



XAVIER CENTRE FOR
THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

Xavier School of Preaching

“We are called to become a
living Gospel in the world.”

Pope Francis

In partnership with



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



ACU

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Our vision

An engaged practice partnership

Why?

The Xavier School of Preaching seeks to raise up a new generation of preachers – men and women – within the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
John 1:14

The Word becomes flesh within the preacher. We seek to inspire, form and instruct Catholic leaders to preach the living Word with faith, love and energy.

Preaching is an essential ministry in the life and mission of our communities, demanding knowledge, practical skills, rapport with listeners, prayer and authenticity of life.

What is our aim?

The Xavier School of Preaching has four specific objectives.

1. To enable you to speak and preach the Gospel in a variety of contexts.
2. To deepen your understanding of the dynamics of communication in contemporary society.
3. To connect your life of prayer with your theology and ministry of preaching.
4. To help you understand your strengths and weaknesses and discover a personal road map for the journey ahead.



Who is it for?

The Xavier School of Preaching is open to all the baptised.

The Xavier School of Preaching is for parish lay ministers, priests, deacons and seminarians, teachers and school leaders, diocesan and Catholic education leaders, members of ecclesial movements, catechists, and youth ministers.

Successful applicants need to demonstrate pastoral engagement and experience, the desire and motivation to preach the Gospel, and a life of prayer founded on the Word of God.

Places are limited.

How is it taught?

We offer a multi-modal program, including innovative online resources and an intensive face-to-face experience.

The intensive experience includes input from preachers, practical formation and training workshops aimed at developing your capacity to communicate.

Topics include:

- proclamation and encounter
- contemplation and communication
- mechanics of public speaking
- practicums for catechesis, testimonies, homilies, public preaching, digital and social media.

Online resources will be utilised prior to and following the intensive experience. These will focus on the scriptural and theological content that provides the foundation for your ministry of preaching.

Themes will include theology of preaching, history of preaching, science and the art of preaching, communication theory and practice, modern media forms, proclamation and encounter.

Step into your calling

Greg Craven Centre, ACU

115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Intensive mode

Thursday 17 July – Saturday 19 July 2025

Cost to participate

\$250 per person

\$125 concession rate

Contact for more information

Dr Maeve Heaney VDMF

xaviercentre@acu.edu.au

The Xavier School of Preaching will be delivered by the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation, in partnership with Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Xavier Centre is part of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at ACU and offers a broad range of theological formation opportunities for lay persons, religious and clergy across Australia.



[acu.edu.au/
schoolofpreaching](https://acu.edu.au/schoolofpreaching)

Disclaimer (May 2025): Information correct at time of printing. The university reserves the right to amend, cancel or otherwise modify the content without notice.

In partnership with



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

