



# Pastoral Ministry CONNECT

VOL. 9 | WINTER 2023

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we minister and all who have contributed to our story.

## SAVE THE DATE

# *Alive in the Spirit*

Communion - Participation - Mission

**25th October 2023**

**Hornsby RSL**

10am - 4pm

followed by Pastoral Ministry Network

Annual General Meeting at 4.30pm

*With our universal church's focus on the Synod on Synodality, join in this opportunity to our members and the wider church to connect at our next conference to consider the three themes of Communion, Participation and Mission, and to particularly offer a spotlight on best local practice in these areas to both inspire and help resource those in ministry.*

*More information in coming weeks.*

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Alive in the Spirit 2023
- Become involved in your network
- Ministry Experience
- Next Oceania Webinar and Let's Have Yarn
- Liturgy Resources
- Evangelisation Resources

Welcome to the Pastoral Ministry Network - your network that accompanies you, sharing fresh homegrown resources and exploring together new ways of living and growing our faith in Jesus Christ.



# WEBINAR & RESOURCES

## TALKING SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Our most recent Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinar engaged many hearts and minds as we heard from Sr Carmel Pilcher rsj who is well known in liturgical circles within our Church across Oceania.

Members can watch a recording of this webinar by logging into the Pastoral Ministry Website and clicking on the item. While you are there you can see all the other informative webinars the network has offered over recent years.

During the webinar discussion, participants shared resources available to support parishes in ministry and liturgy. Some of the resources shared were:

### ***Liturgy Brisbane***

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/>

*Powerful Points as shared in the webinar are available from Liturgy Brisbane*

### ***Liturgical Song***

Free Lectionary-based liturgical music suggestions for each week from a range of publishers from Paul Mason at Liturgical Song  
<https://www.liturgicalsong.com/suggestions>

### ***Liturgy Help***

<https://liturgyhelp.com/>

### ***GPBS***

Online resources package for Catholic schools  
<https://www.gpbs.com.au/>

### ***Liturgia***

A resource for all things liturgy  
<https://www.liturgia.com.au/>



Host Richard McMahon with Webinar Keynote Sr Carmel Pilcher rsj

If you have other resources that you use in your parish communities with regards to liturgy or ministry, please send them through the [info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org) and we can include them in our next newsletter.

## NEXT WEBINAR



**Tuesday 1st August, 7pm AEST**  
**'A Community of Belonging'**

Keynote Presenters:

Tony & Annette Guterres  
Family Group Coordinators  
Sydney Archdiocese

Register at

<https://www.trybooking.com/CJTHB>

Free for members | \$20 guests

Member discount code will be sent to all  
PMN members

## Caring for Our Church's Endangered Species

*Are young people an endangered species in our church? If so, what are effective strategies to address this crisis?*

The 2019-20 Australia bushfires resulted in the loss of about 71% of koala populations in fire affected areas on the north coast of New South Wales. A foundation was set up and proved so effective that donations were also sourced from international benefactors. This combined with Government grants seeks to both care for affected koalas and restore their habitats.

I suggest a long-term fire has devastated our youth engagement in our church. Back in the 1980's, youth movements such as Antioch were flourishing, and many of those who participated in these Christ-centred, parish-based, small communities would later take on senior leadership roles in parishes, dioceses and a range of church organisations, especially through education.

If we examine the current engagement of young people in leadership roles, it seems that the habitat is all but destroyed. Many efforts have shifted to event engagement such as World Youth Day, youth festivals, and so forth.

While these offer peak experiences for young people, there is an absence of structured pathways, including formation and funding, to participate in church leadership.

The recent Australian Plenary Council acknowledged the importance of honouring the gifts and participation of young people, but rhetoric needs to be met with action.

Young people I speak with who are still active in their faith bemoan the challenge they find in participating at the heart of church life. Older Catholics are not making room in parish ministries, and the voice of youth is sidelined when it comes to real decisions.

What is needed? We prioritised funding when the koalas were threatened, and long term planning for their future flourishing is underway. We need to recognise this is a crisis, and respond urgently as a whole church.

*Richard McMahon*





## 20:20 Catholic Questions

***Fr Gerard shares how a series of Adult Formation Evenings developed and the interest to continue to learn to grow in faith.***

This is an idea that arose over an end-of-week drink. Colin MacLeod is the Director of NCRS (The National Centre for Religious Studies) and is currently involved with developing the new Religious Education Curriculum for NZ Catholic schools. We're both part of Mercy Parish in South Dunedin, where I'm the Parish Priest. Over a beer one Friday we were discussing the new Curriculum and started to ponder how we might offer some quality Religious Education for adults in Dunedin. We're very conscious that many adults and parents of the young people in our schools won't have received any RE since they were at school themselves, if ever. And, we're often struck by the interest of adults when they hear what our young people are learning at school.



Mercy Parish in South Dunedin.  
St. Patrick's Basilica.

We came up with the idea of '20:20 Catholic Questions' and decided upon sessions that would be regular, accessible, brief and held in the same place we pray as a community.

### 20:20 Catholic Questions

Autumn Sessions - 2023

about

An opportunity for adult discussion and learning about what the Church teaches and where we fit.

Every two weeks on a Thursday - March, April, May

6.20 pm in St Patrick's Basilica, 40 MacAndrew Rd, Dunedin

20 minutes presentation,

20 minutes for questions (and out the door by 7.00pm!)

<b>2 March</b> <b>What was the early Church like?</b> Colin MacLeod (National Centre for Religious Studies) It's useful to go back to the Church's very beginnings to help us reflect on what it means to be Church now.	<b>16 March</b> <b>How does our prayer together form who we are?</b> Patrick Bridgman (Parish Priest & Wellington Liturgy Advisor) An opportunity to reflect on the power of liturgy and the importance of communal prayer.	<b>30 Mar</b> <b>Why does Vatican II matter?</b> Gerard Aynsley (Mercy Parish Priest) Vatican II was a vibrant development of the Church 50 years ago, is it now a failed experiment or a living reality?	<b>13 April</b> <b>"How do we live out Church in our diocese?"</b> Amy Armstrong (Parish Priest & Pastoral Leader) Reflecting on Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality is a good way for us to consider how we embody Christ here in the Deep South.
<b>27 April</b> <b>Why does being community matter?</b> Paul Trainor (President Family Group - National Coordinator) Discussing the power of being a community, being family, and the gift this is within the Church.	<b>11 May</b> <b>What do the Prophets say about worship?</b> Laurel Lanner (National Centre for Religious Studies) The OT prophets passed a critical eye over their communities and worship. What did God say through them and why is it important in the development of Christianity?	<b>25 May</b> <b>What makes good leadership?</b> Debbie Waldron (St Bernard's School Principal) Reflecting on the challenge of leadership as seen and needed within the Church.	

Starting at 20 past 6, we would provide 20 minutes of input, have 20 minutes of questions and guarantee that people would be out the door by 7.00pm. We want the sessions to be regular and so have scheduled them to run every Autumn and Spring. The topics can be random and not connected from week to week. So far we have had 14 sessions involving 10 different presenters, 7 of whom are Dunedin locals.

We're not sure if we've got the day and times right yet. There are not large numbers (about 25) in attendance, yet we know of other parishioners who say they would like to come but don't manage to make it. Those who come along appreciate the opportunity to learn and ask questions and we're keen to keep offering these times of learning. One of these Fridays we will start considering our Spring Sessions.

Fr. Gerard Aynsley  
Parish Priest, Mercy Parish  
South Dunedin, New Zealand



# Pastoral MINISTRY network

Great opportunities to become involved in **YOUR** network!

Email [info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org) to express your interest in the activities below.



OCEANIA  
PASTORAL MINISTRY  
WEBINAR

## GROWING IN MINISTRY

PMN hosts webinars each year on Tuesday evenings on a variety of areas in Pastoral Ministry.

Try your hand at co-hosting a webinar or invite others from your community to benefit from others working in the pastoral ministry.

## ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

Plans are underway for a one day event in late October 2023 and a 3-day in person event for July 2024. Be part of the planning committee to bring these nourishing events to life! If you have suggestions for keynotes or workshops, let us know!



## THE NEWS

Share what is happening in your faith community as inspiration for others. Email photos and articles (approx. 300 words) to be included in our quarterly newsletter.

*Please ensure permissions have been given for use of images.*

Email [info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org) to express your interest.

# The Mission: one heart many voices

***Tony Worner from St Agnes' Catholic Parish in Port Macquarie reflects on his recent experience at the Catholic Mission Conference - The Mission: one heart many voices.***

It's not often a Conference comes around where every aspect of it speaks to the whole person. The Mission: One Heart Many Voices 2023 Conference certainly did that. I left the three days with a sense that the Holy Spirit was once again present and that my whole being – intellectual, emotional, social, physical and spiritual – was renewed with the gift of joy through being nourished, challenged, rested, encouraged, engaged, uplifted, and affirmed.

I reflect on highlights and how they have inspired me in my work.

*Opening Prayer and Welcome to Country*  
I have already adapted and used parts of this in my work.

*Truth Telling Experience*  
What a fantastic resource to have access to.

*Dean Larkin*  
Inspired and challenged me to ask, What do I think? What do I need to do? What does our Parish need to reflect on?

*Bishop Shane Mackinlay*  
Affirmed the work and process our Parish is currently engaged in.

*HE Chiara Porro*  
Inspired me to share her role and thoughts with others, including my daughter, who is studying International Relations/Development. I loved her 5-year-old son's comment about not wanting to be an ambassador like mummy, because only women can be ambassadors!



*Bishop Tim Norton*  
Challenged me to 'move' out of my comfort zone.

*The elders from Alice Springs*  
Inspired by their commitment for and to their people, not necessarily waiting for the Church or Government to respond

*Engaging the Heart and Together*  
Plenty of shared wisdom and experience to take back to my Parish.

*Hospitality*  
Plenty of time for networking and reclaiming 'old' friendships with an abundance of surprises while socialising with strangers and familiar names from past years.

Thank you one and all for the privilege of attending. A Conference worth participating in from every level of my being!

*Tony Worner*

*You can keep up to date with news about upcoming Conferences from Catholic Mission at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>*



The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are delighted to announce a combined Liturgy and Music Conference.

<https://mysteryandmission.com.au>

# MYSTERY & MISSION THE ART OF LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

28 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2023  
B R I S B A N E

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Timothy P. O'Malley Ph.D.** is academic director of the Notre Dame Centre for Liturgy and director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life. He teaches and researches at the University of Notre Dame in liturgical-sacramental theology and is the author of ten books including works on liturgical formation and

the doctrine of real presence. Prof O'Malley speaks at conferences and events throughout the USA and Europe and is a consultant to various committees of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.



**Sarah Hart** is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today. Her songs of faith, spirit of joy, and love for teaching and leading workshops have touched the lives of thousands. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, she has recorded 12 full-length collections with a signature blend of folk, pop and rock which delight listeners of every age. Sarah is also a Grammy Nominee and BMI Winner and a Mark Award Winner for TV/Film Music Writing. Her music has been recorded by many artists including Amy Grant, Celtic Women, Matt Maher and The Newsboys.



**Rev Dr Tom Elich** earned a Doctorate of Theology in Paris, specialising in medieval liturgy and sacraments. Since then, he has been director of Liturgy Brisbane. For a decade, he was national secretary for liturgy with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. In the 1990s, he took part in the work of ICEL, and then

taught liturgy at the Brisbane College of Theology and at ACU. He is a long-time member of the international Societas Liturgica, the Australian Academy of Liturgy, and the National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council. He recently finished almost fifteen years as parish priest at Bulimba in Brisbane.



**Dr Maeve Heaney** was born in Dublin, Ireland, and is a consecrated missionary of an institute of consecrated life called the Verbum Dei Community. A theologian, musician and composer, Maeve completed a Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where she taught for two years. She lectures in Systematic Theology at ACU and works in the area of formation at Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary. One of her strongest interests is bringing together, in theological thought and praxis, the realms of music, theology and spirituality at the service of lived faith and outreach to future generations.

- 6 Keynote Presentations • 50+ Workshops • Conference Mass • Panel Discussion
- Regional & Interest Group "Yarning Circles" • Conference Dinner • Trade & Resource Exhibits

An absolute MUST for all liturgists, musicians, clergy, cantors, choristers, lay liturgical ministers, composers, teachers, conductors, liturgy teams, campus ministers and all who love liturgy and music.

**SAVE THE DATE: REGISTRATIONS OPENING 6 FEBRUARY 2023**

For all enquiries contact [liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au](mailto:liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au)



# National Centre for Evangelisation's new resources

*The National Centre for Evangelisation (NCE) recently launched several new resources which will be of great benefit to those working in pastoral ministry. The resources include a new website and book aimed at those becoming Catholic or returning to the faith, an online video platform and a pastoral study guide based on the decrees and commitments of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.*

*A summary of the four resources is provided below.*

## **Becoming Catholic website ([becoming.catholic.au](http://becoming.catholic.au))**

The new website offers theologically sound, yet simple, explanations for the non-churched about God and what it means to be Catholic. It also provides links to extra material for those who want to dive deeper into the faith. The website has been designed to provide a friendly and welcoming space where seekers can find answers to the most frequently asked questions received by the Catholic Enquiry Centre in recent years.



[Becoming.catholic.au](http://becoming.catholic.au) also includes a growing library of short testimonies by Australian Catholics, speaking on various aspects of the faith.

The website, which can be viewed as a stand-alone site, is also part of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's website offerings ([www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)). This will allow website visitors to explore beyond the Becoming Catholic site to see what is on offer from other teams in the Conference. For example, research about the Catholic Church in Australia and the many social justice offerings for groups such as migrants and refugees, those living with a disability, the marginalised as well as care for the environment.

## **Discovering God and what it means to be Catholic**



This book includes introductory material found on [becoming.catholic.au](http://becoming.catholic.au). It complements the NCE's 2017 publication, *Discovering Prayer*. The pair of books will be offered free to those who are enquiring about the Catholic faith through the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

For parishes, these books and the website will be very useful to those making enquiries about the faith and those participating in the RCIA process. The books would also be useful gifts for parents participating in sacramental programs, families commencing at parish schools and for high school leavers. Parishes can purchase the books for a minimal cost (a bundle of five copies of either book for \$22 including GST) via the ACBC online shop.

If you would like a single copy of these books for review purposes, please contact [info@catholicenquiry.com](mailto:info@catholicenquiry.com) and mention that you read about the resources in the PMN newsletter.

It should be noted that both the website and the book strongly encourage readers to connect with their local parish so they can be accompanied on their faith journey.



## Evangelise Plus ([evangeliseplus.com.au](http://evangeliseplus.com.au))

This website is a new video platform offering a broad range of presentations from Australian Catholics. The videos can be viewed on-demand and for free, with new titles being added regularly. Our current offerings include:

- The Church and Sport (2023)
- Evangelise Conference (2022): Includes five Plenary Sessions and 21 keynote presentations.
- World Meeting of Families (2022)
- National Catholic Men's Gathering (2021): Brothers what must we do?



To assist with utilising these resources in parishes or faith communities, site visitors can download a video catalogue, as well as documents on how to host a gathering and how to effectively use the videos.



### Carrying Forward the Plenary Council – Pastoral Study Guide

This pastoral study guide has been published to support local reflection on the outcomes of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. Carrying Forward the Plenary Council invites Catholic parishes, schools and other communities to pray about, reflect upon and review what they are already doing, or could be doing, in relation to acting on the commitments the Council members made in the decrees.

This resource, prepared by the NCE, is available to download from the [Plenary Council website](http://PlenaryCouncil.org.au). For more information about these resources, please contact the NCE via [info@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:info@nce.catholic.org.au).

Let's have a yarn ...



We encourage new faces and regulars to join us for a time of shared prayer, shared hope and shared wisdom. Pull up a chair and be inspired by the stories of others in our region, and share your own passions for 2023.

**Wednesday 16th August, 7.00pm AEST**  
**[Register here](#)**

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to all members of the Pastoral Ministry Network. Your membership has enabled the mission and vision of our network to continue, for members to attend the Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinars and access them afterwards, take part in enriching network opportunities through Let's Have a Yarn and great discounts and benefits to the Alive in the Spirit Conference.

As your one year membership comes up for renewal, **Memberships will be automatically renewed.**

If you do not wish to renew your membership please contact us as soon as possible and we will remove you from the auto renewal list. If your subscription is renewed, you can always contact us and we will reverse the fee.

If you want to remain connected but finances prevent you, please contact us and we will work out something between us. Our priority is always to support those in ministry.

Email  
[info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org)

## Your contribution to Pastoral Ministry Connect is very welcome!

To submit or suggest an article for Pastoral Ministry Connect or to share a story of your community, please contact us via the details below. We're always looking for good news stories to share from those working in pastoral ministry.

The collective wisdom of people working in the area is what makes the Pastoral Ministry Network a great place to network and support each other.

This newsletter is sent regularly to all PMN members. Please add [info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org) to your address book or add us to your safe senders list. Contents of this electronic newsletter are copyright © 2022 Pastoral Ministry Network.

### PMN Executive

Co-chair: Fr Michael Alcock

Co-chair: Richard McMahon

Secretary: Carmel Fenton

Treasurer: Carole Gan

Executive Support: Lisa Bright

### Contact Us

[info@pastoralministrynetwork.org](mailto:info@pastoralministrynetwork.org)

[www.pastoralministrynetwork.org](http://www.pastoralministrynetwork.org)

Invite others to  
join the



Pastoral  
MINISTRY  
network

Join  
Us

#### INDIVIDUAL

AU **\$100**

12 month membership  
One login

#### SMALL GROUP

AU **\$500**

12 month membership  
6 logins

#### CORPORATE

AU **\$1000**

12 month membership  
15 logins

Visit [www.pastoralministrynetwork.org](http://www.pastoralministrynetwork.org) and click  
**Join Us** to become a member.