



Title of Position: Mission Leader for Kildare Ministries
Responsible to: Co-Chairs of the Trustees of Kildare Ministries
Direct Report: Executive Director of Kildare Ministries
Hours of Work: FTE 1.0
Condition: Ongoing
Rate of Pay: TBA

Kildare Ministries

The spirit that animates and sustains Kildare Ministries comes from the rich story of Jesus and honours the inherited traditions of the founding congregations, the Brigidine Sisters Australia, and the Presentation Sisters of Victoria. Our mission is inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus and our schools and community works offer an education and services that are transformative, bringing empathy and love to the lives of one another and broader communities. Kildare Ministries is mindful of and supports preferential options for the marginalised and vulnerable. There is also an emphasis on our moral and civic responsibilities as members of a democratic society, responding to the changing needs of our world.

In 2014, the Trustees of Kildare Ministries as a Catholic Church authority for the schools and community works previously conducted by the Brigidine Sisters in Australia and the Presentation Sisters in Victoria, received authority to act as a Church body (Public Juridic Person). Significantly, this new structure has involved lay people at all levels of governance giving the opportunity for all members of the church to engage in, and influence, decisions and understandings of the mission of the church in ways that are faithful to the gospel.

The Trustees of Kildare Ministries have canonical and civil responsibilities of ten schools and three community works and has governance responsibilities with the incorporated Boards of these entities. The Kildare Ministries Mission and Ministry Team assists and supports the Trustees with the ongoing development and formation of Kildare Ministries. The team comprises members whose expertise allows them to be flexible and responsive to the vision and direction of Kildare Ministries.

Role Description

In support of the ten schools and the three community works, the Trustees of Kildare Ministries appoint a Mission Leader as a member of the Mission and Ministry Team that supports the work of Kildare Ministries. As a team member the Mission Leader will work with and support the endeavours of the Trustees as the primary governing body and other governance structures within the larger Kildare Ministries community.

The Mission Leader will bring a strong theological understanding and a relevant and creative interpretation of the Gospels to enliven the Vision, Mission and Values of Kildare Ministries. Through developing mission focused formation for adults and students, the work of the Mission Leader will address the changing and emerging needs and animate appropriate responses to social justice issues. The Mission Leader has a key role in helping the community

discern the Kildare Ministries position on key social justice issues by helping Kildare Ministries shape its position and voice in today's church.

As a member of the Mission and Ministry Team

Enlivening the Kildare Ministries emerging narrative as expressed in its *Vision, Mission and Values, Missional Governance Statement* and through the *Living Justice Living Peace Charter* takes research, discernment and reflection, dialogue and collaboration in an environment that allows for growth and flexibility. The Mission and Ministry team is charged with developing programmes, structures and processes that will ensure the longevity and sustainability of the traditional founding stories of the Brigidine and Presentation sisters, while creating a new narrative that will sustain Kildare Ministries in this new era of Church. While the tasks listed below are largely the responsibility of the Mission Leader, it is expected that teamwork and collaboration will underpin every activity.

Key Working Relationships

The Mission Leader works closely with the Executive Director of Kildare Ministries (who is also the Direct Report), as well as with the Trustees. There is a working relationship with the seven Boards, Stewardship Councils, Principals, senior staff and students of the Colleges and Managers and staff of Community Works within Kildare Ministries.

Characteristics, Skills and Qualifications

- deep commitment to the Catholic tradition and a commitment to enlivening the Kildare Ministries voice in the Church today
- successful leadership experience in Catholic ministry and preferably in education at secondary school level and/or tertiary level
- postgraduate qualifications (or in progress) in theology and/or qualifications in religious education (Master's Degree minimum)
- skilled in articulating a theological position that inspires and enriches the community
- understanding of charism and willingness to grow in understanding its development in Kildare Ministries
- ability to build and grow the Kildare Ministries community through strong relationships and networks
- willingness and a tolerance to explore multi-faith dimensions within the expression of Kildare Ministries Vision, Mission and Values
- commitment to and validated experience of the principles of adult faith formation/adult learning in the production of resources and the delivery of programs
- demonstrated ability to teach or instruct effectively and to relate well to secondary school students
- ability to think and plan strategically; to be highly organised and demonstrated skills in the use of Information and Communicating Technology
- demonstrated capacity to be self-motivated in addition to working collaboratively
- high level interpersonal and written and oral communication skills
- capacity to build a network of locally based staff with a shared leadership role in the formation of Trustees, Board members, school Principals and senior staff, students and as appropriate with other members of the Kildare Ministries community

Conditions

The terms and conditions of this position are in accordance with the *Education Officer with Specific Responsibilities* classification of the *Catholic Education Multi Enterprise Agreement 2022*. The Mission Leader is an ongoing fulltime position working across ten Colleges and three Community Works which currently constitute Kildare Ministries. As the ministries are located across four States the position involves some travel and night work. The Office of Kildare Ministries is located at 54 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park. Tools of the trade appropriate to the successful conduct of the role will be provided.

Responsibilities of the Mission Leader

Theological Leadership

- further developing the theological underpinnings that enlivens the Kildare Ministries narrative
- implementing and further developing the *Living Justice Living Peace Charter*
- continuing to develop the evolving narrative of Kildare Ministries through an annual exploration of the year's theme as well as other resources such as prayers and reflections and stimulus responses to appropriate current events
- promoting awareness of the importance of nationally consistent mission development opportunities for members of the ministries
- developing processes for the integration of the mission and values of Kildare Ministries across the ministries
- leading mission focussed activities, including sourcing guest speakers and presenters for formation programmes which might also include lending advice to the ministries.

Building Community

- facilitating opportunities for the Colleges and Community Works to share ideas, in order to build the Kildare Ministries narrative
- developing strong professional relationships with all members of Kildare Ministries
- strengthening current networks with the community
- maintaining relevant resources on the webpage and other social media platforms
- developing strong student networks through the social justice programme, such as First Nations Network and NetZero. Other networks might be developed in response to the strategic vision of the Trustees
- maintaining appropriate and effective relationships with the Brigidine and Presentation Sisters, consultants and presenters with expertise in mission formation, theology and spirituality, Directors of Mission/Formation for other PJP/religious institute education ministries

Stewarding the Mission

- encouraging and assisting Colleges and Community Works to develop and implement their plans to enliven the Vision, Mission and Values of Kildare Ministries for all staff and where appropriate with students.
- developing comprehensive, consistent and effective printed, electronic and other resources that support our formation programs
- participating in the review of the RE programmes in our schools and other faith and mission programs

- assisting the ministries in their practice of mission leadership
- providing encouragement and assistance to Colleges and Community Works to develop and implement plans that enable staff growth in the Vision, Mission and Values of Kildare Ministries
- preparing the Kildare Ministries Annual Report to the Vatican, in collaboration with the Executive Director

Organisation and planning

- oversight of the calendar of formation programs as well as agendas, enrolment and participation in the programs
- preparation and planning of the biennial pilgrimage to Ireland, preparation of Leaders' retreats and other major events as planned
- preparation of the annual resource and monthly prayers and reflections
- preparation and monitoring of the annual budget for mission development programs in light of identified priorities and needs
- submission of formation programs for accreditation from the VCEA