



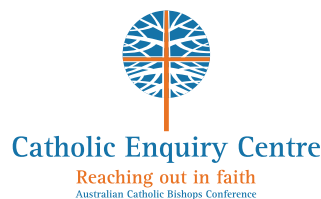
FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

FROM THE
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION
2018

A guiding light for agents and seekers of faith

There can be no doubt that deepening our understanding of how to share our faith with others is an urgent need in our time. In my capacity as the Chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, I encourage particularly those working in and for the Catholic Church throughout Australia to consider making use of the following opportunities offered by our National Centre for Evangelisation.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane
Chair, Bishops Commission for Evangelisation



The National Centre for Evangelisation, includes the Catholic Enquiry Centre, and is under the responsibility of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

WHO ARE WE?

The **National Centre for Evangelisation** (NCE) is a small team working within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It is based in Canberra, and has responsibility for the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

NCE's vision is to be *a guiding light for agents and seekers of faith*. Their mission statement reads:

We exist to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ as expressed by the Catholic tradition. We engage with dioceses and agencies to enhance our shared evangelisation endeavours. We model an engagement with seekers and enquirers that is respectful, authentic and open. We reach out and respond to the disillusioned and the disconnected as a matter of priority. We have a truth to speak and we are mindful of God's presence in the world. We undertake our mission in the spirit of servant leadership with Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do.

Currently two team members are available to deliver a variety of formation opportunities. They are:

Shane Dwyer

An experienced faith formator, public speaker, writer and course provider, Shane brings to his role as the Director of the NCE a great desire to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. He finds within the Catholic tradition a rich vocabulary to express the wonder of the invitation made to all human beings: the call to be reborn into the life that God has for each of us. Shane has completed post-graduate studies in Catholic Theology and Christian Spirituality and is a trained spiritual director.



Sharon Brewer

Sharon commenced as Mission Coordinator for the NCE in March 2017. Prior to this she worked for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, supporting parishes in the areas of RCIA, Sacraments, Liturgy and Parish team formation. It is through her many years of involvement in parish life and her role as wife and mother where Sharon's desire to encourage others on their journey of faith has grown. Sharon delivered adult education for a number of years, and has recently completed a Theology degree.



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WHAT ARE WE OFFERING?

Part of our mandate is to offer adult formation which will assist people in the fulfillment of their baptismal promise of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Such formation can be academic, practical and/or spiritual. We are conscious that many dioceses have the means to conduct such formation themselves. Our desire is to reach out to those pockets within the Australian Catholic Church who may not be able to financially or logistically arrange such formation. This document provides an overview of what we offer.

We encourage you to:

1. **Make contact with us.** We are more than happy to adjust these offerings, or maybe tailor design something that suits your needs.
2. **Not be too focused on the costs.** We are simply trying to cover our costs, but if the nominated amount is problematic – then let's discuss. You may find it cost effective to book NCE staff for 2-3 days and have them offer a variety of workshops or repeat the same one, for example, offer it in the evening, and then the following morning.

We ask whoever is hosting the event to be responsible for venue, registration and catering. Access to a computer, data projector and Internet would be helpful for some of these offerings.

These formation opportunities are usually offered as a seminar, workshop or retreat. By this we mean:

Seminar: This is an adult faith education experience where different aspects of the Catholic faith are explored and made relevant to our day-to-day experience as men and women seeking to live and proclaim our faith today. Unlike a lecture, a seminar is not primarily academic in nature. Instead, while seeking to draw on the best of the Catholic theological tradition, the focus is on making that meaningful to those gathered, and to further encourage and resource them as they seek to live and proclaim that faith in their daily lives. Questions and discussion are encouraged.

Workshop: These tend to be practical in nature. The emphasis is on resourcing participants and providing them with the skills they require to make use of those resources. The role of the workshop facilitator is to introduce the resource(s) and then to assist the group as they help one another make sense of it and think about how they might utilise it in their own lives and ministry.

Retreat: These can be organised in a number of different ways depending on the needs of those attending. The primary focus is on providing the opportunity for the retreatant to stop and listen to God. A combination of group prayer experiences, opportunities for personal prayer, retreat conferences and 1-1 spiritual direction can be arranged.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Email: mission@nce.catholic.org.au
Phone: 1300 432 484
Contact: Sharon Brewer

1. FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR PARISH TEAMS

Parish Teams might include: The Parish Priest/s, Deacons, Parish Secretaries and other office staff, executive staff of Parish Catholic schools (e.g. Principal, Assistant Principal, and Religious Education Coordinator/s), Parish Pastoral Council members, Parish Finance Council members, Liturgy Committee members, Youth Ministers, Sacramental Coordinators and catechists from the children’s programs and RCIA. In fact, it could include all those who are seen as leaders within the parish community.

A. THE ONE DAY PARISH TEAM RETREAT – SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL

AIM: For the parish team to spend a day together in prayer, formation and planning. This retreat is particularly effective when there is significant change in staffing, parish amalgamations, parish planning and there is not the luxury of a whole weekend away.

DURATION: 6.5 hours including meal time, for example, 9.30am – 4pm.

FACILITATORS: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$260)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
9.30am	Morning Prayer/Welcome	
9.45am	Reflection	Input and then time for individual reflection, followed by sharing time in the larger group.
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Formation	What is the role of the Parish Team in evangelisation? Role of the laity and priest. What does research tell us about what is key to a parish being a centre for evangelisation? How focused are we on maintenance rather than mission? Discussion and sharing could be included.
12.15pm	Lunch	
1.15pm	Planning	This section should be designed specifically for the needs of the parish. Is your parish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently amalgamated, or about to be? • New PPC members? • New Parish Priest? • Considering running a parish renewal? • Developing a new Parish Pastoral Plan? • Developing a stewardship plan? The topics covered might include: What are we good at, not so good at? What is our vision (do we need to get one)? Do we have a good communication strategy? Do we need help in setting our priorities? What resources can we draw on (e.g. Divine Renovation, Rebuilt, Building Stronger Parishes, small groups – Alpha).
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.50pm	Concluding Prayer	
4.00pm	Optional Mass	Could be held at another time during the day, but very useful for commissioning.

B. THE FRIDAY/SATURDAY PARISH TEAM RETREAT – SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL

AIM: For the parish team to spend an evening and day together in prayer, formation and planning. The group may choose a particular theme to guide the retreat.

DURATION: 9 hours including meal times, for example, 6.30pm – 9.30pm Friday evening, 9.30am – 3.30pm Saturday.

FACILITATORS: 1 (or 2 if spiritual direction required, or split delivery)

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$360 for one facilitator, \$720 for two)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Friday		
6.30pm	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
7.00pm	Dinner	
7.45pm	Session 1 – Spiritual	Input and then time for individual reflection, followed by sharing time in the larger group.
8.30pm	Evening Prayer or Mass	
9.00pm	Supper	
Saturday		
Ideally, attendees would stay at a retreat centre, but if held locally, they could go home.		
8.00am	Breakfast	
9.00am	Morning Prayer or Mass	
9.30am	Session 2 – Spiritual	To be discussed with priest or parish leader – depends on reason for retreat.
10.15am	Morning Tea	
10.45am	Session 3 – Practical	To be discussed with priest or parish leader – depends on reason for retreat.
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Session 4 – Practical	To be discussed with priest or parish leader – depends on reason for retreat.
2.45pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.15pm	Where to from here?	Addressing spiritual and practical aspects.
3.25pm	Closing Prayer	

C. THE WEEKEND PARISH TEAM RETREAT – SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL

AIM: For the parish team to spend a weekend together in prayer, formation and planning. The group may choose a particular theme to guide the retreat.

DURATION: 15 hours including meal times, for example, 6.30pm – 9.30pm Friday evening, 9.30am – 5.00pm Saturday. Evening meal with fellowship after would be preferred, depending on accommodation arrangements, and 9am – 1.30pm Sunday.

FACILITATORS: 1 or 2 if spiritual direction required

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$600 for one facilitator, \$1200 for two)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Friday		
6.30pm	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
7.00pm	Dinner	
7.45pm	Session 1 - Spiritual	To be discussed with priest or parish leader – depends on reason for retreat.
8.30pm	Evening Prayer or Mass	
9.00pm	Supper	
Saturday Ideally, attendees would stay at a retreat centre, but if held locally, they could go home.		
8.00am	Breakfast	
9.00am	Morning Prayer or Mass	
9.30am	Session 2 – Spiritual	To be discussed with priest or parish leader – depends on reason for retreat.
10.15am	Morning Tea	
10.45am	Session 3 – Practical	This could be a time for reflecting on where the parish has been – its strengths and weaknesses. A carefully facilitated group discussion can give space for people to respectfully share their concerns, not only about the parish, but also the Church as a whole. It is often useful to commence this session with an overview of the roles and responsibilities of priests and laity.
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Session 4 – Practical	Facilitated session that looks at parish priorities. It may be useful to commence with an overview of what it is to be a parish in maintenance versus missionary mode.
2.45pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.15pm	Session 5 – Spiritual	Maybe a session on charisms or some quiet/rest/reflection time.
4.15pm	Wrap up for day	
4.30pm	Free time	
5.30pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
6.00pm	Dinner	
7.30pm	Entertainment	
9.00pm	Close of day	
Sunday		
8.00am	Breakfast	
9.00am	Mass	
9.45am	Morning Tea	
10.15am	Session 6 - Practical	Bringing it all together. This could be the start of a 1, 2, 5 year or even longer term plan for the parish. Kick start your parish plan, and be ready to put it into action when you return home.
12.00pm	Lunch	
1.00pm	Depart	

D. THE WEEKEND PARISH (TEAM) - RETREAT SPIRITUAL

The program of a weekend parish retreat is planned in conjunction with the Parish Priest and parish lay organisers. The emphasis is on meeting the needs of the particular parish community and on providing flexibility to allow for maximum participation. One possible schedule is that retreatants gather on Friday evening, with the retreat coming to a conclusion after Mass on the Sunday morning.

E. HOSPITALITY – A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF PARISH MINISTRY – WORKSHOP

AIM: Hospitality is more than putting on a cuppa after Mass or welcoming people at the door with the parish bulletin (although this is an excellent start!). This half-day workshop aims to help you rethink how your parish offers hospitality in all ministries.

DURATION: 4 hours including meal, for example, 9.30am – 1.30pm – finish with lunch, or afternoon session finishing with evening meal.

FACILITATORS: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$160)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Saturday	It could be any day, or even an evening session (with an early start). It could start with early morning Mass, then breakfast.	
9.30am	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
9.45am	Presentation	The theology of hospitality, charism of hospitality, what does it look like when it permeates all our activities.
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.15am	Reflection Time	Each attendee has some quiet time to reflect on what they have heard and ponder how hospitality might be attended to differently in the parish (and possibly in the context of their own lives).
11.45am	Group Discussion	Sharing of ideas. What could be put into practice? If time permits prioritise ideas, including time frames for implementation.
12.20pm	Conclusion & Prayer	
12.30pm	Lunch	

F. STARTING RCIA IN YOUR PARISH WORKSHOP

AIM: Has your parish been thinking about invigorating RCIA? Not sure how to go about it?

DURATION: 4 hours including meal, for example, 9.30am - 1.30pm – finish with lunch, or afternoon session finishing with evening meal.

FACILITATORS: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$160)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Saturday	It could be any day, or even an evening session (with an early start). It could start with early morning Mass, then breakfast.	
9.30am	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
9.45am	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your parish ready to welcome new Catholics, invite back 'lapsed' Catholics? • What formation is needed? • What resources might you need? • What does an RCIA process look like? • How to gather team members.
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.15am	Reflection Time	Each attendee has some quiet time to reflect on what they have heard and quietly considers what needs to be addressed in order for the RCIA process to commence. An opportunity to think outside the square!
11.45am	Group Discussion	Sharing of ideas. What could be put into practice? If time permits prioritise ideas, including time frames for implementation.
12.20pm	Conclusion & Prayer	
12.30pm	Lunch	

G. PARISH MISSION

Is your parish interested in running a parish mission or renewal program? We can assist with planning, delivery of keynotes, facilitation. Having an external facilitator allows all members of the parish to be involved. We can provide a mix of theological, spiritual and practical input.

COSTS: Expenses + Fee – to be negotiated

2. FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR DIOCESES

The following offerings are suitable for either the whole of a diocese or regional/deanery settings.

A. THE ONE DAY DIOCESAN RETREAT – MAINLY PRACTICAL

AIM: To provide an opportunity for a coming together of parish teams across a deanery or diocese. It might also provide an opportunity for the Bishop to address the key leaders in his parishes.

DURATION: 6.5 hours including meal time, for example, 9.30am – 4pm.

FACILITATORS: Could be one, but keynotes from two different people may be beneficial.

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$260 for one facilitator, \$520 for two).

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Saturday		
9.30am	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
10.00am	Presentation 1	This keynote will provide stimulus for the day. Examples: What is Pope Francis calling us to do in our parishes? Do we really know the difference between a parish in maintenance vs mission mode? How do we re-harness our energies in the wake of the Royal Commission? Can our Catholic Church regain its credibility in the wake of the Royal Commission?
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.15am	Facilitated discussion	Sharing in small groups.
12.15pm	Lunch	
1.15pm	Presentation 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What programs, ideas, models are currently being used in parishes (Divine Renovation, Rebuilt, Building Stronger Parishes, Alpha), or 2. Are our parishes really a place of welcome? – Do our parish structures encourage people to invite 'seekers' or 'enquirers', or for those who are 'returning home'? This presentation highlights the importance of parish hospitality.
2.00pm	Afternoon Tea	
2.30pm	Facilitated Discussion	Sharing in small groups and with larger group.
3.30pm	Feedback	From local leader.
3.45pm	Closing Prayer	

B. THE WEEKEND DIOCESAN RETREAT – SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL

AIM: To provide an opportunity for a coming together of parish teams across a deanery or diocese. It might also provide an opportunity for the Bishop to address the key leaders in his parishes.

DURATION: 11 hours, for example Saturday 10am – 9pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm.

FACILITATORS: Could be one, but keynotes from two people may be beneficial.

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$440 for one facilitator, \$880 for two).

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Saturday	Mass could be added into this program by starting earlier, or before lunch.	
10.00am	Morning Tea	
10.30am	Presentation	This keynote will provide stimulus for the day. Examples: What is Pope Francis calling us to do in our parishes? Do we really know the difference between a parish in maintenance vs mission mode? How do we re-harness our energies in the wake of the Royal Commission? Can our Catholic Church regain its credibility in the wake of the Royal Commission?
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.45am	Small Group Discussion	
12.00pm	Lunch	
1.00pm	Reflection Time	A time of quiet for rest, walking, prayer, reading & journaling. An opportunity for spiritual direction or reconciliation can be arranged.
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.30pm	Sharing Conversations	A variety of themes can be chosen. For example: How does modern media help or hinder our ability to evangelise? Or, are our lives too busy – where does God and the people we love fit in?
5.00pm	Quiet time, pre-dinner drink	
6.00pm	Dinner	After dinner, a social event could be offered.
8.00pm	Evening Prayer	
9.00pm	Day Concludes	
Sunday		
8.00am	Breakfast	
9.00am	Mass	
10.00am	Morning Tea	
10.30am	Presentation	1. What programs, ideas, models are currently being used in parishes (Divine Renovation, Rebuilt, Building Stronger Parishes, Alpha), or 2. Are our parishes really a place of welcome? Do our parish structures encourage people to invite 'seekers' or 'enquirers'? This presentation highlights the importance of parish hospitality.
11.30am	Discussion	Sharing in small groups, responding to the larger group.
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Facilitated Discussion	About initiatives that should/could be taken at a diocesan or deanery level. Could be done in small groups, reporting back to the larger group.
2.30pm	Feedback	From local leader.
2.45pm	Final Prayer	
3.00pm	Day Concludes	

C. THE WEEKEND DIOCESAN RETREAT – SPIRITUAL

The program of a weekend diocesan retreat is planned in conjunction with the retreat organisers. The emphasis is on meeting the needs of the retreatants and on providing flexibility to allow for maximum participation. One possible schedule is that retreatants gather on Friday evening, with the retreat coming to a conclusion after Mass on the Sunday morning.

3. HALF-DAY SPIRITUALITY RETREATS

AIM: To provide an opportunity for a few hours of reflection, prayer and silence, set around a particular theme.

DURATION: 4 hours including meal, for example, 9.30am - 1.30pm – finish with lunch, or afternoon session finishing with evening meal.

FACILITATORS: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$160)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY		
Time	Activity	Comment
Saturday	It could be any day, or even an evening session (with an early start). It could start with early morning Mass, then breakfast.	
9.30am	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
9.45am	Presentation	On a theme – please see examples below.
10.30am	Discussion	
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.15am	Reflection Time	Participants will be provided with some relevant reading material and some questions relating to the earlier session. They will then have the opportunity for a time of silence to reflect on the topic. Reflection might include journal writing, some creative activity, or going for a walk.
12.10pm	Sharing	Participants welcomed to share their experience.
12.20pm	Conclusion & Prayer	From local leader.
12.30pm	Lunch	

EXAMPLES OF THEMES:

- Being a carer
- Being a grandparent today
- Breaking out of the habit of being busy
- Married couples mini escape
- Prayer – Why and How?

4. LIVING AND PROCLAIMING – OUR MISSION

“In our day Jesus’ command to ‘go and make disciples’ echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church’s mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary ‘going forth.’” EG20

The following offerings are focused on those who have a ministry in evangelisation.

A. IDEAS FOR PRESENTING INSPIRING PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

AIM: Specifically designed for parish leaders designing and delivering the parent component of sacramental programs for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

DURATION: 2-3 hours, however it could be made into a full day with time for prayer and formation, and/or planning time. This could be helpful if a diocese or large parish was trying to refocus their sacramental program plan.

FACILITATORS: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (Starting from \$120 for 3 hours)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY:

- Welcome / Gathering prayer
- Why evangelise?
- You can’t give what you haven’t got! How’s your own faith journey going?
- How to lead prayer with parents
- Going beyond the logistics of what the child has to do – drawing out key formation opportunities for parents (e.g. forgiveness in our lives, why do we think the Mass is important, encouraging and affirming parents in their roles and inviting them (back) to Mass and the community, non-Catholics who are bringing their child to the sacraments, and parents practicing in other denominations, what’s involved in becoming a Catholic).
- Resources – presenting and sharing

B. CATHOLIC AGENCIES – CALLED TO PROCLAIM OUR FAITH

AIM: To provide a time of prayer, formation and planning for staff in Catholic agencies.

DURATION: 3 hours, however it could be made into a full day.

FACILITATORS: 1 or 2

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (Starting from \$120 for 3 hours)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY:

- Welcome / Gathering prayer
- Formation – a presentation on the theme
- Personal reflection on what has been presented
- Discussion and planning – How will what I have heard, and reflected on, impact the future?

THEMES:

- *For non-Catholics (and maybe nominal Catholics?) in the Catholic workplace* – Helping them understand what it is that Catholics believe, that not all Catholics agree with church teachings and what are the implications of this – what makes us different and the same as other denominations? Interested in knowing more? Opportunity for staff of other faiths to share the joys/sorrows of their particular religion? Opportunity for questions.
- *Just hanging in there!* For many Catholics (practicing regularly or irregularly) the implications of the Royal Commission into Institutionalised Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has left many pondering the future of our Church, questioning if our credibility can be restored, or disenfranchised and ready to leave. How do we stay faithful to the Church? Can we reconcile what has happened and still invite others into the faith? As an individual what do I need to do so that I can become an evangeliser in the work place and when I work with others?

C. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS – IS WHAT I HAVE ENOUGH? (SEMINAR)

Our past lives, our doubts, failures, grey areas about the Church's teachings and failings associated with our church, often cloud our ability to participate fully in the faith life of the church, let alone share with others our own faith journey (its ups and downs). On top of this, some people struggle to know how they can share their faith (if they want to) because they lack the words and confidence to do so.

AIM: To provide a time of prayer, formation, discussion and sharing about those things that prevent us from evangelising or sharing the Good News.

DURATION: 3 hours, however it could be made into a full day

FACILITATORS: 1 or 2

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (Starting from \$120 for 3 hours)

POSSIBLE FORMAT OF THE DAY:

- Welcome / Gathering prayer
- Formation – Why are we called to evangelise, and what is preventing us?
- Reflection time – journaling, responding to questions/stimulus – done in silence
- Sharing – what prevents me/what do I need to help me to evangelise?
- Formation – this session might be dependent on the group's specific needs
- Reflection time – what do I need to do? What have I already got that will let me do it, and what do I need to do/get to help me do it? Write a plan for the coming year as to how you might spread the Good News.

5. ADULT FAITH FORMATION SEMINARS

Many people who have a desire to share their faith often lack the confidence to do so. Some feel they are lacking in theological knowledge. Here are some short seminars that might fill the gap.

DURATION: 2 hours. If booking for a whole day, three seminars could be scheduled.

FACILITATOR: 1

COSTS: Expenses + Fee (\$80 per seminar)

TOPICS:

- A. The Case for Christ – what we know from history about Jesus
- B. The Trinity
- C. Mary and the Saints
- D. Catholic Creeds – or the Apostles Creed line by line
- E. The Our Father – line by line
- F. The Catholic Catechism – how it works, what it contains, why is it important, how was it compiled?
- G. The Bible – how did we get it, what does it contain, how should we read it, just stories or the truth?
- H. Church Hierarchy – how does the church work – from the Vatican down to the local parish
- I. Church History in Two Hours!
- J. Sacrament History & Meaning Part 1 – Sacraments of Initiation
- K. Sacrament History & Meaning Part 2 – Marriage and Holy Orders
- L. Sacrament History & Meaning Part 3 – Reconciliation and Anointing
- M. The Mass – Two parts – Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist
- N. Christ's suffering, death and resurrection – or the Triduum
- O. Prayer – what is it, why do it, how to do it?
- P. Prayer – Focus on Lectio Divina, Christian Meditation or Divine Office.
Could also do a workshop on how to put together a simple prayer liturgy for adults (what elements make a good prayer liturgy?).

SOME MORE CHALLENGING TOPICS:

The following topics could serve as adult faith formation offerings. However, they might best be undertaken in a format comprising: prayer or reflection, keynote or presentation, questions for private reflection, sharing (open discussion) and questions, closing prayer or reflection. Gatherings would be seen as a safe place to discuss topics that have a degree of sensitivity. Estimate 2 hours for each session.

- A. Why should I go to Mass?
- B. Child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church – how it makes me feel
- C. Communion: Who is it for?
- D. Sex: Why does the church think what it thinks?
- E. When only one parent is Catholic (and wants to raise the children Catholic)
- F. Is the Catholic Church relevant anymore?
- G. What is the point of the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation, Confession)?

