

YTU Newsletter

FIRST SEMESTER 2022

28 March 2022

GREETINGS

Time has gone quickly; we already have journeyed over halfway of our Lenten journey. Along with some pious practices, I hope you have sometime at your own convenience to stop and reflect on what you have been through this wonderful season of Lent. On the fourth Sunday of Lent, we heard again the parable of the Loving Father or the Prodigal Son. As someone has said: if all the bible is disappeared and only this story left, we still know who God is. In last Sunday's responsorial psalm, we are invited to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34)."

FAREWELL TO JANETTE

Last Wednesday, we had a lovely and a moving farewell morning tea for Janette Elliott. It was attended by faculty, staff, students and representatives from some religious congregations. We heard Janette's words of wisdom about YTU. She expressed her heartfelt thanks for those she has worked with in her role as the registrar over the last twelve and a half years, including her husband Noel Elliott and the many professional associations she has developed. Amongst cakes, drinks and special dishes, Chris Monaghan presented a toast to Janette and her future at YTU. (The new Registrar will be announced in due course). On the last part of Janette's words of thanks (attached), she expressed her feelings towards YTU through an Ode.



AN ODE FOR YTU



YTU, YTU

*You are like Christ, the mother hen,
who gathers the chicks under her wings,
Feeding, nourishing, nurturing – providing a
place of welcome, of safety, of refuge until we
grow strong and grow wings to fly,
Wings to soar with faith, hope, courage,
compassion and love – taking with us as the
'torch' of YTU for
-speaking the truth in love and being the change,
we want to see.*

*TO YTU: BE WHAT YOU ARE so that we may
become who we are called to be as God's
Beloved...*

-Janette Elliot

Last Friday, the Conferral Ceremony took place at St Paul's Cathedral and a number of our YTU Class of 2021 attended, while the rest graduated *in absentia*. Congratulations to each one!

On the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Pope Francis consecrated all humanity—especially Russia and Ukraine—to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and said that the act expresses our complete trust in the Virgin Mary in the midst of the “cruel and senseless war” in Ukraine.

Duc Trung, CSsR reflected on Mary's role as Undoer of Knots. Thank you, Trung for his beautiful reflection.



the sacred and mysterious atmosphere that the painting offers to the contemplator.

This painting of Our Lady untying the knot is even more meaningful in the context of the world we live in today. It is a world that our Congregation recognizes as a "wounded world." Looking everywhere, we recognise so many "knots," tangles, troubles. From the family to the community, to the country and to the nation, nowhere is free from conflict. Many times we feel discouraged, pessimistic, depressed, to the point that our faltering faith causes us to lament - "Where are you, Lord? Why do people keep hurting each other like this!?"

In recent weeks, the world has turned upside down because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Although the countries at war are thousands of miles away from us, the effects of this war has a real impact here, even though we are not directly involved.

The world in which we live is facing a humanitarian disaster when the lives of countless ordinary people are threatened.

Facing the challenges of our world, what can and should people of faith do? In my opinion, the most important thing that we can and should do is pray, pray and pray even more.

Our Lady Undoer of Knots, pray for Ukraine!

By chance, I came to know this stunning painting of Mary who is known under the title: Our Lady Undoer of Knots.

I find this painting very beautiful and meaningful. It is beautiful because of the colour and layout, and it is meaningful because of the message conveyed by the artist.

There are two central figures here, Mary and Pope Francis. The Holy Father is kneeling on the edge of planet Earth, offering his beloved Mother a long knotted ribbon. Standing on a cloud with the moon behind her, Mary is patiently untying knot by knot. Wherever the ribbon is released and smoothed, little angels are seen, immediately carrying the ribbon to higher places. One end of the ribbon is tangled and lays on the earth. The other end, smoothed by Mary, is carried by a dove - a symbol of peace and the Spirit of God.

What a stunning painting! Meditating on this painting, I feel my mind and heart immersed in

Prayer is powerfully transformative, for as Pope Francis said: Jesus teaches us that the madness of the devil is answered with the weapons of God, which are prayer and fasting.

This past Ash Wednesday, our Holy Father invited all people of faith to a day of prayer and fasting for world peace.

Last week's event, when all members of the Catholic Church around the world together spent a day fasting and praying for peace reminded me of this story. There was a dictator who was told by his advisers: the pope was likely to intervene in their wicked plans, sarcastically the dictator replied: "Pope? How many divisions does he have in his hand?"

He was right. The Pope does not have armies, tanks, guns. They have nothing, but prayer and the courage to speak up. Yet, history shows that people who carried the smell of death vanished like the smoke disappearing in the air.

Pope Francis has no army in his hands, but he has us and countless people of goodwill all over the world, to pray in communion for the peace of the world. I believe that the power of prayer is greater than the destructive power of atomic bombs.

Let's go back to the picture. We see the Holy Father offering his Mother the difficult, disturbing "knots" of this world. The painting reminds me of a saying of Irene. He wrote: "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience. What Eve bound with unbelief was untied by the Virgin Mary by faith."

Indeed, Mary always undoes the knots of the devil that afflicts the children of God. She becomes the Mother of Divine Mercy and always undoes the knots which we humans make for each other. And she becomes the Mother who "unties the knots" to communicate God's grace for us.

Relying on Mary's grace, intercession, and example, let us ask her to intercede for us before God, to save us from all evil, to untie the knots

that have been tied to fasten our lives in the sufferings, so that we may be free from sin, to find God in all things.

With faith in God through the intercession of Mary, it is certain that many knots in life, even though it may seem impossible to untie in the eyes of unbelievers, will be untied and bring back peace for all of us.

By Duc Trung Vu, CSsR

Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator

Employment Opportunity with The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

A new and exciting fulltime position of Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator has been created to assist the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life in the implementing of mission and formation across the Diocese. The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator will be expected to coordinate activities that realise agreed goals and objectives in collaboration with clergy, parish teams, parish pastoral councils, ministry, and other groups that nurture and facilitate the missionary focus and aspirations of the Diocese.

Applications close: 5:00 p.m. on Monday 11 April 2022.

Have a great week ahead!

Thank you,

Quoc Truen Nguyen, MSC

Secretary

Thank you from Janette Bredenoord Elliott

Registrar 2009-2022

God - First and foremost I thank God for leading me - with my future husband at the time - to this place - YTU on this beautiful Franciscan property - of welcome, inclusivity and acceptance. These are priceless treasures that I will always hold dear.

Original Owners of the Land - I would like to acknowledge with respect the indigenous people of this land, the Kulin nations, and in particular the Wurundjeri people of Melbourne

Franciscan Friars and to my husband - I would like to express my deep, deep gratitude to the Franciscan Friars for their generosity over the past 50 years to YTU from its earliest beginnings, and making possible the formation of hearts and minds in such a glorious setting. I remember with fondness the Guardians Steve Bliss and Jordie Warburton and all the Friars who made this place, and YTU such a rich center of learning.

In my role as Registrar (and maybe personally too) I want to thank Noel Elliott - Honorary Friar - for his skilled art in keeping these grounds of St Paschal Estate so beautiful. Noel encapsulates everything about stewardship of care, respect and love for this place and the grounds that is quintessentially Franciscan. For the deep joy this has brought to me and to so many others - Thank you Mr. Elliott!!

Students Past and Present - To the Students - how lucky am I to have you at my farewell. The attraction of this position when I started was for others that is YOU to experience the wonder of studying theology so as to know the length and the breadth, the height and the depth of knowing God's love for all people. You give SONG to YTU and represent the best that society and culture offer - accepting difference and diversity - most especially multi-cultural diversity. Thank you for the joy and hope you give us all.

Faculty - to the Dear Faculty, Past and Present, and those who have gone before especially Larry Nemer, Peter Price, Glenda Bourke, and Angelo O'Hagan among others. I have learned so much from your passion for what you do, how you go about your teaching and research - both in every and the fullest sense. You all give so generously to YTU, to students and your encouragement of me in my own academic endeavours. Thank you -each of you - from my heart.

YTU Council - To the Provincials past and present and other members of Council. It have been a real privilege to be among you who are passionate, unassuming, humble and utterly faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You embody what we desire church to be and become. In sending students to YTU, in serving on committees and sharing expertise and resources, your embodiment is made flesh and YTU would not continue without your support in all these ways.

YTU Extended Family - Alumn, Staff, Faculty and Friends of YTU - you carry the torch of faith, passion and compassion in loving service in your life. I would like to thank in a special way the Community of Dorish Maru. Kasmir, Bosco and Anton were the first friends we made here at the Blessing of the Study Centre. The hospitality shared at Dorish Maru through Larry Nemer was of another realm! Thank you.

UD Staff, Registrars and Admin Assistants - To Peter and to University Staff, Past and present especially John, Rose, Tricia, Anna and Arezoo - with the extended network of College Registrars and their colleagues, I am grateful for all that I have learned from you and our shared support system.

St Paschal Library and Associated Libraries - I would like to acknowledge all the Librarian staff that I have worked with during my time going back to Thea, Miranda, Leonie and Siobhan to the new team of Nick, Sai and Ben. Your love for your work and your generous service of students and Faculty witnesses to the richness of all that takes place on the St Paschal Estate.

Chaplain - to Steve, Pia, Sue, Rachel and to Jill. Your presence makes more difference than you may possibly know. The place you hold is precious and while seemingly small weaves the Spirit through the day to day running of YTU.

Admin - When I began at YTU there were no Admin staff and my email was not registrar, but admin specific. The Staff that I have worked with during my time - Carey, Julie, Bernie, Jean, Katrina, Hayley, Nic, Tricia, Katherine and Rose have all taught me so much. You have taught me so much about professionalism, about learning to listen, about learning to delegate, about so much of workplace operations. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of Margaret Bentley from the English Language School which with those of Admin has been a great blessing. Our shared and individual relationships have shaped much of who I have become as Registrar in the unwieldy network of relationships that make up YTU. Thank you from my heart.

Michael - Thank you for your encouragement and support, professionalism in service in all the capacities I have worked with you in: PG Coordinator, Research Coordinator (and 'my' Research Coordinator up until recently) whatever the forum. You always have time for people - a quality that I am still learning and working on - while managing a heavy work load.

Ross - We hear that YTU is described as "Catholic in tradition and ecumenical in spirit". Ross: you have brought this gallant catch-phrase of YTU' Spirit of ecumenism and inclusivity alive. Your lived paschal ecclesiology finds profound expression in your service of YTU. Paired with your extraordinary institutional memory brings a quality and depth to your role of Academic Dean that cannot be put in words. You truly embody what you teach, and you have taught me much about the value of striving for greater depth in the quality of my learning even day to day tasks.

Chris - As President of YTU you embody a leadership style that is in every way and at every level GOSPEL centered - even your stewardship of YTU's resources. Everyone is invited to the table; everyone is welcome, and everyone - however wounded has a place. You - like Jesus - and as St Paul strived for - encourage us all the 'be the more' of who we can become. You leave us free to respond to the Lord, even with our thorns or 'thorniness'. In this you embody what YTU exemplifies - the place of welcome and of invitation to the more the Lord has to offer.

Ode to YTU

YTU, YTU

You are like Christ, the Mother hen

who gathers the chicks under her wings -

Feeding, nourishing, nurturing - providing a place of welcome, of safety, of refuge until we grow strong and grow wings to fly,

Wings to soar with faith, hope, courage, compassion and love - taking with us as the 'torch' of YTU for

-speaking the truth in love and being the change we want to see.

TO YTU: BE WHAT YOUR ARE so that we may become who we are called to be as God's Beloved



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

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| Position title: Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator | Location: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bendigo |
| Reports to: The Director of Mission and Pastoral Life | Employment Status: Permanent full time |

The Organisation

The Diocese of Sandhurst through its ministries and agencies is at the service of the people of God, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities and daily lives.

Presided over by the Bishop of Sandhurst, the Diocese comprises around 90,000 Catholics and a wide variety of people, cultures, and ministries, providing services and support to 40 parishes and 56 schools through pastoral, educational, social welfare, and administrative support.

The Role

The role of Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator is to support the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life through the facilitation of various operational imperatives that will support the continuing implementation and function of mission and formation within the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst. They will assist in providing support for the pastoral needs of parishes and local faith communities focusing on the proclamation of the Gospel, faith formation and Christian living delivered with missionary energy.

Reporting directly to the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life, key responsibilities will include:

- Providing operational support to the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life
- Supporting mission, evangelisation, and formation in parishes and contributing to the development of strategies to provide this support.
- Building effective relationships with all stakeholders working in the areas of mission and formation especially Clergy, Parish Teams, Parishioners, other ministries, and agencies throughout the Diocese.

This is an excellent opportunity for a qualified individual who is motivated to work within the Church environment and has exemplary service delivery skills working with diverse and complex stakeholders.

Applications, including a cover letter and copy of your current Resume addressing the selection criteria and how your qualifications and skills align to the requirements of the Position Description should be forwarded to hr@sandhurst.catholic.org.au by **5:00pm Monday 11 April 2022**.

For further information relating to the position, contact Dr Chris Cotter, Director of Mission and Pastoral Life on (03) 5445 3655 or email Chris.Cotter@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Applicants must be able to provide a certificate confirming their double vaccination status and maintain COVID-19 vaccination boosters as required in accordance with State Government Orders.

The Diocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. It has a zero tolerance of any abuse to children.

Position Description and Selection Criteria



The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. It has a zero tolerance of any abuse to children.



POSITION DESCRIPTION

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| POSITION TITLE: | Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator |
| REMUNERATION SCALE: | Diocesan Level 4 |
| REPORTS TO: | Director of Mission and Pastoral Life |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT: | Full-time |
| HOURS PER WEEK | 37.5 |
| LOCATION: | Bendigo |
| AUTHORISED BY: | Director of Mission and Pastoral Life |

Primary Objectives

The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator is accountable to the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life for the operational dimension of mission and formation throughout the Diocese. The role requires an understanding of, and commitment to, the teachings of the Catholic Church and a commitment to the philosophy and core values of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst together with the ability to provide guidance, encouragement, knowledge, clarity, training, capacity building, mentoring and advice.

Major Accountabilities

1. Provision of administrative and operational support to the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life.
2. Support mission, evangelisation and formation in parishes and contribute to the development of strategies to provide this support.
3. Build effective relationships with all stakeholders working in the areas of mission and formation especially Clergy, Parish Teams, Parishioners, other ministries, and agencies throughout the Diocese.

The following accountabilities may be varied from time to time according to the mission priorities of the diocese:

4. Liaise with Clergy, Pastoral Associates, Parish Co-ordinators, and employees and volunteers in other parish-based roles in facilitating key diocesan mission imperatives.
5. Source, design, create, promote, and lead programs and resources to support the faith-formation of parishioners, volunteers, parish staff and diocesan staff.
6. Collaborate with staff in the diocese and related agencies in the renewal and implementation of the "Steps in Faith" sacramental program.
7. In liaison with the Director of Clergy Life and Ministry, maintain a current list of approved ministry supervisors and spiritual directors, and coordinate support for laypeople in the diocese accessing these services.
8. Foster working relationships with other Catholic Dioceses, agencies, and services as part of growing the mission of the Catholic Church.
9. Co-ordinate the diocesan Pastoral Associates and Parish Coordinators Network.

Organisational Environment

The mission of the Diocese is to proclaim the Reign of God and continue the mission of Jesus, under the direction and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The values of peace, forgiveness, justice, love, and healing which Christ lived and modelled in his own ministry are the same values of the Diocesan community. The Diocese contributes to the life and mission of the Catholic community in Australia.

The Diocese is a child safe and equal employment opportunity employer. It has a zero- tolerance of any abuse to children; it encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Chancery as the administrative arm of the Diocese is responsible for the support of the Bishop of Sandhurst and the missionary focus and aspiration of the Diocese including Adult Faith Formation, Youth and Communications as well as Finance, Archival, and Information Technology support services.

The position of Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator reports directly to the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life on matters related to the implementing of mission and formation in the Diocese.

Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults

- Ensure compliance with the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst commitment to best practice in the care and safety of children and vulnerable adults.
- Every person involved in the Catholic Church has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.
- Understand the process for reporting allegations or concerns of possible abuse.

Risk and Occupational Health and Safety

- Observe safe work practices in accordance with training and instruction given and report any risk to your immediate supervisor. Risks arising in the workplace may be financial, site, task, or person specific or related to safety.
- Promote and implement occupational health and safety and risk mitigation processes within your workgroup.
- Comply with Diocesan occupational health and safety practices
- Identify, report and where appropriate, action risks/hazards to eliminate or mitigate against the risk recurring.
- Participate in the consultative processes provided by the organisation.

Key Communications

- Diocesan clergy
- Catholic Education Sandhurst
- Director of Clergy Life and Ministry
- Pastoral Associates and Parish Coordinators Network
- Approved Providers of Pastoral Supervision and Spiritual Direction
- Parish Sacramental and RCIA Teams
- Sandhurst Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- Sandhurst Communications Officer
- Caritas/Catholic Earthcare Australia
- Catholic Mission
- Catholic Theological College, Melbourne

Accountability (Independence and Influence)

- The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator will support the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life in the implementation of the strategic pastoral goals of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council
- Provide appropriate resources and support for deaneries and parishes of the Diocese, particularly in adult faith-formation

- Assist in the development and co-ordination of the parish visitation and review program
- Collaborate closely with other diocesan ministry roles
- The Mission and Pastoral Life Officer will take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of themselves, fellow staff, and others in the workplace.
- Participate in annual Performance Review and Development process.
- Complete all mandatory training requirements

Job Environment

The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator will undertake a range of functions relating to the implementation of mission and formation within the Diocese of Sandhurst as directed by the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life.

Reasoning

The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator is required to provide an adaptive, hands-on interface with clergy, parish teams, parish pastoral councils, ministry, and other groups that nurture and facilitate the missionary focus and aspirations of the Diocese through co-ordination of activities that realise agreed goals and objectives.

Challenges

- Effective communication of agreed goals and objectives.
- Management of multiple stakeholder expectations and priorities.
- Facilitation of change.
- Effective use of available resources (people, time, finances, expertise, equipment etc.).

Knowledge, Skills, and Experience

- An understanding of, and commitment to, the teachings of the Catholic Church and a commitment to the mission and core values of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst.
- Demonstrated understanding of the missionary imperative of the Church and the importance of evangelisation and faith formation to this mission.
- Demonstrated involvement with the Catholic Church and proven experience in a theological or faith formation context within a Catholic environment.
- Demonstrated depth of personal faith.
- In addition to other qualifications held, preference will be given to applicants who can also demonstrate qualifications such as in theology or spiritual leadership.
- Interpersonal interaction style that instils peace, integrity, and openness to all parties, including providing a welcoming and approachable point of contact.
- Proven capability to present to, influence and negotiate with individuals, community groups and meetings.
- An ability to work effectively as an integral part of a team.
- A valid driver's licence is essential.

Position Impact

The Mission and Pastoral Life Coordinator is accountable for all administrative and financial decisions in the accordance with the normal operations of their role within approved delegations and Diocesan policies and procedures.

Staffing

- Direct Reports - This position has no direct reports
- Indirect Reports – This position has no indirect reports but may be responsible for functional oversight of tasks and related personnel as required in accordance with their delegated authority.
- Consultants and Contractors - This position may be required to oversight and direct consultants or contractors as authorised by the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life or in accordance with their delegated authority.

Annual review

The position and incumbent will be subject to a formal annual performance review against key performance indicators and to establish future goals and objectives.

Criminal Screening and Working Rights

The successful candidate **MUST** provide:

1. a current **Police Record Check**, and
 2. **Working with Children Check**, and
 3. hold **valid Australian working rights**.
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POSITION DESCRIPTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have received, reviewed, and fully understand the content of this position description. I further understand that I am responsible for the satisfactory execution of the essential functions described therein, under all conditions as described.

Name

Signature

Date

____/____/____

Selection Criteria



Selection Criteria

1. A comprehensive understanding of, and commitment to, the teachings of the Catholic Church and a commitment to the philosophy and core values of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst.
 2. Demonstrated depth of personal faith and proven experience in a theological or faith formation context within a Catholic environment.
 3. A demonstrated understanding of the missionary imperative of the Church and the importance of evangelisation and faith formation to this mission.
 4. In addition to other qualifications held, preference will be given to applicants who can also demonstrate qualifications such as in theology or spiritual leadership.
 5. Interpersonal interaction style that instils peace, integrity, and openness to all parties, including providing a welcoming and approachable point of contact.
 6. Proven capability to present to, influence and negotiate with individuals, community groups and meetings.
 7. A demonstrated ability to undertake and achieve agreed objectives and key result expectations; and
 8. Ability and willingness to undertake the relevant employee screening processes, including the provision of a National Police Criminal History Check and Working with Children Check to the satisfaction of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst.
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