



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

Monday 6th August 2018

'Sow & Grow' is a differentiated professional development opportunity for religious educators across the district. With a host of presenters, leading diverse workshops, the day promises to cater for all RE teachers, from the incoming graduate to the seasoned professional.

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Keynote:

The theological foundation of Awakenings (RE Curriculum) and Teaching for learning in RE – Fr Kevin Lenehan

Workshop title	Description
A. Strand – Scripture, Israel and Jesus	<p>Each strand workshop offers professional formation for the educator, enabling them to feel more confident and skilled in engaging with contemporary theology. It will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key points covered through the strand • Concepts that need illuminating • The particularity of the Catholic Christian approach to this aspect of the Christian faith tradition • Broader implications for links with pluralist context of multi-belief classroom / school community • Understandings to be developed in order to teach the strand.
B. Strand – Church and Tradition	
C. Strand – Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments	
D. Strand – Christian Ethics: Personal and Social	
E. Strand – God, Religion and Society	
F. Relationships and Sexuality Education	This workshop will explore some of the theology underpinning the new scope and sequence for Relationships and Sexuality Education.
G. Gifts given in love: recontextualising the Sacraments	An introduction to a recontextualised understanding of the sacraments for teachers.
H. Old Testament Scripture – what it means to teach it in a symbolic, post-critical-belief method	Participants in this workshop will come away with a broad-brush understanding of the time and context of the Hebrew writers, especially the Isaiahs and the Babylonian exile. To whom were they writing? What has happening at the time? What's it all got to do with the creation stories in Genesis?
I. Who is sitting at our table?	Diocesan ESCI survey results show that secularisation and pluralisation are clearly at work within Catholic school communities, especially as students progress through the levels of schooling. If we are to be teachers committed to dialogue as foundational to our RE classes, it is vital to know who are the students before us? Using data drawn from ESCI surveys, this workshop will name the religious (and non-religious) landscape of our student cohort and explore practical learning opportunities that recognize and address this plurality.
J. Exploring the Sacraments	A look at the Historical/Theological development of the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. With a particular focus on the "Jewish Memorial" aspect of the celebration of the Eucharist. There will also be a brief exploration of the Sacrament of Penance and it's development.

K. Prayer – are you a spiritual seeker?

Introduction to the work of Richard Rohr - Franciscan Friar and a powerful resource for those who wish to explore spirituality.

L. What the Trinity Will and Will Not Do

This workshop focuses on how to think theologically about the doctrine of the Triune God and its implications for Christian living. It will address aspects of the doctrine's development, as well as the relation between the doctrine and Scripture, and will invite participants to explore how trinitarian language can powerfully (and not so powerfully) inform their prayer and spirituality.

M. What is the Theology of Interreligious Dialogue?

This workshop focuses on post-conciliar developments in theological approaches to religious pluralism. It will introduce participants to different aspects of the Church's teaching in this area and offer them models for explaining Christianity's relationships to the religions. The workshop will also invite participants to evaluate the various questions that tend to dominate this branch of theology and introduce them to different ways of promoting interreligious learning.

N. Planning a Multi-Strand Unit of Work

This workshop explores how the interconnected context of the child and the Catholic Christian faith tradition can give rise to a concept, thereby enabling authentic and meaningful access to the Religious Education curriculum. In bringing the curriculum to the child, the workshop discusses the importance of knowing your students (ECSI data, enrolment data etc) and connecting the wisdom offered by Christianity. E.g. What does "solidarity" look like from the treasure of the Catholic Christian tradition?

O. Shared Christian Praxis – Another look in light of the New Curriculum

How can we seek ways of encouraging dialogue in our classrooms including the stories of all in the conversation? During this workshop, participants will investigate how Shared Christian Praxis can enhance encountering the story of the other. There will be a time to reflect upon the movements of focusing, naming and reflecting critically and how during these movements adults and students deeply explore their lives and contexts then are able to dialogue with the Christian Story and Vision and the implications that this may have on living life to the full for themselves and others in 21st century Australia.

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