

# MEDIA RELEASE

31 July 2025

## **ACPA announces line up of distinguished speakers for 2025 Conference**

The Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) has officially announced the distinguished speaker line-up for its 2025 Conference, set to take place at the Pavilion on Northbourne in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, from 2 to 4 September.

This year's conference, themed "Messengers of Hope: Communicating the truth, beauty and goodness of our faith," aligns with the late Pope Francis' inspirational message for the Jubilee Year.

ACPA President Jamie O'Brien emphasised the relevance of the theme, saying it calls on Catholic communications and media professionals to reflect deeply on their roles.

"Pope Francis' message in this Jubilee Year reminds us of our mission to be authentic bearers of hope across our communities," Mr O'Brien said.

The keynote speaker will be Jacinta Collins, Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission.

Drawing on her experience in education and as a longstanding politician, Ms Collins will explore the theme in its entirety, looking at how Catholic communications and media professionals across Australia, New Zealand and the wider Pacific countries should be beacons of truth, beauty and goodness.

Awards Dinner Speaker, De La Salle Brothers Australian Provincial Br Peter Bray FSC, former Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will share his unique perspectives drawn from years of leading education and faith-based initiatives in the Middle East, focusing specifically on how hope can be nurtured even amidst complex socio-political challenges.

Adding an international perspective is Gretchen Crowe, Editor-in-Chief of the influential United States publication *Our Sunday Visitor*. Mrs Crowe is a member of the Board of Directors for the US Catholic Media Association and will share her experience via video conference of working within the global Catholic communications and media space, with particular insight into navigating contemporary challenges with truth and clarity.

Other notable speakers include Missionaries of God's Love Founder, Fr Ken Barker MGL, who will speak in light of his experience of spiritual renewal and evangelisation; icon writer and respected artist Sue Orchison, who will discuss communicating beauty and faith through creative arts; and AI expert Tom Finnigan, who will explore the implications and opportunities of using AI in modern Catholic communications and media.

Mr O'Brien highlighted that the calibre and diversity of speakers for this year's conference offer an exceptional opportunity for professional growth, formation, and networking.

*ACPA also welcomes interested sponsors for the Conference within the tiers of \$5000 as Platinum Sponsor, \$2000 as Gold Sponsor and \$1000 as Silver Sponsor.*

**The deadline for entries for the Annual Awards for all 2024-2025 financial members has been extended to Friday 1 August. More information is available by [Clicking Here](#).**

**Early Bird Bookings close Friday 1 August. Book now at**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CVEFA> or contact ACPA President, Jamie O'Brien at [jamie.obrien@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:jamie.obrien@perthcatholic.org.au)

---

**For more information:**

Jamie O'Brien

ACPA President

Mobile: 0400 808 601

[jamie.obrien@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:jamie.obrien@perthcatholic.org.au)