

LEGION OF MARY, MELBOURNE SENATUS

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(1226–2026)

“The Franciscan Legacy:

A Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and the Cosmos”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER - FR STEPHEN BLISS OFM is a member of the Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as the Franciscan Friars. He served as parish priest of the Ipswich Catholic Community before being appointed the Provincial Minister for the Franciscan Friars in Australia in late 2025.

TALK: Sat 14 Feb, *“Francis and Sultan Malik Al-Kamil, a paradigm of peace and harmony for the modern world”*



BRIDGET SAKR is the mother of 11-year-old Veronique, who died alongside her three cousins (the Abdallah children) when a car mounted the kerb in the suburb of Oatlands, Sydney in February 2020. In November 2020 Bridget created an online grief support network she called heartFELT (standing for Families Experiencing Loss and Trauma), which has now been extended into Sydney Catholic Schools. She has also joined the Legion of Mary in Homebush West.

TALK: Sat 14 Feb, *“Turning Tragedy into a Greater Good”*



ANNA KROHN is an educator and writer and currently the Executive Director of the Thomas More Centre. Her work has a particular focus upon the role of women of faith in the professional and faith community sector and upon adult faith formation in a range of different settings. Anna has studied in fine and liberal arts, information science and is a graduate in theology. TALK: Sun 15 Feb, *“The Significance of the Encounter between Francis and the Leper”*



FR THOMAS MCFADDEN OFM CAP is the Guardian of the Capuchin Friary in Hawthorn, Melbourne.

TALK: Sun 15 Feb, *“The ‘Regula Bullata’ and the Gift of ‘Minority’”*



FR ISAAC ZAKI is the Chaplain in the Parkville Hospital Precinct and to the Coptic Catholic Community in Melbourne. TALK: Sat 14 Feb, *“Francis of Assisi, the Man, the Founder, and the Saint”*



FR JUSTIN FORD is PP to four partnered churches and is the Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary. TALK: Sun 15 Feb, *“The Popes on St Francis”*



DATE: 14-15 FEBRUARY 2026



TIME: 9 AM - 5PM



VENUE: MAGNIFICAT HOUSE,
456 QUEENSBERRY ST, NORTH. MELB.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

The Franciscan Legacy: A Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and the Cosmos

Venue: Magnificat House
456 Queensberry St, North Melbourne

Saturday 14 February

- 9am** Registration
- 9:30** Opening Prayers of Tessera & Rosary
Welcome
- 10** Fr Issac Zaki: *Francis of Assisi, the Man, the Founder, and the Saint*
- 11** Keynote Address, Fr Stephen Bliss: *Francis and Sultan Malik Al-Kamil, a paradigm of peace and harmony*
- 12pm** Holy Mass
Private Adoration of the Lord upstairs
- 1:15** Catena Legionis followed by Lunch (BYO Lunch)
- 2:15** Bridget Sakr: *Turning Tragedy into a Greater Good*
- 3:30** Workshop: "Do Not Let the Legion Die of Prudence"
- 5:00** Concluding Prayers of Tessera
Dinner – All welcome to dinner
Private Adoration of the Lord all weekend

Sunday 15 February

- 9am** Registration
- 9:30** Opening Prayers of Tessera & Rosary
Welcome
- 10** Anna Krohn: *The Encounter between Francis and the Leper*
- 11** Fr Thomas McFadden OFM Cap: *The 'Regula Bullata' and the Gift of 'Minority'*
- 12pm** Holy Mass
Private Adoration of the Lord upstairs
- 1:15** Catena Legionis followed by Lunch (BYO Lunch)
- 2:15** Joe Ganci: *The Franciscan Legacy*
Fr Justin Ford: *The Popes on St Francis*
- 3:30** Benediction
- 3.45** Concluding Prayers of Tessera
The End

