

SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE

Riverlinks, East Bank Shepparton

21 & 22 August 2026



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



AUDREY BROWN

is an experienced Catholic educator, system leader and facilitator who has a particular interest in formation and training for boards and leaders in Catholic organisations and in drawing out the wisdom of teams and groups through facilitation. She was a facilitator of communal discernment at the Plenary Assemblies in 2021-2022.

OPENING REFLECTION AND CLOSING REMARKS



BISHOP RENÉ RAMIREZ RCJ

Bishop René Ramirez is the ninth Bishop of Sandhurst. A member of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus, he has extensive experience in parish ministry, spiritual formation, education and leadership across Australia and overseas.

Since arriving in Australia in 2015, Bishop René has worked closely with parish communities navigating renewal, collaboration and change, with a particular focus on accompaniment, evangelisation and strengthening participation in parish life. Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne in 2024 and Bishop of Sandhurst in 2026, he brings a warm, grounded and relational approach to ministry, with a strong desire to help people encounter faith through community, prayer and service.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



FR RICHARD ROSSE

moved from Mauritius to Australia to pursue tertiary education in 1998. He has been a priest since 2010, after a vocation to the priesthood was felt at WYD in 2002. He has been the Parish Priest of Caroline Springs, Melbourne, since 2017. His interest in missionary renewal came soon after starting as PP when he realised there is a big gap between what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what many baptised Catholics demonstrate. He was invited to be a member of an initial group of priests to consider coaching in the area of missionary renewal. He attended a Divine Renovation conference in Texas in 2022 together with two parishioners. The parish has taken this path since 2021 and is still learning, while having some 'runs on the board'.



ANN O'BRIEN

spent most of her career in the corporate world before encountering Jesus in 2019 in a way she never knew possible. That experience transformed her life and sparked a desire to help others discover the same encounter with Christ. In her parish, St Catherine of Siena, Caroline Springs, Melbourne, she began serving on the evangelisation team and later became the Evangelisation Coordinator. Since 2022, she has been part of the Parish Leadership Team, helping lead the community from maintenance to mission and raising up leaders for missionary renewal. Ann now feels she is finally living the life God created her to live—joyfully, purposefully, and wholeheartedly on mission. She takes to heart the parish vision inspired by the words of St Catherine of Siena: “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire”.

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



VERY REV. DR BRIAN BOYLE

has been the Diocesan Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst since Bishop Shane Mackinlay was appointed as Archbishop of Brisbane. Fr Brian is also Administrator of the Cathedral Cluster of parishes and Episcopal Vicar. Fr Brian brings a wealth of experience – as a priest, an academic, an educator and fraternal leader.

He holds a Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and served as Dean of Studies at Corpus Christi College, Carlton from 2015 to 2020. In Sandhurst, he has served as Episcopal Vicar for Education since 2014 and is a Member of Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd. Fr Brian has been a pastoral leader to Sandhurst Clergy, having served as Director of Clergy Life and Ministry from 2017 to 2023. He was a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart before being incardinated into the Diocese of Sandhurst in 2012.



KIM BUTLER

has nearly 30 years' experience in Catholic Education, serving as a teacher, Religious Education Leader, and Principal in Casterton, Ararat, and Ballarat. Her commitment to mission and service was deepened through a year volunteering in India and Timor-Leste in 2018. Kim has worked as an Educational Consultant with DOBCEL and as a Principal Consultant with Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) where she is currently Assistant Director: Catholic Mission and Formation. Trained as a Spiritual Director in the Ignatian tradition, Kim has always been actively involved in parish life



MICK CHALKLEY

served as Chair of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council until it ceased operating during the vacancy of the Bishop's Chair. A longstanding member of Kennington Parish, he has served as Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and in ministries including Lector, Eucharistic Minister, singer, and leader of Liturgy of the Word without a Priest. He is also a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross.

Mick has worked in Catholic education throughout his career, including 26 years at Catholic College Bendigo as Principal, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Co-ordinator. He has extensive knowledge of the Diocese, its parishes, schools and Church governance structures. He has participated in Mercy and Marist pilgrimages and outreach to Samoa and the Philippines, and is involved with the Bendigo Interfaith Community and Bendigo Winter Nights Shelter.



DR CHRIS COTTER

is Director of the Office for Mission and Pastoral Life, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst. Chris seeks human flourishing for all in communities of Christian leadership and learning, forgiveness and reconciliation, justice and peace, hope and healing. He is committed to the contribution of practical theology to the re-imagination of mission in the Australian Catholic Church in a time of changing social and cultural milieu.

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



DR MELINA EY

is Catholic Earthcare Engagement Lead at Caritas Australia, working across the Australian Catholic community to deliver events, workshops and resources that deepen engagement with climate justice, integral ecology and care for our common home and supporting Catholic communities in their response to the invitation of *Laudato Si'*.

An educator and community facilitator, Melina is also a lecturer at the University of Newcastle, designing and delivering student-centred learning focused on issues associated with global poverty, development, sustainability and climate justice. When not working, Melina spends time in her garden on beautiful Wonnarua Country (Maitland, NSW).



GEOFF GOWDIE

has worked in the diocesan offices of several dioceses, overseeing the work of many pastoral ministries. In all of his roles, Geoff has had oversight and close working relationship with diocesan youth ministry teams. Currently, as Assistant Director of Mission and Pastoral Life in Sandhurst, he continues that close working relationship with youth ministry, especially in supporting the Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team in operational and strategic planning for its work with parishes and schools.



ANTHONY KILMARTIN

has been involved in Parish life from his early 20s and in pastoral ministry for 13 yrs. He is very experienced in leading people through the RCIA journey. In the RCIA he finds that accompanying others on their faith journey is one of the times he feels closest to God. He passes on to others knowledge and experience of the Catholic faith, most importantly, what God has done for him: 'saved me, loved me and sent me out'. He truly feels that sharing authentic faith draws others to encounter God.



FR NOVELITO (NOVIE) LIM

Fr Novie Lim is Parish Priest of Echuca and has served in several parishes across the Diocese, including Kerang, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill. Originally from the Philippines, he completed his theological studies at Corpus Christi College, Carlton, before being ordained in Cebu in 2015. He subsequently served as Assistant Priest in Wangaratta and was incardinated into the Diocese of Sandhurst in 2018.

Fr Novie is passionate about nurturing vibrant and welcoming faith communities. His ministry focuses on fostering unity, encouraging active participation, and supporting pastoral and strategic initiatives that strengthen parish life. He believes all people are called to be instruments of God, working together to meet the challenges of our time while remaining grounded in the rich traditions of the Catholic faith.



FR JUNRAY RAYNA

is the Administrator of St Kilian's Parish, Bendigo. Originally from the Philippines, he has served in the Diocese for over a decade. With a passion for parish renewal and evangelisation, his ministry focuses strongly on hospitality, youth and young adult engagement, faith formation, and intercultural community-building.

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



CHRISTINE SEBIRE

has developed a strong and growing faith through her family upbringing, Catholic Education, twenty years working in Catholic Education and nearly ten years working as a Parish Pastoral Associate. She holds a Masters in Religious Education and keeps abreast of current developments in the Church via Encyclicals, Catholic writers and academics, and initiatives such as Divine Renovation. For our Church to grow, Christine holds passionately that we must reach out, not just open the doors, but go out the doors ourselves to meet people - encouraging others to join us by embracing new ways of being Church and actively living out our faith through justice and compassion. She is currently a member of the Parish Steering Group, Parish Sacramental Team, Parish Justice Team, *Laudato Si'* Team, and Parish Women's Group. She is also a member of CESL's Catholic Identity and Learning and Teaching Committee.



KERRY STONE

is the Diocesan Caritas Coordinator and Social and Ecological Justice Coordinator. Kerry's work includes promotion, education, and campaigning on a broad range of justice issues. Driven by a deep belief in the centrality of justice to living the Gospel, Kerry has developed and supported a network of parish justice representatives; presented workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and global justice; led annual Just Leadership Days and the Justice Matters Camp for secondary students in collaboration with Catholic Education Sandhurst. Kerry is Convenor of the Sandhurst Care for Creation Team, promoting the *Laudato Si'* Goals across diocesan parishes and schools. Kerry is part of Caritas' Australia's Catholic Earthcare team, coordinating Earthcare's National Parish/Diocese Community.



FR NATHAN VERALLO

is Parish Priest of Christ the King Parish, Wangaratta and the King Valley, and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Sandhurst. Ordained in 2018, he is passionate about faith formation, vocational discernment, and strengthening partnerships between parish, school and family. His ministry focuses on accompanying people as they discover their gifts and respond to God's call in their lives.



MARY ZOBEC

has is currently Pastoral Assistant at Kyabram Catholic Parish and has been involved in RCIA for more than 25 years. She has a passion for journeying with people no matter where they are on their faith journey, often drawing inspiration from the 'Road to Emmaus' story. Mary values helping others to break open the Word to anyone who has a yearning and openness of heart for God, just as others once did for her.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE 2026

Visit our website, click on the link below, or use the QR Code.



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SEMINARS GROUP 1

Friday 12:45 pm & Saturday 11:45 am

A A Change of Era - Sent on Mission in our Time

What does it mean to be sent on mission by Jesus in the present time, described by Pope Francis as a “change of era”, not simply an “era of change”? How do we understand this era, and what are the implications for the way we carry out the co-mission entrusted to us by Jesus?

Presenter: **MICK CHALKLEY**

B Friday Growing as a Community of Mission - What is it essentially about?

Exploring the parish journey from maintenance to mission. What is a community of mission all about? How is that different from a community focused on maintenance? Why is parish, as a community of communities, important? Who in the parish has a key role in this journey?

Presenters: **FR RICHARD ROSSE** and **ANN O'BRIEN**

B Saturday The Five Systems of Parish Missionary Renewal - Renewing Structures for Mission

There are five basic ways that make a vital difference to a parish's health and capacity to grow in mission fruitfulness. Today, it seems that, as Catholic parishes, we need to become more intentionally mission-focused in all of them.

Presenters: **FR RICHARD ROSSE** and **ANN O'BRIEN**

C Good News is to be Lived and Shared - Evangelisation at the Heart of Mission

Sharing the Good News of Jesus is the reason that the parish exists, so evangelisation is at the heart of the parish's mission. Catholics still tend to find this mission difficult even though all Popes have spoken clearly about its urgency for the last 70 years. What are some simple ways that the parish as a whole and individual parishioners can respond to this sending by Jesus to 'tell others'?

Presenters: **DR CHRIS COTTER** and **FR JUNRAY RAYNA**

D Intentional about Gospel Mission and Pastoral Outreach? Make a Plan. Carry It Out.

How can we turn the Strategic Direction: Gospel Mission and Pastoral Outreach into a path that we can walk to grow as a community of Mission - on purpose? Making a plan and committing to it is a great start. There are resources and people to support us.

Presenter **CHRISTINE SEBIRE**

E Mission and Synodality: Essential to Each Other in Parish and School

The Sandhurst Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals highlight the central importance of Mission, Gospel Witness and Synodality. The Mission we are sent to carry out in church ministry settings, especially parish and school, is clear - or is it? The way that we are to carry out the mission is described as Synodality - do we know what that means? What does an intentionally Mission-focused and Synodal way of being look and feel like in parish and school?

Presenters: **KIM BUTLER** and **FR NATHAN VERRALLO**

SEMINARS GROUP 2

Friday 1:55 pm & Saturday 1:25 pm

A The Eucharist - A Divine Mystery to be Encountered, Celebrated, Lived

The Eucharist is the summit and source of our lives as Christian believers. This divine mystery of Christ's presence is the point of encounter with him and with each other, the celebration of the Church, and the invitation to live that mystery with others by satisfying the hungers of the world.

Presenter: **FR BRIAN BOYLE**

B Friday Parish Leadership For Mission - Key to Growing a Community of Mission

The ministry of leadership: focus on priests and other parish leaders. Leadership has been described as the gift which opens the way for all the other gifts to grow and flourish. In Catholic parishes this applies first and foremost to the priest as the canonically appointed parish leader - the priest plays a central role in leading the parish towards mission fruitfulness. Yet, if the mission of the parish is to bear fruit amidst the change of era in which we live, it is vitally important to draw forth, form and release the leadership gifts of parishioners in all areas of parish life and ministry.

Presenter: **FR RICHARD ROSSE** and **ANN O'BRIEN**

B Saturday Evangelisation in Practice Today: Essential for Growing a Community of Mission

There are five basic ways that make a vital difference to a parish's health and capacity to grow in mission fruitfulness. Today, it seems that, as Catholic parishes, we need to become more intentionally mission-focused in all of them.

Presenter: **FR RICHARD ROSSE** and **ANN O'BRIEN**

D Youth Ministry - Journey from Encounter to Intentional Discipleship

The absence of teenagers and young adults (13-30) is regularly identified by parishioners as a worrying and disheartening feature of parish life. In many conversations, parishioners and priests alike express concern, while also feeling uncertain about how to respond. Yet, the evangelisation and formation of young people remains an absolutely critical part of the parish's mission. This is an issue across the majority of parishes in the Western world. In looking ahead to its strategy for youth ministry, the Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team has identified the need to focus on the entire Christian life journey from the encounter with Jesus to a decision to intentionally follow him in life. How can we all play our part in that journey with young people?

Presenter: **GEOFF GOWDIE**

C The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - Core Parish Business

What is the RCIA? Why is RCIA core to what a parish has been sent by Jesus to do? How is the process of RCIA conducted in today's culture? What is the role of the parish community in the RCIA process?

Presenters: **ANTHONY KILMARTIN** and **MARY ZOBEC**

E Mission to Care for Creation - A Mission for All

Of all the recent Popes who have written about human responsibility to care for creation (Francis, Benedict VI, Saint John Paul II), Pope Francis has written the most extensively, especially in his two encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Laudato Deum*. Catholics should be in no doubt that care for our common home is a mission in which we all share and have a responsibility, individually and communally. It's a mission in which each of us can and must do something meaningful.

Presenters: **DR MELINA EY** and **KERRY STONE**