

SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE



Riverlinks, East Bank Shepparton
21 & 22 August 2026

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

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 Christ 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**