

20-22 OCTOBER 2022

evangelise

ENCOUNTER  
DISCIPLESHIP  
MISSION

## Preparation and ongoing reflection for attendees

### Why evangelise?

Jesus commanded his followers to tell others about him, to baptise them and to make them disciples (Matthew 28:16-20). The evangelisation efforts of those early Christ followers led to Christianity spreading across the world and down through the centuries. Sometimes this sharing of the faith has been done brilliantly and lovingly, and at other times, less so.

For those of us who love God and our Catholic faith, we must be looking at ways we can propose Christ to others. In today's world, the kerygma – the reality that “Jesus Christ loves you; gave his life to save you; and now is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you” (*Evangelii Gaudium* #164) – can be a challenge for many of us to proclaim.

The *Evangelise* conference seeks to assist you with your evangelisation efforts. It will do this by promoting understanding and exploring practices of evangelisation in Australia through *encounters* with Christ, formation in *discipleship*, and *mission* in the world. It seeks to empower Catholics to carry forward the Church's evangelising mission after the second assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

### How will this conference assist participants to become great proposers of Christ?

Conference attendees are encouraged to gather in their local parish, community, or in small groups to dialogue and discern how what is being heard could impact or inspire local missionary and ministry efforts. Where gathering with others is not possible, individuals can make time to journal or take learnings to prayer.

Sometimes while gathering in groups, it can become easy to think evangelisation is somehow the mission of “others” and not “ourselves”. Collaboration in our ministries and mission is very important, but we must first consider how God calls each one of us to contribute to the task of evangelisation. Each of our contributions will look different, depending on how God has called us, gifted us, and how we choose to respond. Our contributions will also be impacted by our circumstances: work, family and other commitments.

As we consider, “What is evangelisation and what does it look like for me?” we might find ourselves wondering if our personal understanding and formation is up to the task of evangelisation. *Evangelise* plenary and keynote presenters are all people who love God, are experienced and formed in evangelisation, and their task is to inform and inspire you in your evangelisation efforts. Among them you will find Scripture scholars, theologians, ministry practitioners and people who are passionate about the mission of Jesus Christ.

Following is a selection of resources which will enhance your conference experience and provide you with material to reflect on individually before or after the event, or as a way of promoting dialogue in your local community. For example, parish teams and parish pastoral councils might take one of the documents, and over a series of meetings, break it open and draw out the wisdom and deep thinking which might revitalise both the individual's and the parish's evangelising efforts.

# Resources for your consideration

## Foundational documents on evangelisation

- [\*Evangelii Nuntiandi\*](#): *Evangelisation in the Modern World*. This Apostolic Exhortation of his Holiness Pope Paul VI, promulgated on 8 December 1975, takes as its main theme Catholic evangelisation.
- [\*Evangelii Gaudium\*](#): *The Joy of the Gospel*. This Apostolic Exhortation of his Holiness Pope Francis, promulgated on 24 November 2013, takes as its main theme proclaiming the Gospel in today's world.

## Links to help form people for their responsibility to share the Gospel

- The [mandate of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry](#) (2020). This document's preamble outlines the three key areas of evangelisation as *encounter* with the living Jesus, formation in *discipleship* and *mission* in the world.
- [National Centre for Evangelisation \(NCE\) website](#): opportunities and ideas focusing on evangelisation.
  - [Catholic Evangelisation](#): a series of reflections informing Catholic individuals and groups of the call to share their faith with others. From the NCE with an additional article on [Evangelisation and Church Renewal](#).
  - [Formation opportunities](#): Are you serious about becoming formed in your faith? Visit this webpage to see the many opportunities available for formal and informal study.
  - [The Resource Centre Index](#): Are you looking for networks, programs, ideas, and processes to assist you personally and in your community to become great evangelisers? This page provides links to many excellent resources.
  - Register for our bi-monthly resource on evangelisation, [The Bridge](#).
- [\*Christus Vivit\*](#): *Christ is alive*. This Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, promulgated on 25 March 2019, takes as its main theme accompaniment, engagement and vocational mission of youth and young adults, but in reality, the entire people of God.
- [\*Lumen Gentium\*](#): *Light of the Nations*. This Dogmatic Constitution on the Church by Pope Paul VI, promulgated on 21 November 1964, takes as its main theme our oneness with Christ and his Church and the universal call to holiness.
- [Go Make Disciples](#): Mission plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney, launched on 12 December 2020.
- [Word on Fire](#) (USA): Proclaiming Christ in the culture.

## Examples of evangelising in Australia – *The Bridge*

In each edition of *The Bridge*, the NCE highlights initiatives to build intentional discipleship. Here are some examples:

- [Conversations about Catholics](#): Responding to questions from parents (2022)
- [Renewing one family at a time](#): Supporting the family and domestic church (2022)
- [Bringing faith to the playing field](#): Faith and sport (2022)
- [Syro-Malabar Catholics](#) bringing unique traditions and culture to the Church (2021)
- [Spirit-led ecclesial communities unite](#): Unifying the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (2021)
- [Sydney City South Parish](#): Partners in mission (2021)
- [Honouring grandparents and the elderly](#): Seeking the wisdom of older Catholics (2021)
- [All Saints Parish, Albany Creek, Queensland](#): Clergy move brings new opportunities (2021)
- [Sacred Heart Parish Hindmarsh-Findon Adelaide](#): A parish with a heart for the Gospel (2021)

Further, [The Bridge](#) publishes in-depth feature articles and series exploring the evangelising impact of RCIA, podcasts, sports, music and much more.

# Prayer

In [\*Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel\*](#), Pope Francis concludes his Apostolic Exhortation by inviting us to pray for evangelisation. He highlights Mary as the mother of evangelisation and invites us to pray together:

*Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life  
in the depths of your humble faith:  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,  
help us to say our own "yes"  
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.*

*Filled with Christ's presence,  
you brought joy to John the Baptist,  
making him exult in the womb of his mother.  
Brimming over with joy,  
you sang of the great things done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross  
with unyielding faith,  
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,  
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit  
so that the evangelising Church might be born.*

*Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,  
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life  
which triumphs over death.  
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,  
that the gift of unfading beauty  
may reach every man and woman.*

*Virgin of listening and contemplation,  
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,  
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,  
that she may never be closed in on herself  
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.*

*Star of the new evangelisation,  
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,  
service, ardent and generous faith,  
justice and love of the poor,  
that the joy of the Gospel  
may reach to the ends of the earth,  
illuminating even the fringes of our world.*

*Mother of the living Gospel,  
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,  
pray for us.*

*Amen. Alleluia!*

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html)

Let us pray together as we prepare for and go out from the **Evangelise** conference.