

FAQ

Foundations of Missionary Leadership Course

Areté 
CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP
A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

1. WHO IS THE FOUNDATIONS OF MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR?

This course is open to anyone passionate about parish renewal, who already works in ministry or is interested in starting. Whether you are a volunteer or in paid employment, a youth minister, involved in adult evangelisation, or in leadership in your parish, movement or community, the Foundations of Missionary Leadership course is for you.

2. HOW IS THIS COURSE DIFFERENT TO OTHER MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP COURSES AVAILABLE?

Our three-phased approach of encounter, formation and mission ensures that students are formed in every dimension of missionary leadership.

Encounter Our live-in experiences allow for a personal experience with God, which helps students more deeply discover the call to know, love and serve God.

Formation The students are also formed in theological foundations through interactive online, real time sessions that introduce Sacred Scripture, missiology (including the new evangelisation), and the best in leadership theory and practice. Attention is given to the philosophical and sociological underpinnings of the Australian context.

Mission We address the practical dimensions of leadership for mission. Arete builds 'vision-carriers', who will form other leaders in turn.

We pride ourselves in offering a course that addresses the current landscape of the Church's mission in Australia. Our content is derived from proven models and methods translated by Fr Chris Ryan to the Australian context, and is complemented with data, real scenarios, and case studies from Australian sources.

3. I AM ALREADY A MINISTRY LEADER, WHAT MORE CAN THIS COURSE TEACH ME?

Thank you for already stepping up and saying yes to leadership in our Church. As leaders, we continually want to grow and expand our knowledge and experiences so we can better lead our teams or groups. The Foundations of Missionary Leadership course explores new models of leadership and new practical tools and strategies that work in the Australian context today. It provides a time and place for spiritual encounter and renewal. It develops a missionary mindset and a language for articulating the Church's mission. The course allows to meet and engage with like-minded leaders, who have the same passion for proclaiming the Gospel. We have students who are already established leaders in their areas of ministries and work, and they have found the course to enhance their work and lives. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to discuss how this course can work for you.

4. HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED FOR CLASSES, STUDY, AND ASSESSMENTS?

Like many important activities in our lives, the Foundations of Missionary Leadership course will require some investment of your time. 2.5 hrs per week over 13 weeks is required for the lectures for each semester. There is also time required for reading and writing of short papers for your assessments, and 1 hr a month for the mentoring sessions. The intensives take place over four weekends.

We understand that most students have family and work commitments, so we make sure that the course and its requirements are designed to work with and complement these realities. We know that this investment will produce wonderful and fruitful returns over the year!

5. WHAT KIND OF RECOGNITION OR ACCREDITATION DO I GET FROM THE FOUNDATIONS OF MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP COURSE?

Upon completion of this course, an official Certificate of Completion will be issued with your corresponding grades on the four units. Many Church organisations, including dioceses and parishes, recognise the value of someone who has completed the Foundations of Missionary Leadership course. Some of our previous students have been employed in various leadership roles in the Church, as the course has equipped them with the tools and strategies needed in these roles.

We are currently also working with tertiary institutions to have this course accredited. We will update you with this soon. Stay tuned!

6. HOW ARE THE CLASSES DELIVERED?

We value the importance of providing a learning environment that fosters connection through organic conversations, collaboration through networking and one that allows for immediate responses for questions and clarifications. Therefore, our weekly online lectures are not pre-recorded, rather, they are provided as real-time, live sessions with Fr Chris Ryan and your fellow students via Zoom.

7. WHAT IF I MISS OF THE CLASSES?

To receive the full potential of the course, it is important to strive to attend all the lectures throughout the year. Students are given access to the recorded session after the real-time lecture every week, so if absence cannot be helped, there is an opportunity to catch up or re-watch and review the previous lectures. If you know you are going to miss a class, it is best to inform us as soon as possible.

8. WHAT ARE THE GROUP MENTORING SESSIONS FOR AND WHO ARE THE MENTORS?

The mentoring sessions are a wonderful opportunity to review and unpack the lecture materials and more importantly, discuss how you can apply your learnings in your current work in ministry or in your everyday lives. It is also a time to hear from your fellow students and their experiences. These are online monthly sessions with a small group of students and a mentor who will journey with you throughout the year. The mentors are part of the Arete faculty.

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10. IS THE COURSE OPEN TO ALL CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS?

Yes! We are happy to welcome students from all Christian denominations. Our course is presented and practiced in the Catholic context; however, we believe that the missionary leadership knowledge, skills, strategies, models, and tools that we teach can be adapted to any Christian Church setting. For those exploring this, please get in contact with us and we are happy to further discuss this with you.

11. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COURSE FEE?

Included in your course fees are:

- Course Materials
- Four-day live-in encounter retreat with sessions, materials, meals, and accommodation included
- 26 real-time (live) online lectures
- 3 live-in weekend intensives throughout the year, with sessions, materials, meals, and accommodation included
- 10 group mentoring sessions held monthly throughout the year

We think this is real value! You can pay upfront and save \$100 or pay in four installments if that suits better. There are also partial scholarships which you can apply for. Click [here](#) for more info.

12. IS THE COURSE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF SYDNEY?

Yes, part of the beauty of this course is that it allows people from all around Australia to access it. The live lectures are delivered via Zoom so all you need is to be able to login from a computer at home. Our intensives are conducted in Sydney, and we provide the dates in advance to assist you with planning and booking these trips. There is also potential to arrange Intensive hubs in other states, if there are sufficient student numbers.

13. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE INTENSIVES?

Our intensives are live-in weekends, usually from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon at a retreat centre in Sydney. All input sessions, activities, materials, meals, and accommodation are included in your course fee. All you need to take care of is your travel to and from the venue.

14. WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND AN INTENSIVE?

The intensives are integral to the course. This is where students experience a spiritual encounter and receive formation from guest speakers who are experts in their fields. Most of our students find the intensives a highlight of the course. However, we understand that sometimes, other commitments take priority. If this is the case for you, please let us know as soon as possible so we can discuss suitable alternative arrangements for you.

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