

Conference program

Monday
3 May 2027

DAY 1

9.00am – 11.30am

Conference Opening

Courage to Heal:

Healing Land and People, Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney

An unmissable, communal encounter with the experience and story of the Cammeraygal people and Mary's Place to open the Conference.

11.30am – 1.00pm

Pilgrimage & Lunch

Participants will be guided from Mary MacKillop Place to the SMC Conference & Function Centre for the remainder of the conference. Details will be provided closer to the event.

Lunch served on-site.

1.00pm – 3.00pm

Keynote & Conversation

Courage to Love:

Address from Stan Grant and fireside chat with Kelly Humphrey, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Australian Catholic University, Indigenous.

Q&A and facilitated plenary dialogue.

3.30pm – 5.00pm

Breakouts

Courage to Discover:

A choice of workshops that will explore contemporary practices, initiatives and wisdom from the many and varied sectors and ministries of church and mission.

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Conference Mass:

Join the celebration of the Eucharist at St Peter Julian Catholic Church, Haymarket. A short walk down the hill from the venue.

Conference program

Tuesday
4 May 2027

DAY 2

8.45am – 10.00am

Keynote & Conversation:

Courage to Transform:

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, Under-Secretary General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops

Calls us to transform for Gospel Mission.

10.00am – 11.00am

Keynote & Conversation:

Courage to Transform:

Otto Scharmer, Presencing Institute, MIT Cambridge, & Fr Gene Toland, Maryknoll Missionary

Transforming systems and structures: Tools for Synodal Mission and Ministry.

11.30am – 1.00pm
and
1.45pm – 3.15pm

Breakouts:

Courage to Discover:

A choice of workshops that will explore contemporary practices, initiatives and wisdom from the many and varied sectors and ministries of church and mission.

3.45pm – 5.00pm

Breakouts:

Courage to Engage Your Heart:

Break out experiential sessions of ministerial encounter such as music and songwriting, painting and Weaving, Elder's stories and yarning circles, integral ecology and more.

Ticketed event:

5.15pm – 6.30pm

Cocktail Event: Echoes of the Spirit

formation.org.au invites you to attend this event to honour and recognise the creative and courageous initiatives of Formation for Mission across the multi-sector Church in Australia today.

Conference program

Wednesday
5 May 2027

DAY **3**

8.15am – 10.15am

Conference Breakfast:

Courage to be Inclusive:

Keynote TBA

An incredible morning of inspiration, theological nourishment, engaging table conversation and delicious food.

10.30am – 11.15am

Listening-Panel Wisdom:

Courage to Listen with your Heart:

A plenary session with key input from panel members drawn from Ministry-specific parts of church. Listening to their insights to current Mission strategy, hurdles, and future focus. Engaging panel members with plenary Q&A and dialogue.

11.30am – 12.45pm

Large Breakouts:

Courage to Collaborate:

Join 1 of 4 cross-ministry breakout groups, and experience a facilitated process of ideas exchange, dialogue and co-creative development.

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Keynote & Conversation:

Courage to be Bold:

Keynote TBA

Experienced and inspirational leaders who live and lead mission and ministry daily. How are we called to be Bold as we go forth toward the future?

Conference Closing:

2.15pm – 3.30pm

Courage to Love: Final Liturgy and Closing Ritual

Stay to the end for a deep and reflective examen of the fruits of conference. Express our gratitude and go forth with Love.