

2025 CSSA SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in P-12 Religious Education in Catholic Schools







PROGRAMME

Friday 5th September 2025

Location: Amora Jamison Sydney, 11 Jamison Street, Sydney – Level 2

| Time | Session | | Presenter/s | | |
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| 8.00am – 8.30am | Registration – Level 2. Suitcases can be stored at Reception. | | | | |
| Whiteley Ballroom | | | | | |
| 8.30am – 9.00am | Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country | | Monica O'Brien Head of Curriculum and Assessment Catholic Schools NSW | | |
| | Prayer | | Professor Br David Hall FMS Dean, La Salle Academy Australian Catholic University | | |
| | Opening Remarks | | Dallas McInerney Chief Executive Officer Catholic Schools NSW | | |
| 9.00am – 9:45am Session Leader: Monica O'Brien | Session 1 Keynote Cultivating Faith Leaders in Catholic Schools - The Ecclesial Role of Teachers | | Fr Bechina Priest and Theologian Holy See - Congregation for Catholic Education 2001-2022 | | |
| 9:45am – 9:55am | Reflections & Questions/ Answers session | | | | |
| 9:55am – 10:45am Session Leader: Mary Ryan | Session 2 Sparking Faith, Building Teachers: The FiRE Formation Program | | Joan Lancaster & Gary Reen Diocese of Lismore | | |
| 10.45am – 11:15am | MORNING TEA | | | | |
| | Boyd Room | Whiteley Ballroor | n 2 | Whiteley Ballroom 1 | |
| 11.15am – 12.10pm Excellence | Session 3.1 Early Stage 1-3 Excellence in Teaching Religious Education in Primary Classrooms Andrew Wilson and Andrew Baker Religious Education Parramatta Diocese Session Leader: Mary Ryan | Session 3.2 Stage 4-5 Excellence in Teaching Religious Education Stage 4-5 Classrooms Jason Currao Head of Religious Education St Scholastica's College, Glebe Session Leader: Nathan Smith | | Session 3.3A Stage 6 HSC Courses Excellence in Teaching Studies in Catholic Thought 1 & 2 Janina Starkey St John Paul II Catholic College, Schofields & Narimba Session 3.3B Excellence in Teaching Studies of Religion I & II Nicole Denniss Parramatta Marist High, Parramatta Session Leader: Monica O'Brien | |

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| 12.10pm-12.15pm | Movement between rooms | | | |
| | Whiteley Ballroom 2 | Whiteley Ballroom 1 | | |
| 12.15pm – 1.10pm Evangelisation and Youth Ministry | | Session 4.2 Evangelisation - The CSYMI Model Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) Nathan Galea Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn Session Leader: Mary Ryan | | |
| 1.10pm -2.00pm | LUNCH | | | |
| Whiteley Ballroom | | | | |
| 2.00pm – 2.30pm Session Leader: Mary Ryan | Session 5 Antiqua Et Nova - The relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence | Fr Bechina | | |
| 2.30pm – 3.00pm Session Leader: Marita Winters | Session 6 Panel Al – risks, rewards and responsibilities God's plan for creation and the continual search for the true and the good Antiqua Et Nova (117) | Anne Fehon Council Chair, Council of Catholic School Parents. Brett Salakas HP Ambassador, Digital Pedagogies Maura Manning Director EREA NSW Colleges Ltd | | |
| 3.00pm – 3.15pm | AFTERNOON TEA | | | |
| 3.15pm – 3.45pm Session Leader: Nathan Smith | Session 7 The HILDA Survey – Lifelong benefits of Catholic Schooling | Bruce Phillips Victorian Catholic Education Authority | | |
| 3.45pm - 4.00pm | Closing Remarks | Marita Winters Deputy CEO Catholic Schools NSW | | |