additional formation requirements for Ministers of the Sick and the Dying and Lay Leaders of Liturgy including leaders of Children’s Liturgy of the Word. These are outlined elsewhere in this handbook and further information is available from the Diocesan Liturgy Co-Ordinator.



See diocesan website,
www.mn.catholic.org.au
under Catholic Faith, then
Liturgy

Remaining Faithful

Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist

Part I

Examination of the key Church documents using the windows: Theological and pastoral principles; Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist [SCAE]; The Lay Leader; The Ritual

Part II

Focus on our understanding of and spirituality for the ministry of Lay Liturgical Leadership with prayer and reflection on some of the texts and symbols from the ritual.



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au under Catholic Faith, then Liturgy, then Liturgical Formation Opportunities.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Formation is provided to parish RCIA team members in preparing Prayer; Breaking Open the Word; Catechesis; Preparing RCIA Liturgical Rites; Theological Vision of RCIA, and includes:

- ▶ Annual Inservice
- ▶ Annual Retreat
- ▶ Annual Formation Day
- ▶ National and State Conferences



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au under Catholic Faith, then Becoming a Catholic.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

The Children's Ministries Team provides formation for:

- ▶ Special Religious Education in Government Schools (p.14)
- ▶ Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation
- ▶ Children's Liturgy of the Word
- ▶ School Chaplaincy

Catechists (SRE volunteers) from parishes are required to complete initial and ongoing training for this ministry. This training varies depending on the type of SRE in which they are engaged. It focuses upon government compliance as well as practicalities.

Parish sacramental teams are supported by policy development, implementation training and resources review and provision. Assistance with Family Information Nights as well as team training is provided.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered in many parishes during weekend masses using the guideline provided on the diocesan website. This office can offer advice about programs and resources.

Pastoral Care Workers conduct chaplaincy services in Government Schools. Their professional development is offered in conjunction with their Catholic School counterparts in partnership with the Catholic Schools Office—Religious Education and Spirituality team.

It is mandatory for every person engaged in ministry with children and young people to complete both initial and ongoing Child Protection training as determined by Zimmerman Services.



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au under Agencies & Services, then Children's Ministries.

► Diocesan Pathways continued

Special Religious Education Training

Child Protection (in conjunction with Zimmerman Services)

Code of Conduct Each volunteer receives a Code of Conduct to which they must agree to follow

Initial Training Catechists are required to complete 3 hours of Child Protection training prior to commencing in ministry.

Update Every 3 years Catechists are required to attend a 2 hour refresher course

Renew

Training specific for Catechists (SRE volunteers) who are engaged in Catholic SRE.

1. Child Protection (see above)
2. Mission of the SRE Ministry
3. Planning Engaging SRE Lessons
4. Faith and Human Development
5. Positive Classroom Management
6. Introduction to the Bible

Basic SRE

Training framework agreed to by the main Christian Church providers of SRE in NSW and recommended by ICCOREIS. It is the base level of training for those SRE volunteers (Catechists) who engage in Joint Denominational SRE.

1. Teaching SRE in Government Schools
2. Learning and Teaching
3. Preparing and Delivering Lessons
4. Communication in the Classroom
5. Introduction to the Bible
6. Classroom Experience



See diocesan website, www.mn.catholic.org.au, under Agencies & Services, then Children's Ministries

OTHER MINISTRIES

Stepping Stones

Bereavement Ministry is a formation process for those ministering with the dying and the bereaved. It comprises three main steps outlined below:

We Grieve

- Exploration of the relationship between change, loss, grief and behaviour
- Using the metaphor of the seasons to reflect on change, loss and grief
- Using a journal as a tool for reflection
- Sharing ideas and thoughts with other group members
- Reflecting on grief reactions within the context of several theoretical models including Worden's Key Tasks of Grieving
- Reflecting on change, loss and grief in the participant's own life
- Reflecting on change, loss and grief for others

We Minister

- Listening to the experience of dying through the eyes of the the bereaved
- An introduction to theories of grief
- An introduction to a theology of suffering and death
- The process of theological reflection based on the pastoral encounter
- The pastoral care of the dying and the bereaved
- Skill development: active, empathic listening; peer supervision; the pastoral visit
- Self-care and the importance of clear ministry boundaries
- On-site visit of a Funeral Home
- On-site visit of a Crematorium
- 'A Taste of Ministry' update

We Pray Together

- The Ecclesial and liturgical context of the Order of Christian Funerals.
- The General Instruction to the Order of Christian Funerals
- The Vigil and other Related Rites and Prayers
- The Funeral Liturgy
- Rite of Committal
- Pastoral Issues
- 'A Taste of Ministry' update



See diocesan website www.mn.catholic.org.au under Catholic Faith, then Spirituality & Faith

Pastoral Leadership

Introductory Unit For Clinical Pastoral Education: Parish Leadership Teams

A six day accredited program for lay parish leaders involving the development of personal and pastoral identity.

Leadership as Ministry

Spirituality of Leadership: Christian Leadership – Jesus as model of leadership; the role and qualities of a leader vis-à-vis a Manager; Principles of collaborative leadership and shared responsibility

Leadership Style and Dynamics

Styles of Leadership; Different Methods of Decision Making: Discernment, Consensus, Consultation; Leading Effective Meetings; Team building and delegation; Pastoral Planning Processes; Supporting, encouraging, forming parish teams

Management Skills

Management and organisational issues; Legal responsibilities; Financial accountabilities; Stewardship of buildings and properties; Record-Keeping; Canon Law considerations

Leadership of Foundation Areas

Identity and Community; Worship and Prayer; Formation and Education; Mission and Outreach



See diocesan website,
www.mn.catholic.org.au under Catholic
Faith, then Spirituality & Faith, then
Formation Opportunities

Parish Support Workshops

Workshops for Administration, Human Relations, Workplace Health and Safety, Child Protection, Volunteers (church workers).



Enquiries to:
Adult Faith Formation Office 02 4979 1134 or
email Sharon.Murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

► Other AFF Opportunities

CATHOLIC MISSION PROGRAMS

Catholic Mission Formation Services offers a range of pre-developed programs and experiences, adaptable for small or large groups, and a variety of environments to transform individuals and groups to live the 'Joy of the Gospel' and lead mission.

For more information: www.catholicmission.org.au

BRISBANE INSTITUTE OF FAITH EDUCATION

Beginning Theology is an adult faith formation course consisting of four modules completed over 12 months. Participants complete readings and activities in their own time and meet together in small groups for discussion and to share learning.

For more information: www.ife.qld.edu.au
or discuss with the Adult Faith Formation Office

BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE

► Catholic Correspondence Courses

Non-academic adult faith education by distance education. Units Include Scripture, Theology, Spirituality, Church History, Ethics and Liturgy. All written work required within six months of enrolling in a unit.

► Adult Faith Online

A series of short, online courses which focus on aspects of our faith and require reading, listening and reflection. Ideas can be discussed in an online community or participants can create their own adult faith study group.

For more information: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au

DAYTON UNIVERSITY OHIO - ONLINE COURSES

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation offers Online courses of 4-6 weeks in duration and involve readings, participation in discussion boards and written assignments

For more information: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu>

BOSTON COLLEGE

A range of online recognised courses – free/small cost.

For more information:

www.bc.edu/schools/stm/crossroads/courses.html





This document was produced by the Adult Faith Formation Council.

Adult Faith Formation Office

841 Hunter Street Newcastle West NSW 2302
P (02) 4979 1134 E Sharon.Murphy@mn.catholic.org.au
www.mn.catholic.org.au