



Media Statement

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Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Network Announces Renewed Executive Team

The Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Network (ACYMN) is pleased to announce its renewed Executive Team following a rigorous application and selection process.

The renewal comes after a period of reflection focused on strengthening the Network's ability to connect, support and accompany those engaged in Catholic youth ministry across Australia.

The process sought leaders who bring experience, commitment, diversity of perspective and a desire to serve the Church's ministry with young people.

Four new members have been appointed to the ACYMN Executive Team:

- **Darcy Rogers** – Director, Office for Youth Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Hobart
- **Nattasha Mierendorf** – Director, Youth and Young Adults, Archdiocese of Brisbane
- **Maria Sole** – Queensland Schools Engagement Coordinator, Catholic Mission
- **Avin James** – Associate Director, Formation & Ministry, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

Newly appointed Executive member Maria Sole said she hopes the ACYMN will continue to be a place where leaders are supported, connected and inspired.

“My hope for the ACYMN is that it continues to be a place where leaders are supported, connected and inspired—a network that forms and equips them to collaborate authentically and walk alongside young people as they encounter Christ.”

Following a period of discernment and voting, the Executive Team elected Sebastian Duhau as Chair. Reflecting on his appointment, he said:

“I hope that the ACYMN can become both a grounding place and a launching pad for all those who accompany young people around Australia.”

The full ACYMN Executive Team is:

- **Sebastian Duhau** (Chair) – St Andrews College, Diocese of Parramatta
- **Samantha Woodland** (Secretary) – St Vincent de Paul Queensland, Archdiocese of Brisbane
- **Darcy Rogers** (Secretary Support) – Office for Youth Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Hobart
- **Louis Shu** (Communications Lead – External) – Pallottines (UAC), Archdiocese of Melbourne
- **Avin James** (Communications Lead – Internal) – Associate Director, Formation & Ministry, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne
- **Nattasha Mierendorf** (Project Lead) – Youth and Young Adults, Archdiocese of Brisbane
- **Maria Sole** – Catholic Mission
- **Michael Tobin** – St Peter's Catholic College, Diocese of Broken Bay
- **Qwayne Guevara** (Ex-Officio) – Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The renewed Executive Team will now work together to discern a new mandate for the ACYMN, responding to the needs of youth ministry leaders across Australia and strengthening the Network as a place of connection, support and collaboration.

The ACYMN looks forward to continuing to work in close liaison with the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry as it serves those accompanying young people in faith across Australia.

The Executive thanks all those who contributed to the renewal process and asks for prayers for the team and for all those serving young people through Catholic youth ministry.

To learn more about the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Network and its work supporting Catholic youth ministry across Australia, visit www.acymn.com.au or email acymnonline@gmail.com.

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