

Engaging the Heart



On Wednesday and Thursday afternoon you will be invited to choose from one of the following *Engaging the Heart* sessions. These sessions are designed for participants to experience mission through story, music, art and theatre.

We invite you to make your way to the session of your choice; description and room details below.

Wednesday May 3, 4.00pm

Community Catechists: Indigenous leaders ministering to their community

Auditorium, Level 1

The Alice Springs Community Catechist program is an alliance between the local parish and elders, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) and Catholic Mission. Community Catechist Leaders share using their artworks, their faith and spirituality and why this leadership program is important to their communities.

Interfaith Encounters

Doric Room, Ground Floor

Catholic Mission's Interfaith Encounters program brings senior students from diverse faith backgrounds together. The program provides the platform for students and staff to develop new friendships, celebrate difference, deepen faith and promote peace and social cohesion.

'Respect, Compassion and Sensitivity', Rainbow Catholics Interagency for Ministry

Remington Room, Level 4

In trying to become a truly synodal church, many are asking – How is 'respect, compassion and sensitivity' as taught by the church experienced by LGBTIQ+ Catholics? How do we value the dignity of LGBTIQ+ people in our society? How are our church communities responding to the lived experiences, gifts, stories, contributions and perspectives of LGBTIQ+ Catholics and their loved ones. The national interagency brings together ministries who have worked for decades across Australia to better respond to these important questions needing urgent actions.

L'Arche Community, Sydney

Ionic Room, Ground Floor

L'Arche Communities are places for people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life together. Mutual relationships, celebrating the unique value of every person and trust in God are at the heart of their journey together. You are invited to share in these inspiring stories of wholeness through difference.

The Letter: A better future is in our hands

Northcott Room, Level 4

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'*, a letter to every person in the world, confronting the looming calamity of human impact on Earth and ourselves. It is one of the most ambitious and revolutionary papal statements in history. *The Letter*, a film, tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter. The film features exclusive dialogue with the Pope and stories rarely seen. Watch excerpts from the film and engage in a facilitated dialogue.

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Thursday May 4, 4.00pm

The Music of Mission

Ionic Room, Ground Floor

If Mission is about 'crossing borders', the metaphorical ones we have created for ourselves, then music is one way of doing this. Come and experience music and story that will take you to diverse times and places, led by the St Vincent's Ashfield choir, with special guest Aunty Dolly McGaughey from the Torres Strait.

CRSA program

Remington Room, Level 4

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) offers the opportunity to sponsor and welcome refugee families into their local communities through 'community sponsorship'. Join those working to build this program in the Church as they share stories of connection.

'To Live Life to the Full': Exchanging gifts across generations and in partnership

Doric Room, Ground Floor

The Cross Generational Workshops Program is a collaboration with several Wollongong Diocese partners including CatholicCare, Catholic Education, local parishes and schools. It provides a space for students and senior members of our parishes and broader communities to 'exchange gifts'. The students provide support and assistance with Information Technology devices such as mobile phones and iPads while the seniors share their priceless stories and wisdom with our students. This session will celebrate some of these stories.

Evelyn Parkin, Quandamooka woman

Northcott Room, Level 4

Evelyn's journey as an Aboriginal Christian is a continuing life story with God and how he made himself known from the time she was a little girl. She is passionate about spirituality, identity and relationship with the Holy Trinity and its people of this ancient land.