



**Catholic Leadership
Foundation**
Forming leaders for the future



Our Context

The Australian Plenary Council and the Synod on Synodality recognised the need to provide Catholics, especially lay leaders, with faith education and formation. The Foundation was established with the support of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to respond to this growing need especially in rural and remote areas.

Our Vision

The Catholic Leadership Foundation envisions a generation of Catholic lay people whose faith is shaped and nurtured by God's Word and who are led by leaders who willingly and humbly "cast their nets" in response to Jesus's call to evangelise in new ways and who collaborate in a spirit of synodality.

Our Mission

Inspired by Luke 5:1-11, our mission is to provide formation for Catholics, especially lay leaders, called to be missionary disciples sharing the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ.

There is a shared appreciation within the Church at this time of:

- the hunger amongst lay Catholics for adult faith education and formation programs that provide an encounter with Jesus and sustain a growing relationship with him as missionary disciples.
- the need for life-long faith education, formation and networks for those in key leadership positions in a more synodal Church.
- the need for all Church leaders, but especially lay leaders, to grow in confidence and capacity to lead faith education and formation for those they serve.
- the pressing need for rural and remote Catholic communities to access faith education and formation programs.
- the need for adult faith education and formation programs for diocesan and agency leaders, boards and MPJPs.

What Makes Us Distinctive

The Catholic Leadership Foundation distinguishes itself by offering an approach to leadership formation that draws upon the rich tradition of the Church's spiritual heritage. Our programs are founded on an integrated and flexible approach to formation, recognising the diversity of faith and life experience and cultivating a holistic understanding of leadership.

Into the Deep

2025 - 2028



With Burning Hearts

Develop and promote initiatives to assist Catholics in reading and praying the Scriptures as an encounter with Jesus.

Key initiatives include building online and in situ participation in praying Lectio Divina, the publication of educational resources and programs to enhance Scripture education.

Visit <https://lectiodivina.com.au>

With Others For Others

Partner with dioceses and religious institutes to promote and enable other programs and initiatives aimed at the formation of Catholics, especially lay leaders.

Key actions involve identifying need areas in faith education and formation, especially in rural and remote areas and developing partnerships to promote and fund leadership formation opportunities.

Learn more about the Foundation

- ❖ Visit our website (May 1 Launch)
- ❖ Email
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- ❖ Call
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Into the Deep

2025 - 2028



The Catholic Leadership Foundation, inspired by the Gospel of Luke (5:1-11), invites you to embark on a transformative journey Into the Deep. This ministry development and formation program is designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church and renew you as a missionary disciple called to lead and serve. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Foundation.

What is 'Into the Deep'?

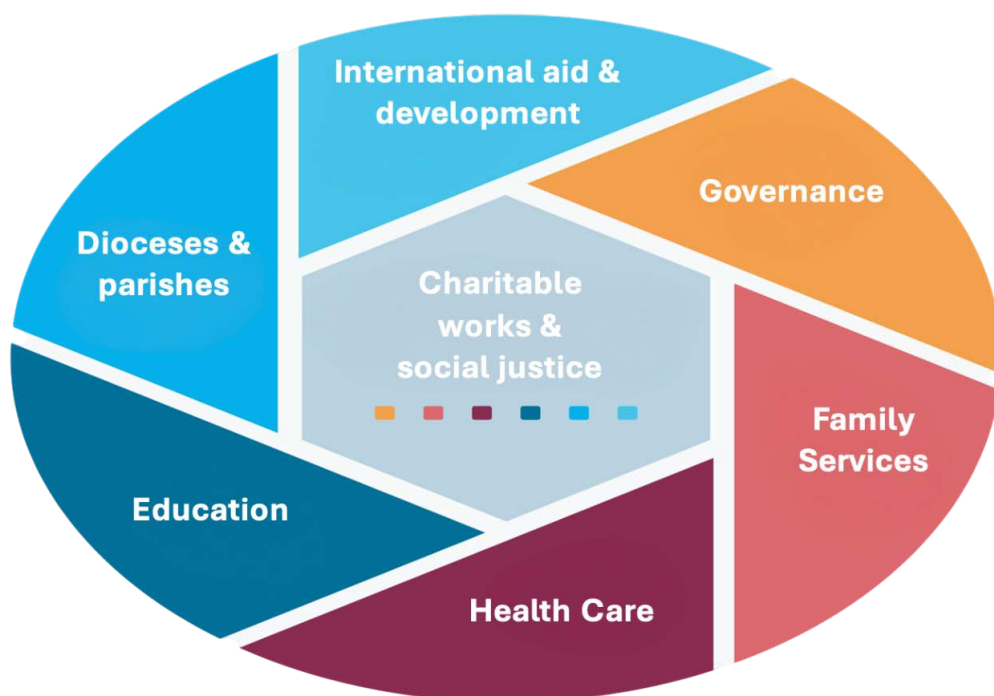
Into the Deep is an extended leadership formation program that offers:

- Retreat experiences
- Mentoring
- The Ignatian First Spiritual Exercises
- Mission enhancement project
- Seminars and book club
- Praying the Awareness Examen and Lectio Divina
- Pilgrimage to France and Rome
- Small group spiritual conversations

These elements are woven together across five phases and tailored for individuals in consideration of their location and life and work context. The Program spans from September each year to June the following year.

Who Should Apply?

Into the Deep is ideal for Catholic leaders and those engaged at the governance level of Catholic organisations in all sectors of the Church's life and mission.



We encourage nominations of individuals who:

- Are practicing Catholics.
- Are currently in a leadership role.
- Demonstrate a willingness and ability to commit to the program and contribute as a Friend of the Foundation following its completion.
- Have a strong potential for development as a leader into more senior roles.

A preference will be given to leaders in rural and remote areas who meet these criteria.

How to Apply:

Senior Church leaders have been invited to nominate suitable leaders to participate in *Into the Deep*. After consultation with prospective applicants, and with their agreement, they will complete [this nomination form](#).

Nominated applicants need to complete and return [this application form](#) by Friday 20 June 2025. This will be followed by shortlisting, panel interviews, discernment and formal invitations to join the Program.



Costs

Most costs associated with the Program will be covered by the Foundation including travel costs.

After the Program

After completion of the *Into the Deep* Program, graduates will be invited to become 'Friends of the Foundation'. Friends support each other in their ministries of leadership and are offered opportunities for ongoing formation.

For further information

Visit our Website to be launched on 1 May
catholicleadershipfoundation.com

Contact us

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“Lay leadership formation should empower people to take initiative, propose ideas, and act for the good of the Church.”

(Pat Mullins, Brisbane SYNOD24)

PROPOSED 2025/2026 PROGRAM

Phase One 2025: Ignatian First Spiritual Exercises

5 September – 7 September	Retreat and <u>Ignatian First Spiritual Exercises</u> WK 1 Mackillop Place, North Sydney (Travel funded)
8 September – 5 October	First Spiritual Exercises Week 2-4 and Review Personal activities & small group by Zoom (2 hrs/week)

Phase Two 2025: Praying Your Life and the Scriptures

6 October – 2 November	Praying <u>the Awareness Examen</u> Initial online seminar and weekly practice (1 hr/week)
3 – 30 November	Praying <u>Lectio Divina</u> Initial online seminar and weekly practice (1 hr/ week)
1 – 7 December	Review of Phase 2 in small online group (90 mins) Review of 2025 Program and Overview of 2026

Phase Three 2026: Theology for Ministry

2-8 February	One online seminar (1 hr) The year ahead <u>Introduction to Theology for Ministry: Introduction for Lay Ministers</u>
9 February – 8 March	Book Club Reading and small group meeting each week to discuss Chapters on themes of ‘Called by God, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, with others, for others’ (1 hr/week) During this period, preparation for pilgrimage will also occur.

Phase Four 2026: Call to Holiness

9-15 March	One online seminar (1 hr) Our Call to Holiness
16-22 March	One online seminar (1 hr) Our Catholic Spiritual Heritage
23-29 March	One Online meeting (1 hr) Final Pilgrimage Briefing and Preparation
30 March - 4 April	Meditations on Holy Week and Easter Sunday
7-21 April (TBC)	Two week pilgrimage to spiritual centres in France and Italy

Phase Five 2026: Leaders as Missionary Disciples

4 – 10 May	Online seminar (90 mins) Leading Mission: Leading change
11 May – 14 June	Online small group meetings (1 hr per week) Video series: Essentials for Faith Leadership
19- 21 June	Retreat: Venue to be advised Final review, mission project presentations, celebrations Being a Friend of the Foundation.