

For Immediate Release
22 July 2021

**Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership launches new e-prospectus for 2021,
and welcomes two new team members to its operations.**

The Foundations of Missionary Leadership course (FML) is now accepting enrolments for 2022, for its third successful year of student intake and is excited to announce the addition of two new staff members to the Arete team.

Rev Dr Chris Ryan MGL, the Centre's Director explains that The FML course is open to anyone passionate about parish renewal, who already works in ministry or is interested in starting. "The course is suited to volunteers or people in paid employment, youth ministers, anyone involved in adult evangelisation, in parish leadership or related church organisations. The Foundations of Missionary Leadership course is unlike any other as it is designed specifically for the Australian context and offers a unique blend of theological knowledge, human development, spiritual formation, and practical skills needed for mission."

The course comprises four units: the Spirituality of Missionary Leadership, the Theological Foundations of Mission in the Australian Context, the Theory and Practice of Missionary Leadership, and Practicum and Field Placement. The flexible nature of the course delivery allows students from anywhere in Australia to apply, and the course structure offers a blend of weekly, interactive online lectures, in-person intensives and monthly zoom mentoring sessions.

The 2021 cohort includes students already working in various expressions of youth and adult evangelisation across different Diocese, as well as parishioners who feel called to answer the invitation to 'go and make disciples'. Lorraine Bobosevic is one such parishioner. "What I love about this course is that you are not doing this on your own; you are surrounded by like minded people all asking the same question and answering the same call".

The Arete Centre is also excited to officially announce the appointment of two new staff members to its team. General Manager Hazel Lim, and Marketing Manager Laura Neeson bring a rich combination of skills and experience that will allow further growth and development of the Arete Centre's course offerings.

Fr Chris is looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of students for the FML course in 2022. "As a Church, we know we need to be renewed at this time, but we also find ourselves asking where renewal can come from. The renewal we are looking for comes from people who are relying upon the Holy Spirit's guidance, and who have been formed to lead others in the Church's mission. The FML course equips people with the theology and practical skills that these leaders need".

Fr Chris also welcomed Hazel and Laura to the Arete Centre staff: "Hazel and Laura both bring a passion for the Church's mission, as well as considerable expertise from their work in the corporate world. They are an exciting and important addition to the Arete staff".

Applications close on October 31 2021. People can visit www.aretecentre.org/courses to apply online and download the e-prospectus.

About Arete Centre:

Areté is a work of the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) priests and brothers, a new religious congregation. The MGL's share in the work of Evangelisation in a collaborative way with lay people. They seek to empower people in their call to holiness and mission.

About Fr Chris Ryan, MGL:

Fr Chris Ryan, MGL serves as Director of The Arete Centre and is currently the parish priest of Penshurst and Peakhurst parishes. He has been involved in leadership in youth ministry in new communities, parishes and schools since 1993, and was the coordinator of the pilgrimage of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon in preparation for World Youth Day 2008. Fr Chris' PhD focused upon the RCIA as a resource for the theology and practice of youth ministry. He is the co-editor of Australian Catholic Youth Ministry: Theological and Pastoral Foundations for Faithful Ministry and the author of In the Light of the Cross and Bring Forth Hope: Pope Francis Speaks to the Youth of the World, which both provide reflections for young people on Christ and the Catholic faith.

About Hazel Lim:

Hazel was one of Arete's inaugural students who completed the Foundations of Missionary Leadership course in 2020. She has worked in the Diocese of Broken Bay for the last 5 years in the areas of customer service, event coordination, project management and now has a current role in parish renewal and discipleship formation in the Evangelisation Broken Bay team. She also has 10 years of corporate (Telco and ISP industries) experience in strategic planning, product development and process management. She enjoys family life with her husband and 2 children and is passionate in empowering and encouraging people to use their unique gifts to share the love of Jesus to others.

About Laura Neeson:

Laura Neeson brings over 18 years of valuable experience as a PR & Marketing Director, working for top consumer PR agencies, as well as creative direction and brand management for various Australian consumer brands before running her own successful PR & Events Consultancy for 12 years. Laura, also a wife and mother of two, is passionate about evangelisation, and has been committed to various ministries including leading mother's prayer groups for the past 6 years. Laura is also currently in ongoing work with Sydney Catholic Schools as a Family Educator.