

Leading for Mission Faith and Formation in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture

Start date

June 2020

Duration

2 years (part-time)

Sponsorship

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is offering a limited number of sponsored places to qualified primary and secondary school educators within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle who currently teach (or aspire to teach) religious education.

Contact

To register your interest in this program or for further information about this sponsorship, please email the Director Pastoral Ministries, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle: Teresa.Brierley@mn.catholic.org.au

CRICOS registered provider: 00004G

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In partnership with:



“...above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate...”

Pope Francis

LEADING FOR MISSION

Leading for Mission is an innovative Faith and Formation program developed exclusively for and by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at ACU. Anchored by the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture (GCMC), this program is designed to provide participants with the capabilities required to think critically and creatively around their participation in and support for the Catholic character and ethos of the Diocese. Emphasising foundational theological insights while simultaneously promoting authentic practice, this program responds directly to the multiple and competing challenges that faith-based organisations are confronted. In exploring the capacity of participants to articulate, participate

within, and knowingly contribute to the mission of their organisation, *Leading for Mission* affirms the necessary relationship between the individual within the Diocese, and the Diocese itself.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This is a two-year part-time program comprised of four academic units. Each unit, and each module within them, progressively builds towards defined learning outcomes through a series of readings, resources, reflective learning activities, and assessments.

DELIVERY MODE

Each unit will be delivered in face-to-face intensive mode and across a specified and agreed timeframe.

“Jesus didn’t give his disciples a job description; he gave them a mission. More importantly, he gave His mission a Church. Only when we understand the mission – to go, to teach, to make disciples, to baptise – can we be sure that we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Everything else is secondary.”

Fr Andrew Doohan Vicar General, Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle

Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture

ASSESSMENT

Participants in this course are recognised as adult learners who develop deep understanding when their learning is relevant to them and connected to the context in which they lead others to learn. Assessment tasks in all units are designed to facilitate the integration of theory and practice through study, action, analysis, application and reflection.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Participation in this course will be supported by a variety of learning resources and activities that will be hosted on the ACU learning environment online (LEO).

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

The Mission Imperative – Engaging with Organisational Purpose

Date: 29 – 30 June and 2 – 3 July 2020

This unit explores the alignment of individual and organisational mission, meaning and purpose, and is designed to facilitate the flourishing of both the individual within a faith-based organisation, and the organisation itself. You will be provided with reflection opportunities to better understand the nature of mission and to develop the knowledge, understanding, and analytical skills necessary to undertake the mission of your organisation: consonant with their personal sense of mission.

Theology of Childhood – Close to the Mystery of God

Date: 21 - 22 and 24 - 25 September

This unit is based on the Re-imagining Childhood Initiative (CESA 2014) that foregrounds the dignity of children, acknowledging them as competent and accomplished beings. The unit

explores the constructs of childhood from sociological, anthropological, cultural, psychological, historical and philosophical perspectives. The major focus of the unit is on the nature of childhood from a Christian perspective, developing a rich theology of childhood. You will be required to bring this knowledge into critical dialogue with your own belief stance and assess its implications for safeguarding the wellbeing of children and developing an appropriate culture in Catholic schools and other Catholic agencies and contexts.

Interpreting Biblical Texts for Contemporary Context

Unit 3 - 2021

In this unit, you will be provided with an opportunity to explore hermeneutical approaches to reading Scripture. You will engage with and examine critical and reflexive forms of biblical interpretation for our contemporary world. This unit supports educators in Catholic schools and other contexts to lead learners in an interpretation of Scripture that is conducted in light of their own experience and their contemporary context.

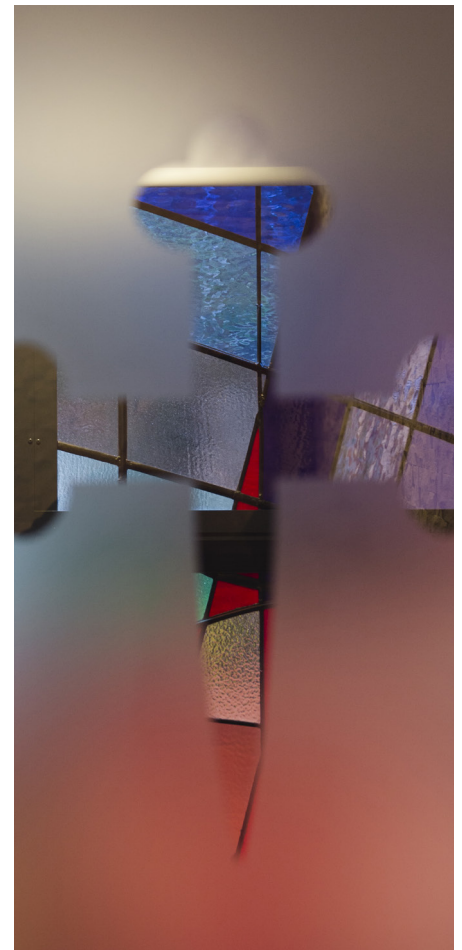
Mission in Context

Unit 4 - 2021

The unit will facilitate further engagement with your organisation's mission and will conclude by assisting you to develop the ability to propose further ways of addressing your organisation's mission implementation strategy in light of the cultural complexity and diversity of its context. This unit aims to guide you in effectively approaching the alignment between your organisation's mission and cultural context.

FURTHER STUDY

Leading for Mission and the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture (GCMC) provide a direct pathway to other postgraduate offerings at ACU, including the Master of Religious Education (MRE), the Master of Professional Studies in Theology (MPST), the Master of Theological Studies (MTS), and the Master of Educational Leadership (M.Ed. Lead).



“The Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture fosters creative and constructive responses to real-world issues. It enables new patterns of thinking, of learning, of working, and of being that advance the Catholic character and ethos of the diocese and all who serve it.”

Professor Dermot Nestor, Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU