



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 4 March - Sunday 17 March)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Term 1 School Fees

As advised in our fees letter to parents dated 30 November 2023, fee statements are now being issued by Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn and no longer by the College.

There has been a delay in issuing Term 1 fee statements. This is an issue affecting all CECG schools, not just Merici College.

We thank you for your patience.

Student Services Emergency Contacts

Student Services would like to request that parents/guardians ensure they have provided adequate contact information for when their daughter is unwell or if there is an emergency. When students are unwell, it is important that we can reach a parent/guardian or emergency contact, as quickly as possible so that your daughter can be collected from school.

Please ensure that we have both mobile and work phone numbers that are contactable during the day for all parents/guardians.

If you work in a secure facility, please provide a work number that you can be reached on in the case of an emergency.

We require two emergency contacts who are not a parent or guardian for every student. These contacts must be in Canberra, as they are our safety net if we cannot reach parents/guardians and a student needs to be urgently collected from school. Please ensure they are people who can answer their phones during the day.

We have noticed that many students are coming to school while sick, which has led to the spreading of viruses around the school. If your child shows any symptoms of a virus, please keep them at home.

We would also like to remind parents that we encourage students to come directly to Student sServices when they feel unwell, and we will call home, rather than student's contacting their parents on mobile phones.

Please email student.services@merici.act.edu.au for more information or to update your contact details and emergency contacts.

Information Centre (iC) Extended Day Program

The ic is now open Monday – Thursday until 5.30pm to provide students:

- Homework help
- Research help
- Organisation of assessment tasks
- And more.

Staff are available to support students. Drop in, no booking required.

EXTENDED HOURS
HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN
THE INFORMATION CENTRE (iC)



OPEN ✨ 8.30AM - 5.30PM (Mon - Thurs) ✨ 8.30AM - 4.00PM (Fri)

We are now open Mon-Thurs until 5.30pm to provide students:

- Homework help
- Organisation of Assessment Task
- Research help
- And more

Staff available to support students.
Drop in, no booking required.



WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Moderation Day #1 (Tuesday 5 March)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 5 March. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Year 11 and 12 IB Diploma students are required to attend school as normal for scheduled exams and activities. All Diploma students may wear non-uniform.

School Photo Day (Friday 8 March, catchup day Monday 18 March)

School Photo Day will be held on Friday 8 March for all students. A catchup day will be held on Monday 18 March for any student who is absent on Friday 8 March. Year 12 students will be having their formal group photo on Friday 8 March at **8.50am** on the oval. Individual photos will be taken in P1 in the auditorium.

Please ensure that your daughter is dressed in full summer uniform. The following blazer requirements are in place:

1. Junior dress – does not require blazer to be worn
2. Junior white shirt and blue shorts – blazer to be worn
3. Senior students – blazer to be worn.

Please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms> to find all uniform requirements.



A reminder that students may wear a maximum of two pairs of small sleeper/studs in the lobe of the ear only. No other items or piercings are permitted and students will be asked to remove these.

Please order your photos **prior** to Photo day here, <https://store.theschoolphotographer.com.au/>. Please enter the First Code **X4102SEC50M** where required on the portal to proceed to the ordering page. Alternatively, you can access the online ordering portal by scanning the QR code displayed in the attached flyer.

Ordering of Sibling Photos will be temporarily disabled **one working day prior** to Photo Day. This enables us to supply the school with an up to date list of siblings to be photographed so nobody misses out. It is best to pay for your Sibling Photos and other photos now to avoid a late payment processing fee.

International Women's Day Soiree (Friday 8 March 5.30pm-7.30pm) BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 1 MARCH

You are invited to attend our UN International Women's Day Celebration to be held in the Bridge Restaurant on Friday 8 March.

The IWD theme this year is **INVEST IN WOMEN: ACCELERATE PROGRESS**". This means that when we appreciate and respect women from all different backgrounds – like where they come from, how much money they have, and their beliefs about politics – the world gets better for everyone.

We are delighted to welcome Heidi Yates as our guest speaker this year. Heidi is a human rights lawyer and activist whose work has improved the lives of vulnerable people across the community.

Over 20 years, she has advocated for better outcomes for women, elder Australians, people living with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and survivors of violence. Heidi graduated from the ANU College of Law in 2004 and has worked at places including Legal Aid ACT, the



Women's Legal Centre and the ACT Human Rights Commission, currently serving as the [Victims of Crime Commissioner](#). The Commissioner's role includes being head of agency for [Victim Support ACT](#), a frontline service which provides thousands of Canberrans with support, rights advocacy and financial help each year. Heidi's work was recognised in her selection as Lawyer of the Year at the 2022 ACT Women Lawyers Awards, ANU's 2022 [Alumna of the Year](#) and an ACT finalist in the 2023 [Australian of the Year Awards](#).

Date: Friday 8 March at the Bridge Restaurant, 5:30pm-7:00pm



Cost: \$30 (adult), \$15 (student) Canapes and drinks

Tickets can be purchased at <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-soiree>

Community BBQ (Friday 15 March)

An invitation is extended to all families to attend the Merici College Annual Community BBQ on Friday 15 March from 5.30pm-7.30pm in the New Quad. The BBQ is a great opportunity for our whole community to gather and welcome new families to the College, as well as reconnecting with our current families. Dinner orders close on **Friday 1 March** and guests will not be able to purchase food items directly on the day.

BYO food and drinks OR order BBQ dinner online at <https://events.humanitix.com/community-bbq-8dplbe8y>.

Online dinner menu options:

- BBQ 2 Sausage Sandwich with drink \$10
- BBQ 2 Sausage Sandwich without drink \$8
- Steak Sandwich with drink \$12
- Steak Sandwich without drink \$10
- Vegie Burger with drink \$10
- Vegie Burger without drink \$8

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN 2024

The testing period for NAPLAN is upon us and we would like to notify you of the testing schedule occurring over Week 7 and 8 (13th March-19th March) for Years 7 and 9.

Students will go to the same room for ALL of their NAPLAN tests based on their House:

Balgo = CRLC Rm202	Ningil = CRLC Rm 204	Seiwa = CRLC Rm 206
Brescia = Modular 1	Penola = Modular 2	Tullow = Modular 3

Important information:

- Students need to bring their **devices fully charged** and **must bring headphones** to all of the tests (ideally plug in headphones rather than wireless due to Bluetooth interference). We also suggest bringing a book to read if students finish with time to spare.

- Please note that if the NAP2024 Locked Down Browser is still not downloaded on the students' device, it is important that this is completed at home by being downloaded from this [link](#).
- Students with Personalised Plans who require adjustments such as additional time or readers/scribes will receive a separate email to them and their parents outlining what provisions have been applied.
- If you know your daughter will be absent for one of the days scheduled for testing, please send an email to the Literacy Coordinator nicole.commins@merici.act.edu.au so we can put her in for the Catch Up Test Session on Tuesday 19th March in Periods 5 and 6. Likewise, if you wish to withdraw your child from NAPLAN, please ensure you contact us ASAP.

As reiterated in previous communications, these tests are used as a growth measurement at Merici. It is a busy time with assessment tasks, and hence we would prefer students spend their time on assessment tasks, not preparing for NAPLAN. As such, outside of the Demonstrations Tests, as conducted in class using the NAP Locked Down Browser, we do not require students to study for these tests. The skills that they are learning in their lessons should equip them with the skills to complete these NAPLAN tests.

Please see the timetable on the next page outlining when each test is occurring. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

PERIOD	WK A Wednesday 13 March	WK A Thursday 14 March	WK A Friday 15 March	WK B Monday 18 March	WK B Tuesday 19 March
P1	Y7 WRITING (42 mins)	Y7 READING (65 mins)	Y7 CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE (45 mins)	Y7 NUMERACY (60 mins)	
P2					
RECESS					
P3	Y9 WRITING (42 mins)	Y9 READING (65 mins)	Y9 CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE (45 mins)	Y9 NUMERACY (60 mins)	
P4					
LUNCH					
P5					CATCH UP TESTS Y7 AND Y9 Rm M4
P6					

Year 7 Camp (Wednesday 20 March-Friday 22 March)

Year 7 students will be attending a camp in Week 8 Wednesday 20 March – Friday 22 March at The AGH Camp Centre NSW. The Year 7 Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop relationships with their peers and enjoy diverse experiences outside of the formal school setting. It is expected that all students will attend the Camp. Students will be involved in various activities at the Camp for which all equipment will be provided.

For full information and permission note, please click [here](#). A Medical Authorisation Form can also be found [here](#).

Year 7 Immunisations (27 and 28 March)

All Year 7 students should have received a consent form regarding vaccinations which are due under the ACT School Vaccination Program. Students in Year 7 who have returned signed Consent Forms will receive the Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) and the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine (Boostrix) on March 27 and 28 2024.

If your child did not return a Consent Form, but you would like them to receive the vaccinations, please complete the form, and return it to Student Services ASAP.

For more information from ACT Health please follow the link below. <https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents>.

CASE Junior Space School Information Evening (Tuesday 12 March 6:00pm)



All students in 2025 Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to join our CASE Space School International Study Program and visit NASA in the USA! This unique program is experiential STEAM learning at its best and is recommended to all students pursuing any study path. All participants are eligible to receive a University of California (UC) approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript, showcasing their aptitude to top tier universities at home or internationally.

Always at the forefront of innovation, the space industry is experiencing a global boom. It's the most stimulating environment to inspire the next generation of STEAM-skilled leaders prepared to take on and succeed in our innovation-hungry world.

Merici College is partnering with Actura and the California Association for STEAM Education (CASE) to offer our students a unique opportunity to participate in an immersive, engaging and inspiring learning experience. Your child will:

- Visit NASA, Houston to discover awesome technologies with industry experts
- Participate in thrilling astronaut training and mission simulations
- Perform cellular analysis and design a space glove to understand the human body in space
- Engage with inspirational space industry guest speakers
- Enjoy a range of fun cultural events and activities
- Be eligible to receive a UC approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript

All Merici College students currently in Years 7 and 8 are invited to participate in CASE Junior Space School during July 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity for all students to learn beyond the classroom and be inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead! Your child will return invigorated and motivated with new ideas, goals, passions - and the skills to make it happen.

**CASE Junior Space School Information Evening
6:00pm, Tuesday, 12th March 2024, via Zoom**

For more information and to RSVP to the Information Evening, visit: www.actura.com.au/MericiSpace

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Moderation Day/AST/IB DP attendance (Tuesday 5 March)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 5 March. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Year 11 and 12 IB Diploma students are required to attend school as normal for scheduled exams and activities. All Diploma students may wear non-uniform.

Year 12 Group Photo – School Photo Day (Friday 8 March, catchup day Monday 18 March)

School Photo Day will be held on Friday 8 March for all students. A catchup day will be held on Monday 18 March for any student who is absent on Friday 8 March. Please note that we have changed the time of the whole group photo. Year 12 students will be having their formal group photo on **Friday 8 March at 8.50am on the oval. Individual photos will be taken in P1 in the auditorium.**

CASE Senior Space School Information Evening (Tuesday 12 March 7.30pm)



All students in 2025 Years 10, 11 and 12 are invited to join CASE Space School International Study Program in July 2025! In partnership with Actura and the California Association for STEAM Education, this is Merici College's premier STEAM expedition for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2025.

Visiting NASA, Houston and Silicon Valley in the USA, this unique program is experiential STEAM learning at its best and is recommended to all students pursuing any study path!

All participants are eligible to receive a University of California (UC) approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript, showcasing their aptitude to top tier universities at home or internationally.

Always at the forefront of technology and innovation, the space industry is experiencing a global boom, providing opportunities for STEAM-skilled young people to forge an exciting future! We believe the USA space industry is the most stimulating environment to showcase innovative technologies, opportunities for entrepreneurs and the impact of STEAM in our world.

At CASE Space School your child will:

- Visit NASA and be mentored by industry experts
- Undertake thrilling and immersive space mission simulations
- Visit cutting-edge space and tech companies in Houston and Silicon Valley
- Network with inspiring space industry guest speakers and entrepreneurs
- Enjoy a range of fun cultural events, activities and sightseeing in Houston and San Francisco
- Be eligible to receive a UC approved GPA 5.0 academic transcript

This is an outstanding opportunity for all students to learn beyond the classroom and be inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead! Your child will return invigorated and motivated with new ideas, goals, passions - and the skills to make it happen.

**CASE Senior Space School Information Evening
7:30pm, Tuesday, 12th March 2024, via Zoom**

For more information and to RSVP to the Information Evening, visit: www.actura.com.au/MericiSpace

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Merici College Gift of Life Walk – Tuesday 19 March

On Tuesday 19 March, Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>). The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation awareness. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more (see flyer attached). Thousands of Canberrans are expected to take part in their own walks either individually or as a team to show their support for this cause. Please refer to the Gift of Life Inc website for further details (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).



We are delighted to have Canberra FM's 104.7 Wilko and Courts here as well, broadcasting their morning radio show live from the College.

The walk will take place on the Merici College Oval from 7:15am – 8:30am, students are encouraged to walk up to 5km. **REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL** for our walkers to enjoy a cooked breakfast at no cost after the walk. **REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL** for students to receive a free 'Gift of Life' t-shirt or hat. Students who have participated in previous years are encouraged to wear t-shirts and hats that they have already received.

Registered students will have permission to wear Gift of Life or DonateLife Walk t-shirts and hats for the school day with their sports uniform shorts/uniform tracksuit pants on Tuesday 19 March. Please do not wear non-uniform items (only school uniform allowed).

Students are required to complete the permission note found here <https://forms.office.com/r/awugUc3eY5> to register before Thursday 14 March. Please note that the MS form is linked to the Merici email system and therefore will come up as an error for anyone outside of the organisation. Students themselves will need to use the link to register for the event.

On the day of the event, don't forget to sign in at one of our registration tables on the oval and collect your registration wristband, as well as confirm your Christian Service Hours allocation.

HPE NEWS

House Swimming Carnival Working Bees (Thursday 7 March)

House working bees will be held on Thursday 7 March 3:30-5pm in the OYC. Students are encouraged to bring afternoon tea and some supplies to complete banners, props, costumes etc. House leaders will also be providing materials.

Merici Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 12 March

This year our Swimming Carnival will return to Dickson pool on Tuesday 12 March. The House Captains will let our students know what their themes are for this event. Please note students will need to have transport to and from the pool on this day.

Students who travel by CDC Canberra (QCity) buses can get off and on at Daramalan College, use the crossing at the traffic lights and walk to the pool. Students who catch Transport Canberra (ACTION) buses will need to check bus routes as they may be able to get off at Daramalan or in Dickson as well.

For students who travel on the Merici dedicated bus services Run #1 and Run #2 buses, please note that the buses will drop off and pick up passengers at Dickson Pool.

Students who travel on any other bus service that does not travel to/from the Dickson area will be able to take their regular bus to school and we will shuttle students to the pool by the Merici school bus.

Those students who are wanting to swim in the 100m Freestyle race will need to make their own way to the pool and be there at 8.30am.

Permission notes and further information about the day will be sent home shortly.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke Edinburgh's Award is an internationally recognised scheme for young people, building their skills to equip them for life and work. It aims to get young people involved in a diverse and rich lifestyle; developing confident and competent individuals. The Duke of Edinburgh program at Merici is run as a co-curricular activity, open to students from year 9 to year 12 (or anyone over 14 years of age).

Parent Information Evening: Parents and students new to the Award are invited to attend an information session to find out more about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and how it operates within Merici College. Stephanie Waldron, from the ACT Award office, will also be in attendance. All welcome.

Date : Wednesday 6th March, 5 – 6 pm

Location: Auditorium, Merici College



Adventurous Training Hike Preparation

Prior to the Parent Information Evening, there will be an Adventurous Journey training and preparation session offered to new Bronze Award participants. All students welcome.

Date : Wednesday 6th March, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Location: Auditorium, Merici College


For more information, please email Jackie Males (jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au).

IB NEWS

Middle Years Programme

Assessment and Reporting workshop



Thank you to the families who attended our MYP Assessment and Reporting workshop. Please click  [here](#) to find the evenings presentation.

Upcoming events

Event	Date	Information
MYP Awards Ceremony	Fri 15 March Period 6	MYP Year 10 2023 (current Y11 students) Award Ceremony. Families will be invited to attend, and this will be live streamed and recorded for your convenience.
MYP Revision Skills Workshop	Mon 25 March From 6pm	A workshop for Year 7 families (students and their parents) to learn effective techniques to revise for tests and exam at high school. This will be an interactive workshop with practical strategies provided.

Personal Project

Year 10 students recently attended a Personal Project workshop focused on writing their Success Criteria. Students are strongly encouraged to complete a draft of their Success Criteria by Week 6. Erin Barry will also continue to run fortnightly drop-in sessions during Friday lunchtimes.



Diploma Programme

Next Tuesday 5th March (Moderation Day), DP students will be sitting their Mock Exams for subjects in the May 2024 examination session.

iC NEWS

These two weeks bring us peak assessment time. The Information Centre (iC) plays a big role in assisting and delivering key elements to students to help assist in the final task produced, including the skill development in notetaking, researching and referencing.

We have been curating resources that are task specific, both the physical books and digital resources. These can be found as a [LearnPath](#) on SEQTA home which are part of Oliver. These are pathways to reliable and relevant digital information, including the databases available to all students.

Over the next two weeks the seniors will have an information session about being an 'ethical researcher' how to show Academic Integrity in the work they produce. As IB learners we are Principled learners "We act with integrity and honesty... We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences" (IBO, 2013). This all comes down to acknowledging our sources by using intext refencing and producing a Reference list. Merici College has its [own Referencing Guide](#), based on Harvard, this is also available through LearnPath on SEQTA.



By showing our critical thinking, using the resources we have available to us and taking the time to read, note take and talking to others about what we have learned we will be ethical researchers who display Academic Integrity in our learning.

Yours in research,
iC Staff

SCIENCE NEWS

Big Science Competition (Thursday 16 May)

The Big Science Competition will be held in P1 and P2 on Thursday 16 May (Term 2 Week 3). The Big Science Competition is a 50-minute, online multiple-choice competition, the BIG SCIENCE COMPETITION is one of the biggest international science competitions held in schools. It focuses on how students from years 7-10 can use their science knowledge and critical thinking skills to solve problems.

To register for the BIG SCIENCE COMPETITION please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/9BZj6p57zM>. NB: If you register for this competition you are committing to attending the competition on the above date. Students are asked to please check their assessment calendars and please do not register if you are not sure about participating in the competition.

DEFENCE NEWS

Defence families are always welcome to contact Kate Friend, Defence School Mentor, with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family.

Students from Defence families are welcome to drop into the Defence Office any recess or lunch.

Week 6 Tuesday 5 March

Birrigai Excursion for students from Defence families in Year 7 and 8.

For those who have completed the consent form we're off to Birrigai Outdoor School. Departing on the Merici College Bus from the old quad, under the bridge at 9am and returning by 3pm. Please wear your PE uniform and sunscreen, bring a hat, lunch and water bottle.

Thursday 7 March

A 'bonus' Defence Catch up due to the Swimming Carnival in Week 7 being held. All Defence students are welcome to drop into Room 222 at lunchtime. BYO Lunch, snacks will be provided.

Week 7 Tuesday 12 March

No Defence Catch Up due to the Swimming Carnival.

OTHER NEWS

Part-time Parish Secretary, St Gregory's Parish Queanbeyan

Position Vacant at St. Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan, NSW. Part-time permanent position: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9am to 1pm**. Start Monday 8 April 2024.

Skills required: Database experience, communication, liaison and organisational skills, personal initiative, team work capacities, compliance experience (WHS, child protection, copyright), knowledge of Catholic Church/teachings, office experience.

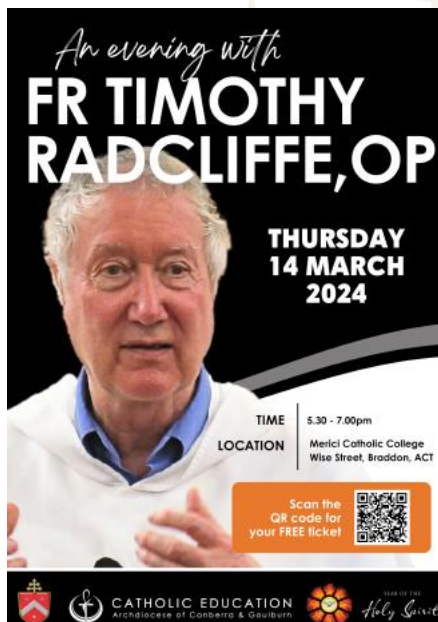
Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. Please contact parish for duty statement (queanbeyan@cg.org.au).

Applications addressing the Selection Criteria above with attached resume to Parish Priest (tony.percy@cg.org.au) by Friday 15 March 2024.

ACT Sports Bulletin #3 2024

Please click [here](#) to find the latest School Sport ACT bulletin to keep our community up-to-date on school sport events in the ACT.

An evening with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP (Thursday 14 March)



Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn invite you to attend an evening with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP. The evening will be held at Merici College Braddon, 5.30pm Thursday 14 March 2024.

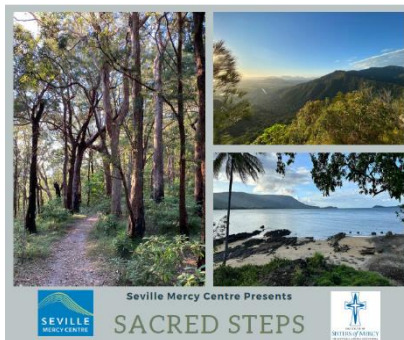
Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, stands as a distinguished figure within the Catholic Church, acclaimed for his profound contributions as both an English Catholic priest and a Dominican friar. Born on August 22, 1945, Radcliffe's spiritual journey has been marked by a rich tapestry of theological insights, intellectual pursuits, and leadership roles. He was Master of the Order of Preachers from 1992 to 2001, during which he provided guidance and direction to the global Dominican community. Beyond his administrative responsibilities, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe is widely recognized for his thought-provoking writings, engaging lectures, and a deep-seated commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding within the Catholic Church.

Most recently he was chosen by Pope Francis in 2023 to lead the pre-Synod Retreat and as one of those chosen to provide regular reflections for the members during the Synod.

In this evening, Fr Timothy will provide us with unique insights into the Synod as it demonstrates synodality in practice and discerns the future of the Church.

[Please register for a ticket here with code **Synod** to obtain your reserved ticket.](#)

Seville Mercy Centre Presents SACRED STEPS Walking Retreat



Join us for an unforgettable 5-day walking retreat, immersed in the breathtaking beauty of the Far North Queensland rainforests. Sacred Steps offers a unique blend of daily walks, spiritual reflection, and insightful discussions.

Date; Sunday 8 September – Friday 13 September 2024 (5 days/6 nights)

Cost: \$2,499 per person inc. GST, includes accommodation, all meals, transport and guided walks to key places in Far North.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Canberra-Goulburn Cursillo Retreat

12 - 14 April 2024, St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong



A Cursillo retreat offers you the opportunity to deepen your faith life through a program of talks, meditations and prayer. Consider Christ's invitation to renew your relationship with Him and share friendship with others.

Contact: irmandjoe@gmail.com

Info and registration <https://bit.ly/cursillo24>

