

Areté



CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

FOUNDATIONS OF MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

2026



WELCOME

Welcome to the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program Prospectus for 2026. Our program forms and equips people with practical skills, spiritual formation, and theological knowledge to become leaders in the Church's Mission today.

This program is suitable for anyone working in various expressions of adult evangelisation, youth ministry, Catholic education, formation, and parish renewal.

The theology and skills you will learn in this course are applicable to paid or volunteer roles, whether your ecclesial setting is a parish, school, new community or ecclesial movement. This program provides a systematic and thorough foundation in the theology and practice of mission in an Australian context.

You will learn the theory and skills needed to lead others in real-life ministry situations and experiences. The program will allow you to refine your ministry by reflecting upon current practice in the light of all that is learnt in the course.



You will also be formed spiritually and grow as a person through the experience of learning in a short-term, intentional community setting. The live-in intensive experiences offer opportunities for spiritual development and personal growth as you enter into an experience of temporary community with your fellow students. I look forward to welcoming you to the Areté Centre for Missionary Leadership in 2026.

For Chris

Rev Dr Chris Ryan MGL,
Director Areté Centre
for Missionary Leadership

ABOUT ARETÉ

WHO ARE WE?

The Areté Centre is a work of the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) priests and brothers. The MGL shares in the work of evangelisation in a collaborative way with laypeople. They seek to empower people in their call to holiness and mission.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Areté Centre offers programs for people serving or seeking to serve as missionary leaders in the Church today. The distinct Areté Centre philosophy and methodology offers students an unique program that seeks to provide them with the highest quality formation, the opportunity to encounter God in a new and deeper way, as well as the chance to put what they learn into practice.

OUR MOTTO - VELIS ET REMIS

The Areté Centre's motto, Velis et Remis (Latin for 'sails and oars'), highlights the need for missionary disciples to use their God-given gifts ('oars') to build up the Church while relying on the Holy Spirit ('wind') to propel us towards a renewed Church that transforms the world.

MEET OUR FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS



Fr Ken
Barker MGL



Fr Brian
Steele MGL



Fr Tony
Alex MGL



Sr Katherine
Stone MGL



Sr Judy
Bowe MGL



Daniel Ang



Selina Hasham



Frances Simon



Kelvin Simon



Fr Chris Ryan
MGL, Director



Laura Neeson
General Manager



Felicity Chang
Program
Coordinator

OUR TEAM

DELIVERED

OUR DELIVERY

The 9-month Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program includes 4 in-person intensives, 26 online lectures, and monthly online mentoring.

INTENSIVES

The January intensive lasts four days, followed by a silent retreat, and later weekend intensives on evangelisation and leadership.

ONLINE CLASSES

Weekly online lectures are live every Wednesday evening, with interactive Q&A, and breakout rooms. Lectures are recorded.

MENTORING

Monthly online mentoring sessions allow students to reflect on their learnings and share insights in a small group.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Areté Centre's philosophy centers on encounter, formation, and mission, offering students a unique educational experience.

ENCOUNTER

Encountering God's love is essential for effective ministry. The Areté Centre offers opportunities to deepen your faith and closeness to Christ.

FORMATION

The Areté Centre provides the highest quality theological formation from qualified teachers, and the opportunity to deepen and grow in your faith life.

MISSION

The Foundations program equips ministry leaders with practical skills to grow and lead effectively.

PHILOSOPHY



PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program is designed to empower and equip students to develop the skills necessary to be missionary leaders in the Church today.

**The 9 month program is
comprised of four courses:**

- **Course 1:** The Spirituality of Missionary Leadership
- **Course 2:** Theological Foundations for Mission in the Australian Context
- **Course 3:** Ministerial Leadership Theory and Praxis
- **Course 4:** Practicum





**“ARETÉ HAS
DEEPENED MY
LOVE FOR AND
TRUST IN GOD,
AND HAS EQUIPPED
ME FOR MINISTRY”.**

**Helena Roumanus, Project Manager,
Catholic Women's Network**

Course 1: The Spirituality of Missionary Leadership

Outline

This course explores the spiritual foundations of missionary leadership. It establishes a spiritual grounding in the initial proclamation (kerygma) of the love of God revealed in Christ, and encountered through the Holy Spirit.

The course will also focus upon the topic of the disciple's new identity in Christ, which flows out of the response of faith and love (in baptism) to the kerygma.

The course then explores how students can deepen in the practices of prayer, providing students with the opportunity for a deeper appropriation of the grace of the kerygma through the practice of prayer in their own lives.

Delivery

Mode: In-person intensives

Intensive 1 - 9.00am Thursday 15th January to 3.30pm Sunday 18 January 2026, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW.

Intensive 2 - 5.00pm Friday 20th March to 3.00pm Sunday 22nd March 2026, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW.



Course 1: The Spirituality of Missionary Leadership

Outcomes

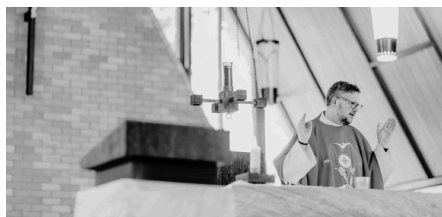
Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Explain the content of the kerygma
2. Apply the content of the kerygma to their own experience of faith
3. Discuss the concept of missionary discipleship and reflect upon the practices of discipleship
4. Describe the methodology of the Examen and its dynamic for identifying consolation and desolation in their own lives
5. Demonstrate a theoretical understanding of a prayer practice, such as Lectio Divina or Ignatian meditation, and reflect upon their engagement with this practice

Assessment

One five minute oral presentation

One 3000 word journal



Course 2: Theological Foundations for Mission in the Australian Context

Outline

This course provides an overview of foundational theological principles for mission, beginning with the theology of mission arising from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, and in the subsequent papal statements on mission.

A model for mission for the present Australian context and grounded in these magisterial statements will be developed and evaluated.

Elements of the process of evangelisation and models of faith and conversion will also be examined.

The course will then lay a deeper theological foundation for mission by examining the scriptural basis for mission, the Trinitarian underpinnings of mission, and the missionary nature of the Church as it is expressed in the Church's sacramental life.

Delivery

Mode: Online Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, beginning February.

Lecturers

Rev Dr Chris Ryan MGL



Course 2: Theological Foundations for Mission in the Australian Context

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Explain the process of evangelisation as it is articulated in the magisterial statements and the RCIA
2. Give examples from contemporary culture and their ministerial experience that demonstrate their understanding of principal features of the Australian sociocultural context in which mission takes place
3. Demonstrate a broad understanding of the theology of mission and the relevance of key doctrines for evangelisation

Assessment

One 1000-word essay

Three short answer tests



Course 3: Ministerial Leadership Theory & Praxis

Outline

In this course students will learn what leadership grounded in Christian faith is and begin to develop the leadership skills necessary for contemporary ministry.

The course will explore what it means to first lead oneself through the practices of self-knowledge and self-management. This includes skills such as time-management, prioritisation, and the place of resilience and vulnerability in leadership.

It will also examine how to lead others through the development of teams, vision and strategy, and how to lead a group through the process of change. The course will also address how to identify and form other leaders.

Delivery

Mode: Online Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, beginning June.

Lecturers

Rev Dr Chris Ryan MGL



Course 3: Ministerial Leadership Theory & Praxis

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Understand and apply principles of self-leadership to one's ministerial life
2. Articulate key principles for leading others
3. Develop a ministry vision, strategy and plan
4. Apply these leadership principles to their ministerial context

Assessment

One 2000-word ministerial project plan



Course 4: Practicum

Outline

This course is divided into three elements. The ministry intensive explores the topics of understanding one's gifts for ministry, prayer ministry, and evangelising conversations.

The leadership intensive practicum helps students understand key leadership topics, including event management, budgeting, promotions, communications and risk management strategies.

The final element is monthly mentoring sessions that provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon their practice of ministry in the light of what they are learning from the coursework.

Delivery

Mode:

Intensive 3 - 5.00pm Friday 29th May to 3.30pm Sunday 31st May 2026.

Intensive 4 - 5.00pm Friday 18th Sep to 3.30pm Sunday 20th Sep 2026.

Nine group mentoring sessions held monthly throughout the year from February to October 2026.

Lecturers

Rev Dr Chris Ryan MGL

Frances and Kelvin Simon

Laura Neeson

Daniel Ang, Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation



Course 4: Practicum

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the capacity to lead in their chosen ministry
2. Plan, develop and deliver ministry events/programs for their specific ministerial context
3. Demonstrate relevant pastoral and practical skills in an actual ministerial situation
4. Reflect upon their praxis in the light of theological and missiological principles

Assessment

One 1000-word verbatim report

One 3000-word capstone paper





**“GO THEREFORE
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
NATIONS.”**

Matthew 28:19-20



Fees & Inclusions

The Areté Centre firmly believes that missionary leadership is for everyone. That's why our program is affordable and represents the best value for money. We strive to ensure that the Areté Centre is accessible for missionary leaders of all ages and circumstances.

Key Dates

Intensive 1: 4-day live-in Intensive:

Starts: 9.00am Thursday 15th January

Finish: 3.30pm Sunday 18th January

Semester 1 Weekly Lectures Begin:

February (TBC) Wednesday evenings
7.00pm- 9.00pm, live on Zoom.

Weekend Intensive 2:

Starts: 5.00pm Friday 20th March

Finish: 3.30pm Sunday 22nd March

Weekend Intensive 3:

Starts: 6.00pm Friday 29th May

Finish: 3.30 pm Sunday 31st May

(Break for School Holidays)

Semester 2 Weekly Lectures begin:

June (TBC) Wednesday evenings,
7.00pm- 9.00pm, live on Zoom.

Weekend Intensive 4:

Starts: 6.00pm Friday 18th September

Finish: 3.30pm Sunday 20th September

Costs + Inclusions

The Foundations Program costs \$2,600 per person, with a discounted rate of \$2,500 if paid upfront. This includes:

- 4-day live-in intensive
- 26 weeks of classes
- 1 retreat weekend
- 2 intensive weekends
- 9 monthly mentor sessions
- Program materials

The fee includes accommodation, linen, resources, and all meals at each intensive.

Cost of the Graduate Certificate

option through Notre Dame: \$10,900

was the total fee payable in 2025. The University of Notre Dame may adjust its fees for 2026.

Graduate Certificate in Missionary Leadership



The Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program may be undertaken as a Graduate Certificate through the University of Notre Dame.

The Graduate Certificate is designed for people currently in or pursuing a permanent role in ministry, or for those in Catholic education.

Students undertaking the Graduate Certificate attend all the lectures, mentor sessions, and intensives in the Foundations Program. They also attend 9 extra tutorials with Fr Chris Ryan MGL.

Assessment

There is additional assessment for the Graduate Certificate.

The following table compares the assessment between the Areté Certificate and the Notre Dame Graduate Certificate:

Course	Areté Certificate	Graduate Certificate
Spirituality of Missionary Leadership	5-minute Oral Presentation 3000-word Journal	5-minute Oral Presentation 3000-word Journal 2500-word essay
Theological Foundations of Mission	3 in-class tests 1000-word essay	3 in-class tests 1000-word essay 2500-word essay
Ministerial Leadership: Theory and Practice	1000-word reflection paper 2000-word project plan	2500-word reflection paper Draft project plan 3000-word project plan
Practicum	1000-word verbatim and analysis of conversation 3000-word capstone paper	3000-word verbatim and analysis of conversation 3000-word capstone paper

Graduate Certificate in Missionary Leadership



Cost for Graduate Certificate Option

The Graduate Certificate costs c. \$10,900*, payable through the University of Notre Dame. This cost is all-inclusive (you do not need to pay the Areté Centre if you undertake the Graduate Certificate). Fee-Help is available through the University.

** \$10,900 was the total fee payable in 2025. The University of Notre Dame may adjust its fees for 2026.*

Prerequisite

Students wishing to study the Graduate Certificate must have:

- An undergraduate degree

or

- 5 years of professional experience working in the Catholic Church/Catholic Education

Prospective Graduate Certificate students should initially apply through the Areté Centre. Once your application to the Areté Centre is approved, you can then enrol in the Notre Dame Graduate Certificate program.

For further enquiries concerning the Graduate Certificate, please contact Laura Neeson (office@aretecentre.org).

Please note that the fee for the Graduate Certificate Option differs from the fee for the Areté Certificate option outlined on the 'Fees & Inclusions' page.



Information for Catholic Educators

UNDERTAKE THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP AS PART OF POST-GRADUATE PATHWAY

The Graduate Certificate in Missionary Leadership may be used as a pre-requisite for the University of Notre Dame's Master of Liberal Arts Program.

CATEGORY E AND LEVEL E – ACCREDITATION FOR SYDNEY AND WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Graduate Certificate fulfils the requirements for Category E accreditation for SCS and CEDoW.

SCS' Staff Study Support Policy can assist SCS teachers in completing both the Graduate Certificate in Missionary Leadership and the Master of Liberal Arts at the University of Notre Dame.

CEDoW teachers can be supported to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Missionary Leadership through the CEDoW scholarship program.

Areté Certificate for SCS Employees

SCS employees can undertake the *Areté Certificate* for personal and professional development without pursuing a postgraduate qualification.

This option also supports Family Educators in their evangelising and pastoral mission, and staff who wish to deepen in faith and develop their leadership skills. Support for this option is available through the SCS Mission and Identity team.



A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows two hikers on a rocky trail. One hiker, a woman with dark hair in a bun, is sitting on a rock in the foreground, wearing a plaid shirt and a backpack. The other hiker, a person with curly hair, is standing behind her, also wearing a backpack. They are both looking towards the right, where the sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow in the sky.

How to Apply

HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW TO APPLY FOR THE FOUNDATIONS OF MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

Our online application process is simple and accessible.

Simply complete the form on our website, ensuring you provide a referee.

After submission, you'll receive a confirmation email, and we will notify you of the outcome within 10 business days.

If accepted, you'll receive an enrolment link to secure your place with a deposit. Payment can be made upfront or in instalments.

SCS Teachers: Contact the SCS REE accreditation team: ree.accreditation@syd.catholic.edu.au or phone 9568 8212

CEDoW Teachers: Contact Mirjana Bugeja at bugejam01@dow.catholic.edu.au

SCS Employees interested in the Areté Certificate should contact Anita Sicari: anita.sicari@syd.catholic.edu.au

Contact us

For questions, more information, or to request a call from our team about the program, contact us at office@aretecentre.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

WHO IS THE FOUNDATIONS OF MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR?

This program is open to anyone passionate about parish renewal, who already works in ministry or is interested in starting. Whether you are a volunteer or in paid employment, a youth minister, involved in adult evangelisation, or in leadership in your parish, movement or community, the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program is for you.

HOW IS THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COURSES?

We offer a program that responds to the current landscape of the Church's mission in Australia.

Our content, derived from proven models and methods adapted by Fr. Chris Ryan MGL to the Australian context, is enriched with data, real scenarios, and case studies from local sources.

Our three-phased approach—encounter, formation, and mission—ensures comprehensive formation in missionary leadership.

Live-in experiences provide personal encounters with God, deepening students' understanding of the call to know, love, and serve Him. Theological foundations are explored through interactive online sessions covering Sacred Scripture, missiology (including the new evangelisation), and the best leadership theory and practice.

We also consider the philosophical and sociological aspects of the Australian context.

This program equips students with the practical leadership skills needed for mission. Areté fosters 'vision-carriers' who, in turn, will form other leaders.

HOW ARE THE WEEKLY CLASSES DELIVERED?

We value the importance of providing a learning environment that fosters connection through organic conversations, collaboration, and immediate responses to questions and clarifications. Our weekly online lectures are provided as real-time, live sessions with Fr Chris Ryan MGL and your fellow students via Zoom.

I AM ALREADY A MINISTRY LEADER, WHAT CAN THIS PROGRAM TEACH ME?

This program helps leaders grow in their faith, deepen their spirituality, and acquire new leadership models and tools relevant to the Australian context. It offers spiritual renewal, fosters a missionary mindset, and provides a platform for connecting with other lay leaders.

HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED FOR CLASSES, STUDY AND ASSESSMENTS?

Each semester requires 2 hours per week for lectures over 13 weeks. Additional time is needed for reading, writing short papers for assessment, and attending a 1-hour mentoring session each month.

The first intensive lasts for four days, while the retreat and the remaining two intensives begin on Friday evening and conclude by Sunday afternoon.

WHAT KIND OF RECOGNITION OR ACCREDITATION CAN I RECEIVE FROM THIS PROGRAM?

Upon completion of the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program, participants receive an official Areté Certificate of Completion, along with corresponding grades.

The program is highly regarded by many Church organisations, often leading to employment in leadership roles thanks to the tools, skills, and knowledge gained.

Additionally, the program is available for study at the Graduate Certificate level through the University of Notre Dame.

WHAT IF I MISS A CLASS?

To gain the full benefit of the program, attending all lectures is encouraged.

However, recorded sessions are available weekly for those unable to attend in real-time. Please notify us in advance if you are unable to attend a class.

WHAT ARE THE GROUP MENTORING SESSIONS FOR?

Online monthly mentoring sessions, conducted with a small group of students and a mentor, provide an opportunity to review lecture materials, apply learnings, share experiences, and learn from peers.

IS THE COURSE OPEN TO ALL CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS?

We welcome students from all Christian denominations. While our course is Catholic-focused and the intensives are conducted in a Catholic setting, the leadership principles taught are universally applicable across all Christian traditions.

IS THE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AUSTRALIA WIDE?

The program is accessible to participants from Australia and New Zealand. Live lectures are delivered via Zoom, requiring only a computer to join. Intensives and retreats are held in Sydney, with dates provided in advance for planning.

Areté Centre Terms + Conditions

ARETÉ CENTRE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Enrolment

- Payment to the Arété Centre is required to secure your enrolment in the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program. You can choose to pay the enrolment fee in full or in 4 equal instalments, where the first instalment will be charged immediately. A minimum of \$650.00 payment is required to secure your enrolment. An additional non-refundable Stripe payment gateway transaction fee of 1.75%+ \$0.30 per transaction applies. A valid Australian credit card is required.
- Enrolments need to be finalised by 1 December 2025.
- Up-front full enrolment fees are required to be paid by 1 December 2025.
- Remaining instalment enrolment fees will be automatically deducted quarterly from the date of your first instalment.
- Withdrawal from the program after enrolment will incur an administration fee and may also include a forfeiture of some or all of the enrolment fee. See the withdrawal schedule on the following page for the details of exact refunds.

Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program

Your enrolment to the Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program means you are agreeing to:

- Attend and participate to the best of your ability in all intensives and retreats, mentor sessions, and online lectures as outlined in the prospectus.
- Complete quizzes, assessments, and other required work by the due date (extensions may be given on a case-by-case basis).
- The Arété Centre Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy.
- Organise and pay for your travel to and from the intensive/ retreat venues.

The Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program starts with a 4-day live-in intensive at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre and Carmel House on Thursday, 15 January to 18 January 2026. Students are expected to attend in person.

Semester dates will be published in the student classroom.

There are breaks from lectures during NSW school holidays. The final assessment is due on 1st October.

A computer with an internet connection and access to Zoom is required.

more

ARETÉ CENTRE TERMS AND CONDITIONS Continued

- Students are expected to attend all other in-person intensives and the retreat at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre and Carmel House from Friday night to Sunday afternoon.

Weekend Intensive and Retreat dates are as follows:

Intensive 2: 20-22 March 2026

Intensive 3: 29-31 May 2026

Intensive 4: 18-20 September 2026

- Intensive dates and venues may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be notified of changes.
- Accommodation will be single-occupied rooms with shared bathroom configurations at Carmel House (separate male and female facilities provided) and/or single-occupied rooms with ensuites at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre. Your room placement and configurations are subject to change for each intensive.
- The venue staff will do their best to accommodate standard dietary needs with prior notice. Please contact us to discuss any complex dietary needs prior to an intensive or a retreat.
- Withdrawal from the program must be in writing and submitted to office@aretecentre.org and is subject to the program withdrawal terms below:

Program Withdrawal Terms Schedule:

Withdrawal Dates (inclusive)	Refund	Things to Note
Up to 31/12/2025	Full refund of monies paid, less \$50 admin fee	Stripe and card transaction fee is non-refundable
1/1/2026 - 20/3/2026	Forfeit \$650.00 Pro-rata refund of the remaining fee, if any.	Amount is at the discretion of the Areté Centre. Stripe and card transaction fees are non-refundable.
21/3/2026 - 1/10/2026	No refund available	Outstanding balances may be required to be paid.



**“HONESTLY, THE WHOLE
THINGS WAS OF THE
ABSOLUTE HIGHEST
QUALITY”.**

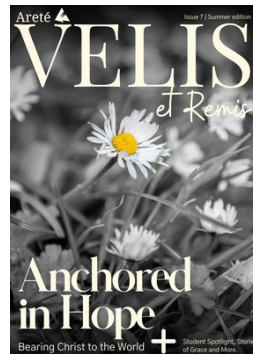
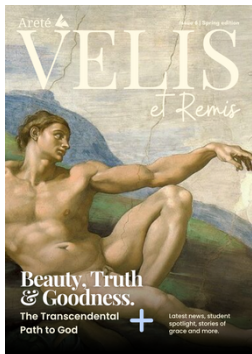
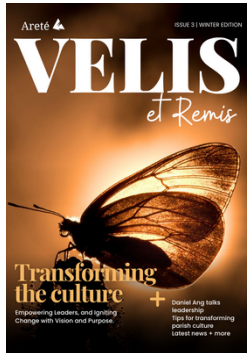
2025 Student feedback

FOLLOW US

**“THE MISSION OF THE
CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD
IS A MISSION FOR ALL”.**

-Pope Francis





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CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP
