



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

FORMATION SUPPORT PLAN

2025 — 2026



In light of the Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals, Bishop Shane has endorsed the following Formation Initiatives for 2025 – 2026.

2025

1 SMP GOALS FAMILIARISATION WORKSHOP

- between June and September for all parishes: priests, parish councils (pastoral & finance), ministry teams and interested parishioners
- led by Workshop Facilitators
- book a time slot with Chancery
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2 PARISH-BASED PLANNING PROCESS to implement Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals

- available from September 2025
- supported by Facilitation Leaders as needed
- and including:

3 *Processes and Workshops for Synodal Decision Making and Conversations in the Spirit*

4 DIOCESAN FORMATION GATHERING – enriching capacity for growing a Sense of Community and Belonging

- Saturday **11 October**, Shepparton

5 EVANGELISATION AND FORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- lead-up and follow-up formation strategies around and in light of the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)**, Melbourne, **30 November – 2 December**

2026

6 ANNUAL DIOCESAN GATHERING Sandhurst Formation Institute

- School holidays July 2026

7 DEANERY FORUMS Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta

- to facilitate inter-parish sharing forums in/from March through to May/June

8 SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SPECIFIC FORMATION 2026

- supporting and collating an annual schedule of formation for specific ministries, including priests, pastoral associates, RCIA teams, sacramental teams, liturgical ministries, youth ministries, parish-school partnership leaders
- available from February 2026

9 NETWORK OF PEOPLE/RESOURCES to provide spiritual formation

- to support Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals
- from February 2026

10 ONLINE FORMATION RESOURCE LIBRARY

- developed through 2026, 2027
- added to as local resources are completed and as external resources are collected, curated and collated.

Note: All Formation Projects above, except No 1, will be ongoing beyond 2026. Even No 1, once completed will result in a reusable resource that can go into the Online Resources Library (No 10).