



Leading for Mission

Faith and formation in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture

Start date
June 2025

Duration
2 years (part-time)

Sponsorship

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle offers a limited number of sponsored places to qualified primary and secondary school educators within the Diocese who currently teach (or aspire to teach) religious education. Sponsorship for other Diocesan staff and church workers may also be considered.

Contact

To register your interest, or for further information about sponsorship, please contact:

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In partnership with



“...above all with your life be witnesses
of what you communicate...”

Pope Francis

Leading for Mission is an innovative Faith and Formation program developed exclusively for and by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at ACU. Anchored by the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture (GCMC), this program is designed to provide participants with the capabilities required to think critically and creatively around their participation in and support for the Catholic character and ethos of the Diocese. Emphasising foundational theological insights while simultaneously promoting authentic practice, this program responds directly to the multiple and competing challenges that confront faith-based organisations. In exploring the capacity of participants to articulate and contribute to the mission of the Church, Leading for Mission affirms the agency of the individual in the life of the Diocese.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This is a two-year part-time program comprising four academic units. Each unit progressively builds towards defined learning outcomes through a series of readings, resources, reflective learning activities, and assessments.

The two core units are: **Mission Imperative: Engaging with Christian Mission** and **Mission in Context** (refer to the schedule on page two for more information about unit offerings).

You will have the opportunity to select from a set of electives for the remaining two units.

DELIVERY MODE

Core units will be delivered in face-to-face mode. Electives are offered online. However, upon enrolment, please review the schedule of unit offerings to confirm the details of chosen electives.

“The GCMC has been formative in developing my knowledge, has provided me with opportunities for personal insight and reflection, challenged my view on certain matters and been transformative in how I see my role in the mission and the issue of leadership in the diocese.”

Jenny, past participant

Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture

ASSESSMENT

Participants in this course are recognised as adult learners who develop deep understanding when their learning is relevant to them and connected to the context in which they lead others to learn. Assessment tasks in all units are designed to facilitate the integration of theory and practice through study, action, analysis, application and reflection.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Participation in this course will be supported by a variety of learning resources and activities that will be hosted on the ACU online learning environment.

FURTHER STUDY

Leading for Mission and the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture (GCMC) provide a direct pathway to other postgraduate offerings at ACU, including the Master of Religious Education and Master of Theological Studies. Credit towards other ACU master's programs will be reviewed in line with the relevant course rules. Please consult your course coordinator for more information.

UNIT SCHEDULE

CORE UNITS

Mission Imperative: Engaging with Christian Mission

30 June, 1, 3 and 4 July 2025

This unit explores the alignment of individual and Christian mission, meaning and purpose, and is designed to facilitate the flourishing of both the individual within the Diocese and the Church. You will be provided with reflection opportunities to better understand the nature of mission and to develop the knowledge, understanding, and analytical skills necessary to undertake the mission of the Diocese: consonant with their personal sense of mission.

Mission in Context

22, 23, 25 and 26 September 2025

The unit will facilitate further engagement with your Diocese's mission and will conclude by assisting you to develop the ability to propose further ways of addressing your Diocese's mission implementation strategy in light of the cultural complexity and diversity of its context. This unit aims to guide you in effectively approaching the alignment between your Diocese's mission and its cultural context.

ELECTIVES

You may elect to complete two elective units in 2026. **Electives** will be drawn from the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy's schedule of unit offerings.



“I believe I am a better leader. I believe I have a better understanding of why I chose to lead in a Catholic school and find that I constantly bring this to the forefront of my work. The GCMC has given me the tools to ensure my community is walking together as members of our school. I believe the strategic decisions I make stem from my learnings. I have a happy supportive school community and believe the GCMC has been foundational to this.”

Lucy, past participant