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Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

Walking together

Welcome to Proclaim, a regular newsletter to help keep parish leadership teams informed and inspired as they proclaim and live out the joy of the Gospel.

Recently, as we celebrated 175 years since the Diocese of Melbourne was first established, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli observed that our Archdiocese has always been something much richer and more essential than a mere institution. We remain, he observed, a 'domestic Church', located in the homes, families, parishes and communities where we have gathered together to encourage each other and to share and pass down the faith. We are 'a family of families'. In this issue, we explore some of the ways that we are called, as God's family, to support and accompany each other, in all our variety and distinctiveness, on the great adventure of discipleship, walking with each other in hope and love.

We are especially pleased to [announce the launch of *Journeying Together*](#)—our new online sacraments of initiation resource, designed to help parents accompany their children on the exciting journey of faith formation. And last week, on [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday](#), we were reminded of the call to walk closely with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters, and were thrilled to congratulate Sherry Balcombe, Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, who was presented with the 2022 NATSICC Service to the Community Award. We also hear about how two groups of parishes—in Melbourne's north and in greater Geelong—have been taking the way of the Gospel together, [joining forces to pilot the Alpha process](#) in their communities. We are also introduced to the [Take the Way of the Gospel Reference and Advisory Group](#) that has been brought together to help implement this important strategy in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

As we continue our journey as the people of God in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, let's keep walking side by side—supporting and encouraging each other—so that we might continue to pass down the life-changing message of God's love that has been so faithfully passed down to us over 175 years.



Journeying Together: a new sacraments of initiation resource for the domestic Church

We are excited to announce the launch of the new Melbourne Archdiocesan sacraments of initiation resource, *Journeying Together*—an accessible, interactive and easy-to-use online resource to help parents participate in their children's spiritual formation and faith journey. Explore the resource at sacraments.melbournecatholic.org.

[Read more](#)



Parishes work together to help people meet Jesus

As we emerge from lockdowns, many parishes are looking for ways to reach out to people and to draw them into community and into a relationship with Jesus. The Take the Way of the Gospel process is encouraging parishes to work together in developing new ways of pursuing this mission. Two groups of parishes—in the greater Geelong region and in Melbourne's north—have decided to work together to 'pilot' the Alpha process and train potential leaders for upcoming parish Alphas.

[Read more](#)



New 'Take the Way of the Gospel' Reference and Advisory Group

The inaugural meeting of the Take the Way of the Gospel Reference and Advisory Group took place on Wednesday 1 June 2022. Drawing upon their experiences as parishioners, as well their professional skills and personal gifts, this dynamic group of lay and clergy representatives will help to implement the Take the Way of the Gospel strategy, particularly as it applies to parishes.

[Read more](#)



Our story of faith ‘through the eyes and hearts of Indigenous Christians’

On Sunday 3 July, at a special Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, our own Sherry Balcombe, Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, was presented with the 2022 NATSICC Service to the Community Award.

[Read more](#)

‘Hands that hold’: a day of reflection and nourishment—save the date

Tuesday 6 September, 10am–3pm—Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe

or

Monday 5 September, 10am–3pm—St Joseph’s by the Sea, 14 Cole Street, Williamstown

Facilitator Marea Richardson will lead us through a gentle day of quiet reflection and prayer, offering a still point in the whirlwind of parish administration and ministry, and an opportunity to share some catch-up and reflection time with other parish staff from across the Archdiocese.

No cost. Lunch and refreshments are provided.

Keep an eye on the next *Proclaim* e-newsletter for further details.



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