

Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services
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Evangelisation



Archbishop Christopher Prowse of Canberra-Goulbourn is currently the Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Military Diocese. Additionally, he is Chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

The final words of Jesus to the apostles are the centrepiece of the Christian mission to evangelise. We are commissioned to go forth inviting people to discipleship, grounded in Jesus' ongoing living presence in the Holy Spirit.

The primary focus for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.

Being Christian is not the result of an ethical or a lofty idea, but an encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

**Evangelisation is characterised by an
Encounter with the living Jesus,
Formation in discipleship and
Mission in the world.**

ENCOUNTER

At the heart of evangelisation is an encounter with the living Jesus and understanding that Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.

Our relationship with Jesus is sustained by the Holy Spirit through the intimacy of eucharist, sacraments, scripture, prayer and mercy.

In these three truths:

God loves you; Christ is your saviour; he is alive —
we see God the Father and Jesus. Wherever the Father and the Son are, there too is the Holy Spirit. When you

receive the Spirit, he draws you ever more deeply into the heart of Christ, so that you can grow in his love, his life and his power.

DISCIPLESHIP

In virtue of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples.

Disciples are called to listen with openness and generosity to God's Word, responding to the deeply personal invitation to follow after Jesus as friend and shepherd, so as to live out his commandment of love in a community committed to service and witness.

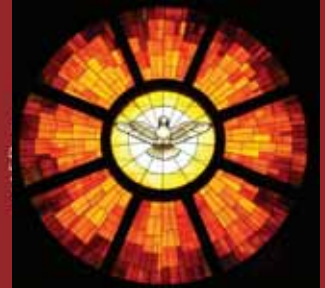
MISSION

The whole Church is called to evangelise, and within her we have different evangelising tasks to accomplish.

Bishops, priests and deacons, and those laity called to ecclesial ministry, gather and sustain the People of God through sacrament, teaching and proclamation. Religious, laity, families and young people carry the Gospel into the world transforming it through witness, word, holiness, mercy and life.

For the Church, evangelising means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new.

Drawn from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 'Mandate of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.'



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O God, who by the light
of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts
of the faithful,
Grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may be
truly wise and ever rejoice in his
consolations.
Through the same
Christ Our Lord

Serving Faithfully

is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services.

It is published periodically by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia.

The Diocese comprises members of the Australian Defence Force and their families, wherever they may be serving.

Its people are scattered widely across Australia and overseas.

Serving Faithfully aims to be a means of sharing events and experiences from across the whole Diocese.

Articles are welcome to be submitted for publication to
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Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Catholic Ordinariate of the Australian Military Services





Service and Duty

On July 28, 2023, during *Exercise Talisman Sabre* four Australian soldiers died from a helicopter crash during a night-time exercise with the US and other nations near the Whitsunday Islands on the Great Barrier Reef. The tragic crash of the Australian Army MRH-90 Taipan helicopter was heartbreaking for the 6th Aviation Regiment, a tight-knit military unit based at Holsworthy Barracks. The unit lost four highly respected members, Captain Danniell Lyon, Lieutenant Maxwell Nugent, Warrant Officer Class Two Joseph Laycock and Corporal Alexander Naggs. Everyone was deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of these outstanding aviators.

During this challenging and stressful time, deliberate chaplaincy support was enacted to ensure that pastoral, spiritual and religious support was provided to the immediate families who were grieving the unimaginable loss of a loved one.

Numerous members of the ADF provided immediate response through the provision of administrative support and welfare to military members and their families.

The Holsworthy-based chaplains, along with a network of support agencies, worked as a team to look after the welfare of those who were both directly and indirectly affected by this tragic event, giving them access to a range of additional support mechanisms should they be required.

As a Catholic Defence community our prayers go to all grieving families, members of the 6th Aviation Regiment, Holsworthy Army community, and the broader ADF community throughout Australia and overseas. We cherish Danniell, Maxwell, Joseph and Alex's service, we honour their sacrifice, and we mourn with their families. May they rest now in God's everlasting love, peace and care.

The MRH-90 helicopter tragedy was a stark reminder of the serious nature and inherent risks involved in the jobs that our Australian soldiers perform on a day to day basis as military members. These risks are always present, regardless of whether they are on training or on operations. This reminds us to always pray for the safety of our ADF members, wherever they may be.

Catholic chaplains involved in *Talisman Sabre* included Fr Joel Vegara (Holsworthy), Fr Thomas Zaranski (North Queensland), Chap Joe Moloney (North Queensland) and Fr Gabel Ezenwa (RAAF Base Curtin).

Chief of Army, Lt-Gen Simon Stuart, expressed his gratitude to the aircrew for their service and his sorrow for their families' losses, 'We honour these men, not just as soldiers, but as loved sons, husbands, fathers, brothers and friends.' CDF Gen Angus Campbell thanked the ADF teams and international partners involved in the search-and-rescue effort, 'which is bringing out the very best of our people.' Defence Minister Richard Marles said, 'This accident is a reminder of the unique significance that comes from service in the ADF.'



Capt Danniell Lyon joined the Army in January 2010. He was deployed on Operation Hannah in PNG in 2017 and on posting to New Zealand was involved in the White Island volcano eruption. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and parents.



Lt Maxwell Nugent went to the Royal Military College in 2018. Following pilot training he was posted to 5 Avn Regt. He was subsequently moved to Sydney to 6 Avn Regt. He is survived by his partner and parents.



WO2 Joseph Laycock enlisted as a combat engineer in 1999, subsequently retraining as a loadmaster. In 2014 he was named the Aviation Corps Soldier of the Year. In 2016 he was awarded the CSM. He is survived by his three children and his parents.



Cpl Alexander Naggs enlisted as a rifleman in 2009 and was posted to 1RAR. He provided training in the Philippines and was deployed on flood assistance in Qld. In 2010 he transferred to Aviation Corps. He is survived by his partner and parents.

Donations

The sources of income for the Military Diocese are very limited, and have reduced significantly during the past year:

- ♦ All dioceses and parishes have been affected by the closure of churches as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, some generous donations previously received from other dioceses have not been possible.
- ♦ The Knights of the Southern Cross undertake annual fundraising to support the education and continuing development of Chaplains and Deacons at their annual conference, but that was cancelled last year.
- ♦ Our chaplains continue to donate selflessly a proportion of their salary.
- ♦ We have received continuing donations from supporters, but these are about half of normal expectations.

If you would like to support the Military Diocese with tax-deductable donations you can make a direct bank transfer to the Armed Services Catholic Diocese BSB: 062 786 ACCOUNT No: 18662.

Would you please contact the Chancery on 0436 382 104 or email sec@cmoa.org.au so that a receipt can be provided.

Pope Francis praises St Mary MacKillop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholic education is an excellent form of evangelisation, Pope Francis said.

'Indeed, education does not consist of filling the head with ideas,' he told people at his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square June 28.

Education is 'accompanying and encouraging students on the path of human and spiritual growth, showing them how friendship with the Risen Jesus expands the heart and makes life more humane,' he said.

'Thank you for coming in this heat, in this sun, thank you so much for your visit!' he told the crowd. The pope continued his series of talks about 'zeal' for evangelisation by focusing on St Mary MacKillop, the Australian founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Australia's first saint, she was born in 1842 near Melbourne and died in Sydney in 1909.

Her order established schools and charitable organizations across Australia and was devoted to the care of orphans, neglected children, the homeless, sick and aged.

Pope Benedict XVI, who canonised her in 2010, had praised her as one of the most outstanding figures in Australia's history, and St John Paul II, who beatified her in 1995, praised her courage and her commitment to serving the poor.

In his general audience talk, Pope Francis called her 'an extraordinary religious sister,' who dedicated her life to 'the intellectual and religious formation of the poor in rural Australia.'

'Wisely reading the signs of the times,' this young woman whose parents had emigrated from Scotland, understood that the best way for her to spread the Gospel and attract others to encounter Jesus was through teaching young people, 'in the knowledge that Catholic education is a form of evangelization. It is a great form of evangelisation,' said the pope, who himself had taught high school in Argentina.

'Mary MacKillop was convinced that the purpose of education is the integral development of the person both as an individual and as a member of the community, and that this requires wisdom, patience and charity on the part of every teacher,' he said.

Education is helping others 'to think well, to feel well - the language of the heart - and to do well - the language of the hands,' Pope Francis said. 'This vision is fully relevant today, when we feel the need for an 'educational pact' capable of uniting families, schools and society as a whole.'

But an essential part of St MacKillop's zeal for sharing the Gospel, the pope said, was her dedication to caring for the poor and marginalized.

'This is very important,' he said. 'Along the path to holiness, which is the Christian path, the poor and the marginalised are the protagonists, and a person cannot move forward in holiness if he or she does not also devote himself or herself to them in one way or another.'

Those in need, he said, 'draw attention to injustice, which is the huge poverty in the world. Money is spent on making weapons and not on making meals.'

St MacKillop also had great faith in God's

providence and 'was always confident that in any situation God provides,' the pope said, 'but this did not spare her from the anxieties and difficulties arising from her apostolate. 'Yet, through it all, she remained calm, patiently carrying the cross that is an integral part of the mission,' he said, and she never gave up 'when her joy was dampened by

opposition and rejection.'

'You see, every saint faced opposition, even within the church,' he said.

St MacKillop had been briefly excommunicated in 1871 and her religious order temporarily disbanded during a disagreement with local church authorities, who disapproved of the sisters living in tiny, isolated communities frequently cut off from the sacraments in the remote Australian outback. The bishop who had excommunicated her lifted his censure after a few months and a church commission cleared the sisters of all wrongdoing.

'May St Mary MacKillop's missionary discipleship, her creative response to the needs of the church of her time, and her commitment to the integral formation of young people inspire all of us today, called to be a leaven of the Gospel in our rapidly changing societies,' the pope said.



Pope Francis greets a child as he rides in the pope mobile leaving St Peter's Square at the Vatican after his weekly general audience 28 June 2023. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)



Pope Francis laughs with visitors after his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican 28 June 2023. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Australian Bishops Visit Ukraine

At the invitation of Bishop Mykola Bychok CSSR, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, a delegation from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference visited Ukraine from 8-11 August.

This was an important opportunity to witness first-hand the human experience of this ongoing war, and to hear from Church leaders and civilians where future humanitarian support might be best directed.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli of Melbourne, Archbishop Julian Porteous of Hobart, Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS of Port Pirie, Fr Simon Cjuk, vicar general of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, and Annie Carrett, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, formed the delegation.

The group was well guided and accompanied by Fr Adam Ziółkowski SDS.

Globally, humanitarian assistance such as shelter, food and mental health support has reached more than 1.4 million people – much of this response largely possible due to a strong network and presence of Catholic churches and partner organisations.

The damages of war are far-reaching, and this war is not yet over. 'We were very mindful of not being a burden to anyone,' said Archbishop Comensoli.

'Watching this tragedy from afar, and offering financial support is one thing – but it is important that we hear and share the voices of those directly affected. This visit was about caring for our neighbour; and personally offering a strength in friendship and prayer to the Ukrainian people.

'It was key for us to bring dimensions of faith, friendship and solidarity to this trip. Wherever we went, we heard how important it was for the people to know of our own prayers from afar. But, significantly, we repeatedly heard of their acknowledgment of the 'courage' to physically travel to the country and show that Ukrainians are not alone.

'And for us as bishops, it was particularly important to hear of the faith leadership of the Major Archbishop, and his call for what is needed in taking the pathways to peace.'

Said Archbishop Porteous: 'Of the many experiences that we had, one that particularly touched me was the closeness of the priests and bishops to their people. Not only were they active in providing physical assistance but they were pastorally and spiritually

present to the people. Again and again I noted their personal concern and witnessed the warmth of the people's gratitude to their pastors.'

The delegation visited Lviv, Kyiv, Bucha and Irpin;

the last two towns have been places of horrendous destruction and atrocities against human life. The group met with Church leaders, families, soldiers and civic leaders.

Nearly 18 months into this conflict, life appears "normal" on the surface, but the harsh realities of daily deaths, injuries, displacement and uncertainty have opened up pressing questions on how best to support and heal a people in pain.

Bishop Stephan Sus, based in Lviv, is chairman of the Pastoral and Migration Department of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

He is also rector of the Garrison Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Lviv, a centre of faith that cares pastorally and sacramentally for military personnel and their families.

'For ordained, religious and in fact all involved in Church life, our task is to help people live in new ways,' Bishop Sus said.

'The greatest wounds will appear when this war finishes.

'We know that we cannot heal everything – hands, eyes and legs will not be good again. But we need to find ways to teach what is really important in times of challenge. This includes finding pathways for people to know they are loved, helping those who have been injured, and also those who live with the ones directly traumatised.

'Our front line as people of faith is the next front line. This will be more difficult than we can imagine because the weapons will be not knowing how trauma will play out. Sadly, the new 'normal' life becomes the new enemy.'

In Lviv, the Australian bishops met with mayor Andriy Sadovyi and visited the Unbroken rehabilitation centre where they talked with doctors, wounded soldiers and their families.

Bishop Kulczycki noted how deeply moving it was to meet these young wounded.

'Centres such as the Unbroken are critical in rebuilding lives. They take wounded of every age through a whole cycle of care from surgery, prosthesis, rehabilitation and, most importantly, psychological and social care,' he said.



Members of the Australian delegation to Ukraine in front of a war-damaged building

From p 4

‘So much has been lost and damaged. These young lives and young families need to re-learn how to live an everyday life full of meaning and purpose.

‘Incredibly, this centre has been built and resourced by the generosity of people and organisations from across the globe.’

The bishops were invited to join Bishop Sus in the funeral liturgy for a fallen soldier at the Garrison Church of Saints Peter and Paul. An incredibly emotional experience, the funeral was just one of what can be a dozen or more funerals a day at this church alone.



Archbishop Comensoli offered words of consolation to the family gathered – parents, a wife and a young daughter. ‘We are here to touch the wounds left by the war with you and are humbled to be with you in this difficult and tragic moment. Please know that the people of Australia are keeping you close in prayer,’ he told them.

In Kyiv the group met with Bishop Andriy Khimyak, Auxiliary Bishop of the Kyiv Archeparchy Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at the Cathedral of the Resurrection. Although still under construction, the cathedral has become an important centre for both sacramental and pastoral life. Daily, its kitchens provide up to 800 meals to those in need in outlying villages and communities.

When asked where the Church sees its role in the future, Bishop Andriy said, ‘Our soldiers return and we think we are doing the right thing for them – but only they can tell us their needs. The same with families. We must re-learn how to be present with people in this new reality. We are so grateful for your prayers and your support. The world is united in prayer from all from across the globe and it means so much for Ukraine.’

Just outside of the main centre of Kyiv lie the towns of Irpin and Bucha – places of indiscriminate destruction on civilian people and families. Here the bishops met with Greek Catholic priest Fr Vitali Kolesnyk, who leads a small community in Irpin.

‘When we started this faith community 16 years ago, we had only 10 people. Just before the Russian invasion in February we had grown to around 300. This is

a strong, close-knit community built on a lot of prayer and hard work,’ he said.

Known as Ukraine’s “hero city” after it reclaimed its hold from Russian forces in early 2022, Irpin lost up to 70 per cent of its houses and buildings.

Fr Vitali’s church bears the physical wounds of those. Rebuilding has begun, and the Church remains key in sustaining families through the challenges.

‘Our small church became a shelter to 30 people for eight days. We lived, prayed and worshipped in a small basement – adults and children alike,’ said Fr Vitali. ‘In six months we provided 10,000 meals and brought

together 20 tonnes of aid materials – just from our small parish. We continue to provide food, items for hospitals and schools, shelter and care. And we keep praying.

‘We could never have done much of this work without the support from so many overseas places such as Australia. We truly thank you, but there is still so much to do.’

Nearby Bucha suffered horrific loss and injury to its people. The delegation visited a cemetery for fallen local soldiers and the site of a mass grave for civilians. In each place, prayer was offered for those lost and those left behind.

For Fr Cjuk, whose family heritage is Ukrainian, this was a deeply emotional return to a loved country. ‘I was profoundly moved by Fr Vitali’s witness in Irpin,’ he said.

‘In the face of such death and destruction he continues to smile and laugh, finding joy in small things and in an unbreakable hope that is a gift of his faith. It is this resilience that most affected me – the resilience of people old and young who have a courage and strength built on faith. That gives me great hope for the future of Ukraine.’

The visit, though brief, has confirmed the fraternal commitment of the Church in Australia to supporting the people of Ukraine.

Following their return, the bishops are planning to build on the connections made and to urge the faithful in Australia to continue to hold those suffering close in prayer.

Australian Catholic University Centre for Liturgy launches Australian-first liturgy podcast.

Liturgy experts from Australian Catholic University (ACU) have launched a new podcast exploring Australian and global perspectives on liturgy, sacramental theology, liturgical music, and sacred art.

Speaking of Liturgy is the newest initiative of the ACU Centre for Liturgy, a university-based centre for liturgical formation and education. The new podcast is the first Catholic liturgy podcast produced by Australian liturgy and theology experts and aims to enhance the liturgical apostolate in Australia.

Introduced by former ABC Radio Hobart journalist Stan Murrowood, produced by Cathy Murrowood, and edited by Amiel Matthews, *Speaking of Liturgy* features local and international experts talking about a wide range of liturgical topics. The podcast's musical theme is composed and performed by Kylie Morrigan and Mal Webb.

liturgy and music conferences, as well as Australian and international perspectives on Sacrosanctum Concilium, and the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, which Pope Paul VI promulgated 60 years ago this December.

ACU Centre for Liturgy director Professor Clare Johnson said *Speaking of Liturgy* grew out of the Centre's desire to improve the liturgical literacy of Australian Catholics and expand opportunities for liturgical formation by using a range of media.

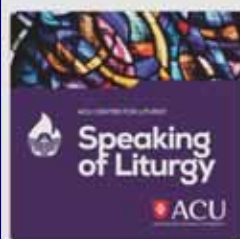
'The mission of the ACU Centre for Liturgy is to foster the whole liturgical apostolate, and we are constantly trying to evolve and engage audiences in different ways,' Professor Johnson said.

'While there are podcasts on the liturgy available for a general audience, we wanted to create a podcast that speaks specifically about liturgy today in the Australian context. We're proud that our podcasts are created by Australian liturgical experts along with some wonderful and enriching international liturgy colleagues.

We believe that Australians should have access to

Sr Kathleen Hughes invites us to consider how effective has liturgical formation been since the 70's. She proposes a new approach that emphasizes the importance of formation for *all* the faithful.

Sr Dr Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ is a former Professor of Word and Worship, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, and former provincial of the United States Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She is the author of *Saying Amen: Entering Into the Mystery of the Sacraments* (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2022).



Play the podcast on Podbean
Speaking of Liturgy



The ten episodes of the podcast (at date of publication of this newsletter) explore a variety of liturgical contexts, emphasising best practice in areas including school liturgies, the Sacraments of Healing, the influential role of sacred art, Church architecture, how worshippers can find a common voice, and the Eastern Catholic tradition. The screenshot above shows the typical information provided for each podcast and includes a direct link to enable listening.

Future episodes will feature conversations from

resources that reflect their Australian culture as well as perspectives from overseas. We hope that *Speaking of Liturgy* will inspire and encourage all people who are engaged in liturgical celebrations in Australian parishes, schools, and other Catholic communities.

'We are excited to launch this new podcast and by the possibilities it offers for exploring sacred liturgies, our rich and indispensable source of true Christian life.'

Listen to the *Speaking of Liturgy* podcast at:
acu.edu.au/SpeakingofLiturgy

A Gift in Your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinariate is a meaningful way to fund the education of future priests and deacons and to support our clergy in providing spiritual guidance to our service men and women and their families.

To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil.

A useful website for more information is:

includeacharity.com.au

As a result of a grant Australian Catholic University will develop a dedicated app to coach veterans through their transition to higher education, thanks to a funding boost from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The *Five2Study* app, the first of its type in Australia, was among scores of projects to benefit from more than \$5.5 million in grant funding to help improve the lives of veterans, defence personnel and their families.

Once developed, the app will become a companion for those looking to reduce the complexities of study and ease the stress of adjustment from a defence career into campus life.

It will offer targeted support to veterans, including interactive resources, health support and connection to the peer network of ACU's Student Veteran Services community.

'This project will build on what we already know about making a successful transition to higher education,' ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Zlatko Skrbis said.

'There are many challenges associated with that journey, but the aim is to utilise their strengths such as leadership, work ethic, resilience and teamwork to orientate veterans via the app towards student life.'

Under the Veteran Wellbeing Grants program, ACU will receive \$150,000 to develop and deliver the *Five2Study* app.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said Veteran Wellbeing Grants were designed to boost funding for organisations providing new projects and improvements to current initiatives that enhance the health and wellbeing of Australian veterans and families.

'It's fantastic to see new and exciting programs that organisations are implementing, including music programs and gardening,' he said.

Australian Catholic University is an active provider of veteran tertiary education programs. More than 250 student veterans study across ACU's eight campuses.

The University shows its strong support for former ADF members with the statement:

**You stood for your country,
now we stand for you.**

The eligibility requirements of its Veterans' Entry Program and Student Veterans Support Program take into account the ADF service of current and former members.

Empowering veteran success

ACU acknowledges that transitioning out of the military can be difficult for many veterans, with high rates of unemployment and mental health issues. Higher education is an internationally established pathway to

assist veterans in successfully transitioning from the military to civilian life, broadening personal networks, and creating a pathway to gainful employment. The university assesses applicants on a case-by-case basis, and once enrolled, the Student Veteran Support Program helps smooth the transition to student life.

Eligibility for the Veterans' Entry Program

Service in the ADF is assessed and converted to an entry rank, similar to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. That ranking is matched to the requirements of the undergraduate or postgraduate course selected by the applicant.

As a guide, completion of general training in the ADF with two years' experience (regardless of military rank held) will result in a rank of 82, which would gain entry into most ACU Bachelor degrees. A higher entry rank could result from an ACU individualised assessment of experience and qualifications.

Applications through state-based tertiary admissions centres are also eligible to receive a rank based on service in the ADF, and this is done automatically.

Gain credit for one unit

In recognition of ADF service to country and community, ACU will grant credit for the Core Curriculum unit, Justice and Change in a Global World. This credit is available for most undergraduate degrees.

Leadership experience counts

Becoming an officer or senior non-commissioned officer in the ADF shows leadership and management capability. ACU recognises the life and work skills required to achieve this rank, so it is offering unconditional entry to two of its postgraduate courses for those who have attained the equivalent ranks of Second Lieutenant or Sergeant. These courses are: Graduate Certificate in Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Management.

Family entitlement

The program is open also to a spouse, partner or child of a Veteran. ACU acknowledges that finding meaningful employment is important, yet often for family members of ADF personnel there can be significant barriers when pursuing educational and employment goals due to service commitments such as posting cycles, deployments and locality. This pathway aims to provide recognition of these challenges and sacrifices by giving the opportunity to access a range of study options, increasing employability and opening the door to meaningful employment.

This entry pathway is available to any spouse, partner or child over the age of 18 of current or previous serving ADF personnel. Applications are handled on a case-by-case basis, though as a rule of thumb two years of service is required.

Remembering Father Bob Maguire AM, RFD

Robert John Maguire was born in the Melbourne suburb of Thornbury on 14 September 1934, the youngest of five children into a very poor family. His father was an alcoholic and violent to his wife. Bob looked up to his long-suffering mother, who he saw as a model of Christian piety. At age 15 Bob was orphaned. At that time two of his sisters had also died. He was cared for by the remaining family and by some nuns and priests.

Bob's primary education was at Our lady of Lourdes in Armadale from 1940 to 1947 followed by Christian Brothers College, St Kilda. In 1953, at age 18, he commenced training for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College, Melbourne. He was ordained on 24 July 1960 at age 25.

At that time mass was said in Latin, the priest standing with his back to the congregation and women wore hats in church. But the world outside was changing fast and pressure was growing on Catholicism to face up to those challenges of modern life. Fr Bob said, 'Vatican II came and saved us. It was like the cavalry had arrived. I think I was wandering around in my adolescent years, all enthusiasm looking for a cause. And then thank you Jesus, that cause presents itself.'

After spending eight years 'locked away', he emerged as a young priest a great deal more confident about his place in the world, well-read and eager to explore many of the new ideas that were being tossed around. The church hierarchy immediately saw him as someone showing enormous promise: an energetic yet faithful and obedient servant they could place almost anywhere in the Melbourne Archdiocese. And so they did. For the next 13 years, Fr Bob was posted to no fewer than seven separate parishes to serve as an assistant to the incumbent priests. Then for the next 39 years, from 1973 to 2012, he was parish priest of Saints Peter and Paul's Church in South Melbourne.

In 1965, Fr Bob joined the Army Reserve. During the Vietnam War era, as a lieutenant colonel, he was commanding officer of the Character Training Unit. Subsequently, after retiring from the Reserve he was called upon to be a guest speaker at tri-service, all-ranks Character Leadership courses. He was a motivating and entertaining speaker and endeared himself to those attending the monastic surrounds of the former seminary at Manly NSW.

In the mid-1980s, Fr Bob started **Open Family Australia**, providing aid to the street children of Melbourne. He was made a Member of the Order of

Australia in 1989 for 'Service to homeless youth through the Open Family Foundation'. In 2001 he received a Centenary Medal for 'Long service to the congregation of St Peter and Paul's Church and the local community.' Additionally, he qualified for the Reserve Force Decoration.

In an attempt to gather all his social investments together under one Board of Governance he established the **Father Bob Maguire Foundation** in 2003. The foundation conducts such activities as delivering meals, providing food from its pantry, and social advocacy.

In September 2009 Fr Bob announced that he had been asked to tender his resignation on his upcoming 75th birthday. He replied that he would leave the decision as to whether he would stay or go to his parishioners. He finally retired at age 77. His last church service was held in his parish church on 29 January 2012 to a standing-room only congregation of 1,000.

His life and retirement was featured in 2013 at the Melbourne International Film Festival in a documentary *In Bob We Trust*. He also hosted a radio show on Melbourne radio station 3AW and appeared regularly on SBS television as co-host of *Speaking in Tongues* and a number of other programs.

In 2011 he was the Victorian of the Year and in 2011 and 2016 he was a finalist for Senior Australian of the year.

A State Funeral was held at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne for Fr Bob on 5 May. Victorian Premier Dan

Andrews joined other politicians, church leaders and representatives of the charity sector. Paying tribute in the service, Mr Andrews said, 'As a parish priest in South Melbourne for decades Fr Maguire had "built a community" by helping the poor and marginalised members of society. He was the true "people's priest" ... he loved the unloved and unlovely.'

Archbishop Coleridge said, 'In Bob Maguire ... I saw something I'd never struck before – a rare human vitality, a passion for the Gospel, an enthusiasm for all that was emerging in the Church from the Second Vatican Council.'

'He called us all on an adventure; and that call has deeply shaped not only my life but the life of so many others.'

'He was called the larrikin priest; yet he was a cultured man of high intelligence. He was an Aussie original, who presented a face of religion that Australians recognise and respond to.'

'It will be those people above all, the ones he called the unloved and the unlovely, who will gather round God to welcome Bob home where all the suffering and sorrow will turn to joy for him and for them.'



*An image of Fr Bob Maguire in St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne at his funeral on 5 May
ABC News/Daniell Bonica*