

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2025

Free Event to Inspire and Equip Those Working with Young People in the Church

Sydney, NSW – The Areté Centre for Missionary Leadership is pleased to invite educators, parish leaders, youth ministers, and all those passionate about forming the next generation to a free public event this August:

Walking to Emmaus: Ministry with the Young & Searching

Saturday, 23 August 2025

1:30 PM – 4:45 PM

St Benedict's Hall, University of Notre Dame, Broadway Campus

Free entry – registration essential (places limited)

This dynamic afternoon gathering is designed to equip and encourage those working with youth across parishes, schools, and the wider Catholic community. With a strong focus on practical tools, spiritual renewal, and fresh vision, the event will include:

- Mass
- Keynotes from Fr Chris Ryan MGL and Fr John Whicker MGL
- Workshop led by Eleanor Bonwick (Catholic Youth Parramatta)
- Afternoon tea and bookstall hosted by Parousia Media

Participants will explore new ways to engage with young people who are seeking meaning, belonging, and deeper faith in today's complex world.

"This event is about walking alongside the young—meeting them where they are and helping them discover the beauty of faith," says Fr Chris Ryan MGL. *"We hope it will be a moment of renewal for all who serve in youth ministry and Catholic education."*

Whether you're a teacher, youth minister, parish volunteer, school leader, or someone who simply cares deeply about the future of the Church, this event offers encouragement, insight, and community for your mission.

To register or learn more, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/DCXKV>

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The Areté Centre for Missionary Leadership

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Empowering Everyday Disciples: Areté Centre Opens Applications for 2026 Foundations of Missionary Leadership Program

The Arête Centre for Missionary Leadership is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2026 intake of its acclaimed Foundations of Missionary Leadership program, a transformative journey for Catholics seeking to deepen their faith and lead with purpose in today's Church.

Now in its fifth year, the program has become a trusted formation pathway for lay parishioners, Catholic educators, RECs, family educators, principals, and ministry leaders across Australia and New Zealand. Many graduates have gone on to secure leadership roles in Catholic schools, parish ministries, diocesan offices, and national organisations, including Helena Roumanus, a 2023 graduate who is now the Project Office at the Catholic Women's Network in the Sydney Archdiocese.

"We are now in the fifth year of intake and have begun to see so much fruit in the parishes that have sent people year after year," says Fr Chris Ryan MGL, Director of the Arête Centre. "We can see the ripple of this not just in parishes, but in workplaces, in families. It's not uncommon for family members to send other family members, or for husbands and wives to journey together or in consecutive years."

The program offers a rich blend of theological formation, spiritual growth, practical leadership training, and community life. With a flexible format, including online learning, live retreats, and mentoring, Arête is accessible to people from all walks of life and locations.

Whether you're discerning your next step, serving in a parish, teaching in a Catholic school, or simply longing to grow in your faith, this program is for you.

To learn more about the program or to download the e-prospectus and apply, visit www.aretecentre.org

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