

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 RCJ 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 RCJ 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".

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



VERY REV. DR BRIAN BOYLE

has been the Diocesan Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst since Bishop Shane Mackinlay was appointed as Archbishop of Brisbane. Fr Brian is also Administrator of the Cathedral Cluster of parishes and Episcopal Vicar. Fr Brian brings a wealth of experience – as a priest, an academic, an educator and fraternal leader.

He holds a Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and served as Dean of Studies at Corpus Christi College, Carlton from 2015 to 2020. In Sandhurst, he has served as Episcopal Vicar for Education since 2014 and is a Member of Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd. Fr Brian has been a pastoral leader to Sandhurst Clergy, having served as Director of Clergy Life and Ministry from 2017 to 2023. He was a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart before being incardinated into the Diocese of Sandhurst in 2012.



KIM BUTLER

has nearly 30 years' experience in Catholic Education, serving as a teacher, Religious Education Leader, and Principal in Casterton, Ararat, and Ballarat. Her commitment to mission and service was deepened through a year volunteering in India and Timor-Leste in 2018. Kim has worked as an Educational Consultant with DOBCEL and as a Principal Consultant with Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) where she is currently Assistant Director: Catholic Mission and Formation. Trained as a Spiritual Director in the Ignatian tradition, Kim has always been actively involved in parish life



MICK CHALKLEY

served as Chair of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council until it ceased operating during the vacancy of the Bishop's Chair. A longstanding member of Kennington Parish, he has served as Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and in ministries including Lector, Eucharistic Minister, singer, and leader of Liturgy of the Word without a Priest. He is also a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross.

Mick has worked in Catholic education throughout his career, including 26 years at Catholic College Bendigo as Principal, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Co-ordinator. He has extensive knowledge of the Diocese, its parishes, schools and Church governance structures. He has participated in Mercy and Marist pilgrimages and outreach to Samoa and the Philippines, and is involved with the Bendigo Interfaith Community and Bendigo Winter Nights Shelter.



DR CHRIS COTTER

is Director of the Office for Mission and Pastoral Life, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst. Chris seeks human flourishing for all in communities of Christian leadership and learning, forgiveness and reconciliation, justice and peace, hope and healing. He is committed to the contribution of practical theology to the re-imagination of mission in the Australian Catholic Church in a time of changing social and cultural milieu.

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



GEOFF GOWDIE

has worked in the diocesan offices of several dioceses, overseeing the work of many pastoral ministries. In all of his roles, Geoff has had oversight and close working relationship with diocesan youth ministry teams. Currently, as Assistant Director of Mission and Pastoral Life in Sandhurst, he continues that close working relationship with youth ministry, especially in supporting the Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team in operational and strategic planning for its work with parishes and schools.



ANTHONY KILMARTIN

has been involved in Parish life from his early 20s and in pastoral ministry for 13 yrs. He is very experienced in leading people through the RCIA journey. In the RCIA he finds that accompanying others on their faith journey is one of the times he feels closest to God. He passes on to others knowledge and experience of the Catholic faith, most importantly, what God has done for him: 'saved me, loved me and sent me out'. He truly feels that sharing authentic faith draws others to encounter God.



FR NOVELITO (NOVIE) LIM

Fr Novie Lim is Parish Priest of Echuca and has served in several parishes across the Diocese, including Kerang, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill. Originally from the Philippines, he completed his theological studies at Corpus Christi College, Carlton, before being ordained in Cebu in 2015. He subsequently served as Assistant Priest in Wangaratta and was incardinated into the Diocese of Sandhurst in 2018.

Fr Novie is passionate about nurturing vibrant and welcoming faith communities. His ministry focuses on fostering unity, encouraging active participation, and supporting pastoral and strategic initiatives that strengthen parish life. He believes all people are called to be instruments of God, working together to meet the challenges of our time while remaining grounded in the rich traditions of the Catholic faith.



MICHAEL MCGIRR

is Mission Facilitator at Caritas Australia. He is a writer, reviewer and educator who has published books on philosophy, literature, spirituality and ethics, as well as hundreds of articles, essays and stories, in publications including The New York Times and The Tablet. He has reviewed many books for publications such as The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Canberra Times, and he was previously the fiction editor of Meanjin and publisher at Eureka Street.

Prior to joining Caritas Australia, Michael was a teacher and, most recently, worked as Dean of Faith at St Kevin's College in Melbourne. He also worked on faith formation with the boards and staff of schools and other organisations. Through all his work, he is motivated to connect faith, culture and community, and to champion an expression of a faith that encourages justice.



FR JUNRAY RAYNA

is the Administrator of St Kilian's Parish, Bendigo. Originally from the Philippines, he has served in the Diocese for over a decade. With a passion for parish renewal and evangelisation, his ministry focuses strongly on hospitality, youth and young adult engagement, faith formation, and intercultural community-building.

SEMINAR PRESENTERS



CHRISTINE SEBIRE

has developed a strong and growing faith through her family upbringing, Catholic Education, twenty years working in Catholic Education and nearly ten years working as a Parish Pastoral Associate. She holds a Masters in Religious Education and keeps abreast of current developments in the Church via Encyclicals, Catholic writers and academics, and initiatives such as Divine Renovation. For our Church to grow, Christine holds passionately that we must reach out, not just open the doors, but go out the doors ourselves to meet people - encouraging others to join us by embracing new ways of being Church and actively living out our faith through justice and compassion. She is currently a member of the St Mary's Parish Women's Group, Parish Welcoming Committee and Parish Sacramental Team, she is actively involved in the Diocesan review of Sacramental Preparation, and a member of the Sandhurst Faith Formation reference group /team. Christine is currently employed at Brigid's Light Early Learning Centre, a Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education Centre.



KERRY STONE

is the Diocesan Caritas Coordinator and Social and Ecological Justice Coordinator. Kerry's work includes promotion, education, and campaigning on a broad range of justice issues. Driven by a deep belief in the centrality of justice to living the Gospel, Kerry has developed and supported a network of parish justice representatives; presented workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and global justice; led annual Just Leadership Days and the Justice Matters Camp for secondary students in collaboration with Catholic Education Sandhurst. Kerry is Convenor of the Sandhurst Care for Creation Team, promoting the *Laudato Si'* Goals across diocesan parishes and schools. Kerry is part of Caritas' Australia's Catholic Earthcare team, coordinating Earthcare's National Parish/Diocese Community.



FR NATHAN VERALLO

is Parish Priest of Christ the King Parish, Wangaratta and the King Valley, and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Sandhurst. Ordained in 2018, he is passionate about faith formation, vocational discernment, and strengthening partnerships between parish, school and family. His ministry focuses on accompanying people as they discover their gifts and respond to God's call in their lives.



MARY ZOBEC

has is currently Pastoral Assistant at Kyabram Catholic Parish and has been involved in RCIA for more than 25 years. She has a passion for journeying with people no matter where they are on their faith journey, often drawing inspiration from the 'Road to Emmaus' story. Mary values helping others to break open the Word to anyone who has a yearning and openness of heart for God, just as others once did for her.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE 2026

Visit our website, click on the link below, or use the QR Code.



www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au



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