



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

DIOCESAN FORMATION GATHERING

Building Communities of Belonging

Keynote Presentation by Dr Paul Sharkey:

The Place of Community and Belonging in a Catholic Parish

Part 1:

Why is it important in the context of the mission of the parish/Church in today's culture?

Part 2:

What can a parish do to grow the sense of belonging amongst its parishioners?

The day offers **insights** and **tools** to help parishes grow a deeper sense of welcome and connection.

SIX PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Opportunities to share ideas and experiences through:

- Round Robin dialogues between parishes
- Parish group discussions
- Plenary conversations with shared reflections.

Saturday
11 October
2025

9.00 am - 4.00 pm
Notre Dame College
Shepparton

Register Now!

Registrations close
30 September 2025

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1394762>



DIOCESAN FORMATION GATHERING

Building Communities of Belonging



11 OCTOBER 2025

9.00 am Arrival , Registration and Morning Tea

9.30 am Welcome and Outline of the Day

9.45 am Acknowledgement of Country and Prayer

10.00 am

Keynote Presentation Part 1: The place of community and belonging in a Catholic parish. What is its place? Why is it important in the context of the mission of the Parish/Church in today's culture?

10.40 am

Discussion on Keynote Part 1

11.00 am

Keynote Presentation Part 2: What can a parish do to grow the sense of belonging amongst its parishioners?

11.40 am

Discussion on Keynote Part 2

12.00 pm

Workshops: Six workshops run concurrently. Participants participate in their chosen workshop.

12.50 pm LUNCH

1.30 pm

Round Robin Interparish Dialogue (4 rounds)

2.40 pm

Plenary Discussion and Sharing

3.15 pm

Parish Group Discussion

3.40 pm

Prayer and Conclusion.

DIOCESAN FORMATION GATHERING

WORKSHOPS

Geoff Gowdie

Building Communities of Belonging – learning from what others have discovered.

What are the insights from other parishes who are intentionally well into this journey?

Claire Spinelli and Team

A Community of belonging for Young People

What sort of parish culture is invitational, welcoming and inclusive of young people?

Christine Sebire

A community of belonging for Children and Families

What sort of parish culture is invitational, welcoming and inclusive for children and families?

Dr Paul Sharkey and Kim Butler

Parish–School Partnership in building communities of belonging

The critical role of parish and school working together to build connection, welcome, trust and belonging with families/children/young people.

Fr Junray Rayna

Building communities of belonging – local strategies in practice

Examples of practices that are in use in our Diocese.

Dr Chris Cotter and Team

Welcome, hospitality and belonging in Scripture

The essential and foundational role of welcome, hospitality and belonging in the biblical narrative.

