

AN EXCITING NEW OFFERING
From Catholic Mission and BBI-TAITE

Introduction to Mission

The Church is by its very nature missionary. Mission is its very reason for existing. It is mission which creates Church, and the Church is at the service of the mission. This short course of eight sessions is for all those who want to explore the breadth and depth of their personal and professional life lived as mission, aligning that with God's dream for all creation.

Is this you or your team? *Introduction to Mission* is especially helpful for those in leadership roles of mission; school leaders and teachers, staff and volunteers of Catholic agencies and organisations, who work daily for the realisation of God's kingdom in the world.

THE course is taught entirely **ONLINE** making it adaptable for a range of options and formats for groups and individuals.

FORMAT:

- **The material is provided over 8 weekly sessions** for the equivalent of 60 minutes.
- Also provided are preparatory readings along with extra deepening articles per session
- Our online tutor, Patrick Fox, will respond to discussion board reflections
- There are assessment tasks available for accreditation purposes.

TOPICS: this is what we will explore

Part 1 We begin with Jesus and his mission in the Scriptures and the mission of the early Church. We look at the evolving ways in which the Church has understood mission throughout history according to changing contexts.

We place mission in the pivotal renewal of the Second Vatican Council followed by contemporary teaching on Mission, focussing on God's mission, Jesus and the Reign of God, and the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the world.

As mission is to evangelise or to bring the good news of the kingdom of God into every aspect of human existence, evangelisation is explored in various expressions

including witness, explicit proclamation of Jesus Christ, encounter with Christ in community and transformation of human society according to kingdom values.

On a personal spiritual level, we focus on awareness and alignment of one's personal mission with one's baptismal missionary calling, and how personal integrity motivates and strengthens commitment in times of challenge.

Part 2 In the second half we explore the challenges of what mission could look like in Australia today and into the future in a synodal church.

We ask, today 'How is mission carried out?', 'By whom?', 'To whom?', and 'For what is mission?' and the role of dialogue and synodality in discerning the way forward.

Finally, we look at contemporary arenas and explore ecological conversion and justice as mission, mission among First Nations peoples, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, mission with people of other faiths, and mission as an educator.

Imaginative learning in your space

Our online courses are able to be adapted to your circumstances. Let us know what best suits you and your workplace, and we will work to bring the learning to your environment.

It is always worth exploring options in the digital space! We have a set of dates on offer, however other flexible approaches are worth exploring.

A phone call or email is the way to start!

DATES: the course runs for eight modules at 4 weeks + 1 week break + 4 weeks

Modules are made available weekly starting Monday 22 July till 16 Sept with a break the week of 19 August.

COST: \$325 + GST: group discounts are available

For further details contact

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Patrick Fox



Patrick's strongest mission formation experience came through ten years living among the indigenous Q'eqchi' people of the central highlands of Guatemala, working in a full gamut of pastoral activities, catechetics, community organisation and development, and youth leadership training, where he was also a member of the enculturation advisory body "Ak' Kutan" (New Dawn) in the diocese of Alta Verapaz. Here Patrick believes he was truly evangelised by the Q'eqchi' people.

On returning to Australia Patrick began with Catholic Mission as lead of the national Mission Formation team, promoting awareness and understanding of mission through workshops with Catholic Education offices, presentations in parishes and schools, and broader media community education. He is currently the coordinator of the 'Educating with a Mission Lens' programme, developed in partnership with Catholic Education of Wollongong.

He also works nationally across dioceses and religious congregations providing training in cultural competency for mission.

His other interests include music, international politics, interculturality, international development, and enjoys learning languages; fluent in Spanish, Q'eqchi, and Malay, and conversant in Italian.

He holds tertiary qualifications in Music Education (University of Melbourne), International Development (University of New South Wales), Philosophy (Catholic Theological College, Melbourne), and Theology (Francisco Marroquin University, Guatemala).