

■ A GUIDE FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION TO ■

# **Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel**

Formation in the Archdiocese of Adelaide

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An online version of this document and accompanying workbooks are available at:  
[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/pastoral-services/publications](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/pastoral-services/publications)

# How To Use This Workbook

*Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel: Formation in the Archdiocese of Adelaide* is our diocesan statement which guides the formation of leaders for mission and ministry as well as lifelong faith formation for those in parishes, schools, communities and agencies in the Archdiocese of Adelaide.

This workbook is intended to assist individuals and teams who have responsibility for the areas of formation to unpack and apply the vision presented in *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel* to their own context. This workbook, and the subsequent workbooks, are to be used in conjunction with *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*, so it is recommended that readers have a copy of both the statement and the workbook.

## Who Should Use This Workbook

Individuals and teams responsible for broad direction of faith formation and formation for leadership in pastoral ministry in diocesan, parish, school, and community contexts.

## Group Discussion

Although this workbook may be used by individuals, it is best for group reflection, dialogue, discernment and initial planning for formation. Each section includes time for personal reflection, reading the document, and group discussion and discernment.

## ABOUT THE SERIES



- Vision Statement *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel: Formation in the Archdiocese of Adelaide*
- Workbook 1 – Guide for personal and group reflection and discussion on the vision statement
- Workbook 2 – Guide for the assessment of current formation offerings and tools for discernment
- Workbook 3 – Framework, tools and strategies for the design and implementation of formation

## ABOUT THE STATEMENT



*Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel* was developed out of the recommendations of the 2021 Adelaide Diocesan Assembly. An overwhelming number of the Assembly's 255 recommendations pertained to formation in one way or another. In 2022 a diocesan focus group was created to study the recommendations and develop initial responses. Through this process, *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel* was born. The focus group provided advice to the content and direction. Several theologians and practitioners including local parish, school and community leaders were also consulted and their feedback incorporated into the final document.

## ABOUT THE ARTWORK



Liturgical artist, Lisa Bierer, was commissioned to create the artwork based on the text of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*. [www.lisabiererpainting.com](http://www.lisabiererpainting.com)

# Suggested Session Structures

## OPTION 1: STAND-ALONE SESSIONS (2 HOURS)

|        |                                           |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| 7:00pm | <i>Welcome</i>                            |
| 7:05pm | <i>Pray Together</i>                      |
| 7:10pm | <i>Individual Reflection and Reading*</i> |
| 7:30pm | <i>Sharing, Listening and Dialogue</i>    |
| 8:30pm | <i>Discernment</i>                        |
| 8:55pm | <i>Closing Prayer</i>                     |
| 9:00pm | <i>End</i>                                |

**\*Note:** *Individual reflection and reading may be done by participants prior to the meeting to cut down on time.*

### WELCOME (5 MINUTES)



Begin with an Acknowledgment of Country:

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of this land upon which we gather. We honour Elders past, present and future, and thank them for their sacrifice and stewardship.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

If you haven't already done so, welcome one another and introduce yourselves to each other.

#### **Review of the Process**

Take a moment to review and familiarise yourselves with the session process. There will be time for silent reading and reflection, group listening and dialogue, and shared discernment.

### PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



Use the Archdiocesan *Prayer for Communal Discernment and Action* (Page 27 of *Workbook 1*), another appropriate prayer or just speak to God from your heart. Or use scripture, such as the Gospel of the day or a Sunday reading. You may also invite a member of the discussion group to lead prayer.

### REFLECTION AND READING (20-30 MINUTES)



Spend time with the questions for individual reflection. Then take time to read the section you will be discussing in this session.

## SHARE, LISTEN, DIALOGUE (60 MINUTES)



### Share and Listen

*If there are more than 6 people in the group, you may consider splitting into smaller groups to manage time better.*

*Allow each person 2-3 uninterrupted minutes to share from their individual reflection.*

### Reflect

Once everyone has shared, take two minutes of silence to reflect on the sharing of the others in the group. What have I learned? What is challenging me? What is inspiring me?

### Dialogue

Use the following questions to guide the group dialogue and discussion.

## DISCERNMENT (25 MINUTES)



*If you split into smaller groups for the previous step, you may want to come back together for this session.*

As a group, discuss what you notice are the similarities and differences of the reflections of the group members.

Are there any ideas forming about what actions your community may be called to from this initial discussion?

## CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)



### Reflection

Take one or two minutes of silence to reflect on the gathering. What emotions or thoughts did I have throughout the meeting? What caused tension or distress? What gave me energy or inspiration? Was there anything I wanted to say that I didn't have the chance to say? What action am I called to before the next gathering?

### Closing Prayer

Use the following prayer, or use your own words:

*Loving God,  
We thank you for our time together today.  
We know that wherever to or more are gathered, you are in our midst.  
Thank you for being with us as we shared, listened, and dialogued with bold and open hearts.  
We ask you to continue to guide us as we discern the way forward,  
to be drawn into the joy of the gospel.  
Amen.*

## **OPTION 2: DISCUSSION AS PART OF ANOTHER MEETING**

Groups with regular meetings, such as a Parish Pastoral Council, School Board, or parish and school staff, etc., may want to incorporate discussion of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel* into their agenda.

### **STANDING ITEM IN THE AGENDA (OVER SIX MEETINGS)**



#### **Before the Meeting**

- Participants prepare for the meeting by reading the assigned section in the document and reflecting on the individual reflection questions.

#### **At the Meeting: (Allow 20-30 Minutes Discussion)**

- Leader gives a brief introductory overview of the section.
- Group members share their reflections on the reading.
- As a group, discuss what you notice are the similarities and differences of the reflections of the group members. Are there any ideas forming about what actions your community may be called to from this initial discussion?

#### **The 6th (Final Discussion) Meeting:**

- Leader gives a brief introductory overview of the section.
- Group members share their reflections on the reading.
- As a group, discuss:
  - *How might this vision guide the ongoing and planning and delivery of formation in our context?*
  - *What steps do we need to take to implement the vision in our context?*
  - *What support, resources, collaborations are required to make this happen?*
  - *What commitment are we making to formation in our context?*

# **VISIO DIVINA: REFLECTING WITH THE ARTWORK**

During any of the sessions, it may be desirable to spend time reflecting with the artwork from *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*. This can be done individually or in a group setting. To spend time reflecting with the artwork allows us to ‘see’ the text in a new and deeper way.

The artwork was commissioned specifically for *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*. Artist, Lisa Bierer, created several pieces after reading through the vision statement, these pieces are used in a variety of ways throughout the document.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**



### **Step 1**

Choose an image from the document to focus on.

### **Step 2**

Spend a few minutes in silent contemplation, gazing at the image.

- Ask God to open your heart and mind to see what God wants you to see.
- What do you see? What images, colours, shapes stand out to you?
- What feelings, thoughts, impressions come to your awareness?
- Where do you meet God in this artwork?

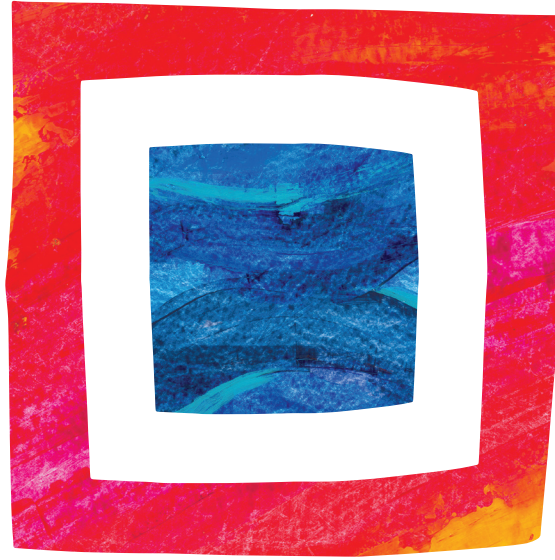
### **Step 3**

Share in your group what you see in the artwork. This sharing usually begins with a literal interpretation of the art and grows in meaning by contextualizing what you “see with the eyes of faith.” How does this artwork open up new meaning in the text for you? What new insights do you have?

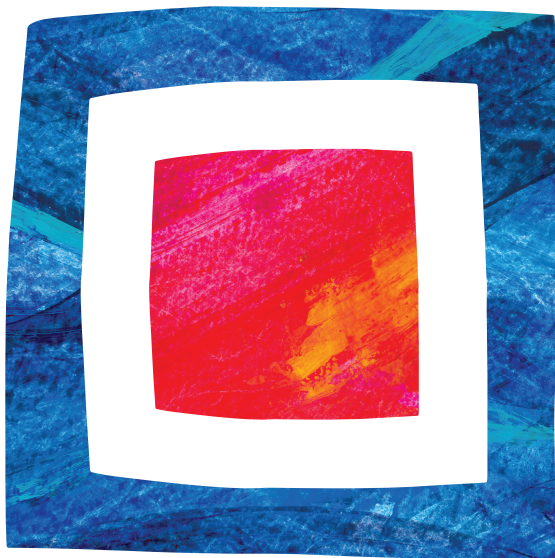
\*This process for *visio divina* is taken from *Illuminating Ministry: a journal* published by Saint John’s School of Theology and Ministry, Saint John’s University, Collegeville, MN. [www.seeingtheword.org](http://www.seeingtheword.org).







# Reflection & Discussion Sessions



# SESSION 1

## INTRODUCTION (Page 5 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION



**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

1. What is joy? How does joy differ from happiness or simply feeling good?
2. What does ‘the joy of the gospel’ mean for me?
3. Who have been the people in my life that have demonstrated the joy of the gospel, and have inspired my own faith journey?
4. What communities have created environments and opportunities for an encounter with Jesus Christ in my life? What are the qualities and characteristics of these communities that make encounter possible?
5. What are the key experiences of faith formation and encounter with Jesus Christ in my life?
  - a. Which of these have motivated me toward mission, acts of mercy, joy and love?
6. Do I identify as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
7. Faith formation fosters, ‘opportunities that draw Catholics into a closer encounter with Jesus Christ, and thus ensure that we are “permanently in a state of mission”. How do I understand the terms:
  - a. *Faith Formation*
  - b. *Encounter*
  - c. *Mission*
8. What does it mean to me to be a ‘minister of the joy of the gospel’?
9. In what ways do my actions, words and intension provide opportunities of encounter for those in my care?

**Read the Introduction** (Page 5 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

- What new insights or questions do you have after reading the section?

- What questions do you have for the group?

**DISCUSS IN A GROUP**



- Share one or two insights from your personal reflection with the other group members.

- Discuss what you notice are the similarities and differences of the experiences of the group members. Are there any ideas forming about what actions your community may be called to from this initial discussion?

# SESSION 2

## RENEWAL IN THE CHURCH

(Page 6 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

Many programs, books, and strategies have been written about 'renewal' in the Church. The most pivotal being the Second Vatican Council. Two foundational concepts of Vatican II, and of church renewal, are *ressourcement* and *aggiornamento*.

*Ressourcement* is a concept that means 'returning to the sources', or looking to the original meaning, practices, and intentions to bring about renewal and revitalization.

*Aggiornamento* refers to the ability of the Church to adapt itself to the present context and circumstances, or 'to bring up to date'.

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

- The church is 'first and foremost a people advancing on its pilgrim way towards God.' How might this image of church impact the way we engage our communities in the faith formation?
- What observations can you make about the way society and culture have changed over the past 60 years?
  - *How have these changes impacted the life of the church?*
  - *What challenges have come from this change?*
  - *Are there any positive developments and impacts in this time?*
- How has your parish, school or community changed over the past 50-60 years (demographically, economically, physically, etc.)?
  - *In what ways has your parish, school or community responded to these changes?*
  - *What efforts of renewal have been successful over the years? Why?*
  - *What has not been successful? Why?*

*Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel* refers to another key concept of Vatican II: “The church carries the responsibility of **reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel**...in a language intelligible to every generation...it should be able to answer the ever recurring questions which people ask about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come...” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 4).

- What are the current realities facing your community and the surrounding neighbourhood (social, political, economic, etc.)?
  - *How do these realities affect the members of your parish, school or community and the way it operates?*
- Consider the ways your community currently engages in faith formation or leadership formation. How do these formation opportunities reflect the current realities and prepare people to respond to the challenges?
- ‘The renewal of our common life must be fed by a deepening appreciation of both the scripture and the tradition of faith’? How do scripture and theology feature in formation efforts in your context? In what ways has this ‘deepening’ led to renewal within the community, however big or small?

The phrase, ‘together on the way’ is a way of talking about *synodality*. It refers to a way of being church through listening, dialogue discernment and making decisions together. Synodality is a continuation of the work of Vatican II.

- How is ‘shared discernment... walking and listening together’ already present in the life of your community?
- What would it look like if synodality had a greater emphasis in your community life?
- What role does formation have in developing synodality in your context?

**Read the Section** (Page 6 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

- What new insights or questions do you have after reading the section?

- What questions do you have for the group?

**DISCUSS IN A GROUP**



- Share one or two insights from your personal reflection with the other group members.

- Discuss what you notice are the similarities and differences of the experiences of the group members. Are there any ideas forming about what actions your community may be called to from this initial discussion?

# SESSION 3

## FORMATION IN PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES

(Page 7 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION



**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

*“Because the joy of the gospel is a joy to be shared,  
our parish and communities seek to be agents of joy.”*

Consider your parish, school or community. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = low; 5 = high) assess the parish, school or community on the following attributes:

| ATTRIBUTE                                                                                                      | Score (1 to 5) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| We are <b>joyful</b> .                                                                                         |                |
| <b>Diversity</b> is celebrated and valued here.                                                                |                |
| We are <b>outward-facing and mission-oriented</b> .                                                            |                |
| We are <b>in touch with the realities</b> of the surrounding neighbourhoods.                                   |                |
| Every pastoral activity here aims to be <b>inclusive and open</b> .                                            |                |
| We provide opportunities for <b>‘seekers’</b> to encounter the love of God.                                    |                |
| The <b>celebration of the Eucharist is central</b> to our community life.                                      |                |
| <b>Homilies</b> are meaningful for the people gathered in liturgies.                                           |                |
| <b>Celebration of the sacraments</b> are done well and contribute to formation.                                |                |
| Our various activities and groups draw people into a <b>deeper relationship with God and one another</b> .     |                |
| There is a positive relationship between the various <b>members, communities and school(s) in the parish</b> . |                |
| We provide a range of opportunities to <b>deepen biblical and theological literacy</b>                         |                |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b>                                                                                             |                |

Add up your score:

• **12-25** – We have work to do

• **25-48** – We’re getting there

• **49-72** – Leading the pack

Spend some time reflecting on the following questions:

- Does your score accurately reflect your perception of your community? Why or why not?
  
- How would you describe your parish/community/school to a potential visitor or outsider?
  
- What formation opportunities already exist in the parish/school/community for people in various life stages and situations of the people in your community?
  
- What are the strengths of your parish/community/school in formation? What are the gaps?
  
- How does the parish/community/school promote biblical and theological literacy for different ages and stages of life?
  
- If money and resources were not an obstacle, what would formation look like in your context?
  
- What resources, tools, and skills are needed to make this dream a reality?





# SESSION 4

## FORMATION FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

(Pages 8-14 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

In this reflection session you may choose to focus on a particular ministry context rather than review all of the areas. The questions for individual reflection are below. Then move to **Page 23 of Workbook 1** to find the group discussion questions.

### 4.1: EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

(Page 9 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

#### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

- What drew you to become an educator / school leader?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How has your role transformed your identity as leader of formation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do you participate in the work of forming students to be participants in society and people of faith in the following ways:
  - *Bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit?*
  - *Cultivate knowledge?*
  - *Foster relationships of dialogue?*
  - *Create spaces for encounter?*



## 4.2: LAY DIOCESAN LEADERS, CHAPLAINS AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATES (Page 12 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION



**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

- What led you to become a pastoral leader in your area of ministry?
- How has your role transformed your identity as leader of formation?
- What initial and ongoing formation opportunities are provided in your field of ministry which address the Spiritual, Human, Intellectual and Pastoral dimensions of formation for pastoral ministry?
- What opportunities and formation are provided to those who are seeking or called to leadership roles?
- What areas of formation for lay ministers and leaders are missing or need review?

**Read the Section** (Page 12 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

- What new insights or questions do you have after reading the section?

- What questions do you have for the group?

**GROUP DISCUSSION** (Page 23 of *Workbook 1*)



## 4.3: CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS WOMEN AND MEN

(Page 13 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

- What led you to your religious vocation?
- How has your role transformed your identity as leader of formation?
- What initial and ongoing formation opportunities are provided in your field of ministry which address the personal, apostolic, cultural and charism dimensions?
- How does your particular congregation or community contribute to the formation of others?
- What areas of formation for consecrated religious are missing or need review?

**Read the Section** (Page 13 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

- What new insights or questions do you have after reading the section?

- What questions do you have for the group?

**GROUP DISCUSSION** (Page 23 of *Workbook 1*)

## 4.4: DEACONS AND PRIESTS

(Page 14 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

**Before you read the text** spend some time reflecting on the following:

- What led you to your vocation?
- How has your role transformed your identity as leader of formation?
- How well did your formation prepare you for the realities of ordained ministry?

#### Deacons

- How did your initial formation prepare you for ministries of:
  - *Service?*
  - *Word?*
  - *Altar?*
- What opportunities exist, or would you like to see for ongoing diaconate formation?
- What other areas of diaconal ministry would you like to see included with formation?

#### Priests

- How did your initial formation prepare you for ministries of:
  - *Memory?*
  - *Communion?*
- What opportunities exist, or would you like to see for ongoing diaconate formation?
- What other areas of priestly ministry would you like to see included with formation?

**Read the Section** (Page 14 of *Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel*)

- What new insights or questions do you have after reading the section?

- What questions do you have for the group?

**GROUP DISCUSSION** (Page 23 of *Workbook 1*)



## **SESSION 4 - GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Share with the group:**

- your vocation story or the story of your faith journey
- a description of the initial formation that prepared you for ministry.
- ongoing formation or professional development you engage with that supports your ministry / work?

**Discuss what you notice are the similarities and differences of the experiences of the group members.**

- What are your observations about formation for different kinds of pastoral ministry and leadership? What could be transferred or adopted in other areas of ministry preparation?
- How are new people invited into pastoral ministry and leadership? How are the gifts of others recognized and enabled for the good of the community? What opportunities for formation and discernment are provided for those considering a vocation to ministry (lay or ordained)?
- Are there any ideas forming about what actions your community may be called to from this initial discussion?





## GROUP WORK



**Share** one or two insights from your personal reflection with the other group members.

### Discuss

- How might this vision guide the ongoing and planning and delivery of formation in our context?
- What steps do we need to take to implement Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel in our context?
- What support, resources, collaborations are required to make this happen?
- What commitment are we making to formation in our context?

# Next Step: Workbook 2 - Assessment of Formation

Workbook 2 contains tools and resources to assist with the assessment of current formation opportunities in the parish, school and community.





# Prayer for Communal Discernment and Action

Merciful and Loving God,  
author of our story, animator of our mission, and hope of our future,  
you have called us to be your family in this place,  
to discuss the things that matter to us,  
to discern the path ahead,  
and to share in the life and mission of your Son, Jesus.

We ask you to make us ready for the work at hand.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our hearts,  
that we may be filled with compassion, courage and love.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our minds,  
that we may receive your wisdom, dream new dreams,  
and be open to new ideas.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our eyes,  
that we may see you in one another, perceive the need of our  
neighbour, and envision new horizons.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our ears,  
that we may hear your voice, listen deeply to the other,  
and attend to the voice within.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our mouths,  
that we may speak on behalf of the voiceless, cry out for justice,  
and bear witness to your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our feet,  
that we may walk in the footsteps of Jesus, go to the peripheries,  
and accompany one another on the way.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our hands,  
that we may embrace our sisters and brothers, heal wounds,  
and build bridges of peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, prepare our community,  
that we may be your one body, eliminate borders of exclusion,  
and welcome all into your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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