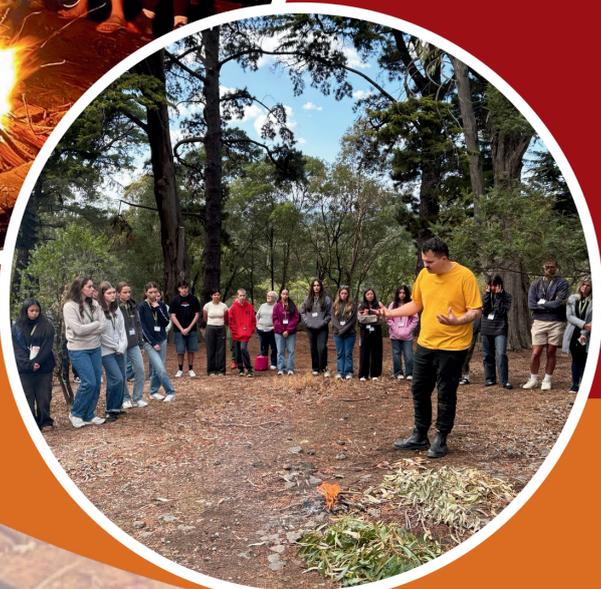




2026 Kildare Ministries Formation



**KILDARE MINISTRIES
FORMATION**
unfolding story
expression and experience
becoming

Staff

Faith and Learning Leaders Network

In 2026 Faith and Learning/Curriculum Leaders of each school will explore how our updated Living Justice Living Peace Charter can continue to renew our work for justice and peace throughout all facets of learning and school life. Leaders will share their most innovative and instrumental initiatives, and collaborate to discover what Nano's "one more step" would be for each of us, as we look to bring the flame of Brigid and Nano's passion for justice to the growing division and apathy in our world. Our Leaders will engage specifically in exegesis of Scripture passages that focus on Justice, and we will continue to draw on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* challenge to see our world as if we are, in fact, interconnected with all of creation.



We will also explore the tools of meaning making, consider what nourishes an openness to faith in our school community, and how we can connect our works of justice to both our inner spiritual life and our liturgies. We will take more time to consolidate the work we did in 2025 with Damien Price's Encounter A Lost Art resource, supporting and inspiring us to recognise our encounters with God in our daily lives. Through this, we facilitate both our own personal and collective Kildare Ministries commitment to Justice by making the needs of the vulnerable paramount.

- Meeting 1 (1.26 Faith Leaders Only): Thursday 19th February**
- Meeting 2 (2.26 Faith and Learning Leaders): Tuesday 12th May**
- Meeting 3 (3.26 Faith and Learning Leaders): Tuesday 1st September**
- Meeting 4 (4.26 Faith Leaders Only): Tuesday 17th November**

Justice and Ecology Leaders

This network aims to build and strengthen a collegial network of support for those in the role of leading Justice and Integral Ecology programs in Kildare Ministries schools. It will provide ongoing formation around key issues of justice and their connection to the mission of Kildare Ministries. In this year of Justice, this network will focus on the interconnectedness of our diverse living Universe. *Laudato Si's* 'cry of the poor' and 'cry of the earth' become one as we work towards building a community of relationships where the needs of the vulnerable - including Earth - are prioritised. The network will also explore how they can promote the nuances of the ecologically updated Living Justice Living Peace Charter in the life and work of their school communities.



- Meeting 1 (1.26) : Friday 13th February**
- Meeting 2 (2.26) : Wednesday 11th November**

Staff

Principals and Community Works Leaders

As part of Kildare Ministries' mission to respond to the changing needs of our world, Principals and Community Works Leaders gather regularly throughout the year to reflect on emerging issues within and beyond our communities. Together, we explore historical, cultural, social and theological perspectives to deepen our understanding of the complexities before us.

Drawing on the wisdom of our founders — Brigid, Nano and Daniel — we discern what the Gospel calls us to in the face of these challenges and consider the implications of relevant Church teaching.

Our role as lay leaders in today's Church compels us to "scrutinise the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel." Mission that remains faithful to the teaching of Jesus has the power to be transformative for our communities and for the world and is an essential part of our identity as a Kildare Ministries community.

Meeting 1 (1.26): Friday 13th March

Meeting 2 (2.26): Friday 22th May

Meeting 3 (3.26): Friday 20th November



First Nations Network

Our First Nations Network brings together our staff who work in building relationships with and between our First Nations' communities. The network's key priorities are relationships, creating cultural safety, and learning about our country's oldest living civilisation. Together, we will continue to discern the most just way forward for Kildare Ministries, so we can create more justice and compassion in our relationships and our structures across our cultural divides, and more wonder and knowledge about Country. An important part of this work is to continually create safe and fertile places for the growth and development of First Nations young people, staff and their extended communities. This network aims to amplify the voices of First Nations people, as experts both within and outside our organisations.

Meeting 1 (1.26): Tuesday 24th February

Meeting 2 (2.26): Tuesday 26th May

Meeting 3 (3.26): Tuesday 18th August

Staff

Business Managers Network

These network meetings provide an opportunity to build and strengthen a collegial network of support for Business Managers in Kildare Ministries schools. They aim to provide formation in our founding stories, values and mission, and explore how this can be actioned through resource management and programs. Formation includes prayer, discernment and reflection with Scripture and the Living Justice Living Peace Charter.

The meetings will include both theoretical and practical elements.

**Meeting 1 (1.26 KM Business Managers):
Thursday 14th May**

**Meeting 2 (1.26 KM Business Managers):
Thursday 20th August**

**Meeting 3 (2.26 KM Business Managers):
Friday 6th November**

Risk Coordinators Network

These network meetings build and strengthen a collegial network of support for those in the role of Risk Coordinators in Kildare Ministries schools. They aim to provide ongoing formation around key issues of justice and their connection to the mission of Kildare Ministries and explore contemporary resources and programs. There will be opportunity for formation through engagement with scripture and prayer, and reflecting on the Kildare Ministries Vision, Mission and Values and Living Justice Living Peace Charter. The meetings will contain both theoretical and practical elements.

**Meeting 1 (1.26 KEM Risk Coordinators):
Friday 27th February**

**Meeting 2 (1.26 KM Risk Coordinators):
Tuesday 6th May**

**Meeting 3 (2.26 KEM Risk Coordinators):
Friday 21st August**

**Meeting 4 (2.26 KM Risk Coordinators):
Thursday 29th October**



Staff

New Staff Induction

All new staff to Kildare Ministries (unless newly appointed to their Senior Leadership Team) will gather in person for one of the three days offered, and again online in September. This day will enable staff to visit the Brigidine Ministry Centre, and understand the relationships between ourselves, our schools and the broader Kildare Ministries community.

We will explore our mission and ministry, and develop an appreciation of how our founding stories keep us grounded in Jesus' call to bring justice and peace to our world.



Through the lens of Justice, we will explore:

- What is my own personal and professional story, and how am I connecting into the mission of my new school? What have I seen or heard that has touched my heart?
- How do the stories of our traditions – of the Catholic tradition and our founders Brigid, Nano and Daniel – inspire us in our own ministries today?
- What is the Kildare Ministries story? What is its mission and vision, its history of development, its structure and governance and our roles as people working in service of that mission.
- What part do each of us have to play in interacting with and shaping the story of Kildare Ministries?

Meeting 1 (1.26): Tuesday 17th March, Tuesday 24th March or Wednesday 25th March

Meeting 2 (2.26): Wednesday 9th September (online)

New Senior Leaders Induction



Staff newly appointed to senior leadership roles will gather to reflect on and explore what makes leadership in Kildare Ministries distinctive. Together, they will deepen their connection to the Kildare Ministries story, Vision, Mission and Values, drawing inspiration from the leadership of Brigid and Nano. Through reflection and discussion, participants will consider how their leadership shapes the culture of their school – through what they model, prioritise and make visible.

The program will also provide space to build relationships across ministries, strengthening participants' sense of shared mission and collegial responsibility.

Meeting 1 (1.26): Wednesday 25th February

Meeting 2 (2.26): Tuesday 8th September (online)

Boards & Stewardship Councils

Board Director and Stewardship Councillor Induction

The Kildare Ministries Board and Stewardship Induction explores our mission and identity and their implications for governance and stewardship. It invites Board Directors and Stewardship Councillors to discern how mission shapes their decision-making responsibilities, and to understand the distinction between civil and canon law within our governance framework.

Through a range of presentations and dialogue, participants will explore contemporary interpretations of 'mission' and consider how mission provides the lens through which decisions are made. At the heart of this mission is Jesus Christ – "the centre is Jesus Christ, who calls us and sends us" (Pope Francis). Drawing from the traditions of our founding congregations, Kildare Ministries seeks to be a prophetic voice in today's context.

The day will share the story of our founding congregations and trace the development of Kildare Ministries. It will clarify the canonical responsibilities of Trustees and outline the civil duties associated with serving as a Board Director or Member of a Stewardship Council.

Board and Stewardship Council Seminar

Bringing together leaders of our ministries from the highest level of governance allows for carefully considered learning and reflection on key issues.

Time is allowed for communal discernment on a shared Kildare Ministries response which reflects our call to missional leadership aligned with our Vision, Mission and Values and Living Justice Living Peace Charter.

The Board and Stewardship Council Seminar is a biennial event involving high level input on a contemporary topic of interest, with cross-ministry dialogue.



Boards & Stewardship Councils

Board Chairs Network

The Board Chairs Network builds and strengthens a collegial network of support for those in this key leadership role. It will provide ongoing formation around key aspects of mission leadership and develop a common approach to policies and processes across the Kildare ministries. In addition, it will advance our common knowledge and understanding of missional governance.

The meetings provide an opportunity for the Chairs of Boards to develop a common understanding about the way we express our faith-based governance and the development of the Kildare Ministries narrative. There will be opportunity for formation through prayer, discernment and reflection with Scripture, the Living Justice, Living Peace Charter, and Kildare Ministries Vision, Mission and Values. Board Chairs will also have opportunities to share practices related to civil governance issues and issues pertinent to their own ministry.

Importantly, these network meetings provide the Trustees an avenue to consult with and deepen the relationships with their Chairs.



Crossing New Seas Oration

The Kildare Ministries Crossing New Seas Oration was introduced following the profound experience of our 10-Year Anniversary Conference 'Crossing New Seas' in 2024. This annual event continues the spirit of encounter, exploration and action that defined our historic gathering.

The Crossing New Seas Oration will serve as an ongoing forum for connection, dialogue, and inspiration. Each year, a distinguished speaker – both from within and beyond our ministries – will be invited to address pressing issues at the intersection of faith, social justice, education, and contemporary global challenges. Bringing together people from across the wider Kildare Ministries community it will be an opportunity to deepen our connection and our commitment to be enablers of peace and justice in our world.

Crossing New Seas Oration: Wednesday 18th March

Kildare Ministries Integral Ecology Retreat

The Integral Ecology Retreat is an invitation to any staff member who is seeking a deepening of their own spirituality. Our perspective of who we are deeply impacts our understanding of Justice, and Integral Ecology helps us remember that we are all interconnected to each other and all living beings of creation. Pope Francis's Laudato Si implored all of us to recognise our ecological identity, nourish our ecological spirituality, and respond to the 'cry of the poor' and the 'cry of the earth' as one cry. Participants will be offered time to connect to the land in a quiet, reflective atmosphere away from regular life. We encourage schools to support two to three staff members to participate in this unique retreat offering. No prior knowledge is required or expected. The retreat will be held at Saltbush, Balnarring Beach.

Kildare Ministries Integral Ecology Retreat: 29th April-1st May

Kildare Ministries Leaders Conference: Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th August



Kildare Ministries Conference

The 2026 Conference will be hosted by St Joseph's College Echuca in August. We look forward to extended input and conversation about the challenges and opportunities we are faced with in today's world. We will listen to the calling of our faith through Scripture, story and prayer, and respond with hope and compassion, so we may shine light on the road to Justice for all living beings of Earth. With representation from senior leadership and governance of all ministries, the Conference is a unique opportunity to further the story and identity of Kildare Ministries.

Kildare Ministries Conference: Wednesday 26th – 28th August

We look forward to warmly
welcoming you to our formation events in 2026!

Students



Kildare Ministries runs four seminars for students in response to the Living Justice Living Peace Charter

- to deepen understanding of contemporary justice issues and how we respond through the key principals of Catholic Social Teaching: human dignity, the common good, solidarity and care for the poor and the environment.
- to plan and commit to initiatives that create more Justice in our world
- to develop connections with students from other Kildare Ministries schools, and develop a support network through which they can keep each other motivated and accountable

Social Justice Seminar

The Social Justice Seminar is a two-day program aimed at senior students active and interested in social justice and mission, providing the opportunity to learn more about contemporary issues of social justice and the call to Christian disciples to work for a more just world. Students will learn from guest speakers and join workshops to learn strategies for advocacy and activism.

Social Justice Seminar: Wednesday 11th - Thursday 12th March

First Nations Immersion

The First Nations Immersion will be hosted by Clonard College Geelong on Wathaurong Country. The Immersion is prepared for Year 9 and 10 students who want to learn more about First Nations culture; we welcome First Nations students, and students of other backgrounds. Students from Year 8, 11 and 12 are also welcome. The objectives of the Immersion are:

- to learn from First Nations people about their identity, culture and life experiences
- deepen their understanding of Reconciliation and Australian history.
- identify the strengths of a community that values its First Nations people, their culture and knowledge
- reflect on what this means for us as members of the Kildare Ministries community

The program will include a visit to Wathaurong Booln Booln Culture Centre, yarning around the campfire and connecting to Country

First Nations Immersion: Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th May

Net Zero Program

The Net Zero Program is for students with demonstrated commitment and leadership skills in the Ecological Justice space. Students who commit to this program attend an overnight seminar and then follow up their initiatives over the following twelve months as members of the student-driven Kildare Ministries Ecology Alliance Network.

Net Zero Program: Thursday 6th – Friday 7th August

Senior Student Leadership Retreat

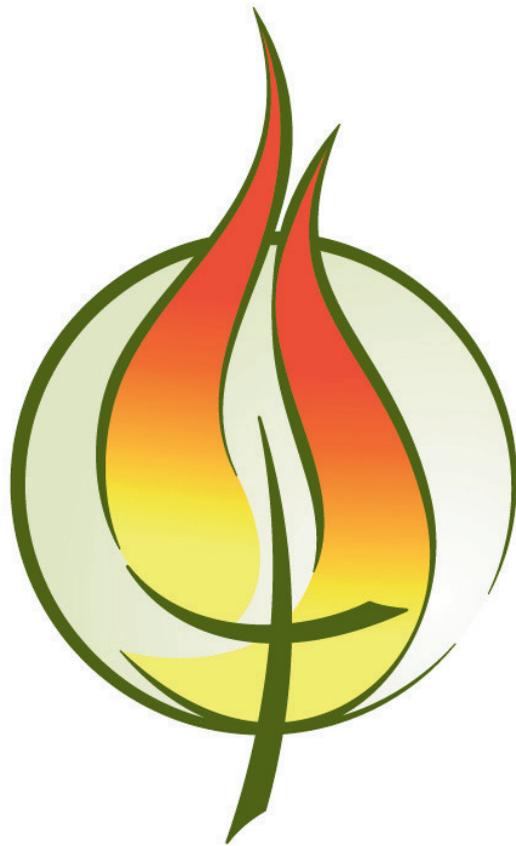
Our Student Leadership Retreat brings together our key students leaders from across Kildare Ministries. Students will explore their identity and story as part of Kildare Ministries, clarify their roles as leaders of our Mission, and unpack and connect with the 2027 theme of Wonder. Students will engage in simulation activities that explore the dynamics of teamwork and leadership, enabling them to understand their own leadership strengths and styles, and identify which leadership values drive them. The program aims to support student leaders by connecting them with each other for support and accountability, as well as discussing the challenges we face when trying to move our passion into meaningful action.

The Student Leadership Retreat is held at Saltbush, Balnarring Beach. Students will learn of our connection to this land, and through liturgy and activities experience our connections to it through volunteering, liturgy and story.

Through the experience, students will also create an ongoing a network of leaders as a resource for the future; to support our student programs, College Stewardship Councils, Committees and Boards. We invite staff responsible for student leaders in the college to accompany students.

Senior Leadership Retreat: Monday 7th – Wednesday 9th December





Kildare
MINISTRIES