

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”.