



# *Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

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## SPIRITUAL LEADERS PROGRAM

2023: In-Person or Online  
One Year Part-time Program for the  
Formation of Spiritual Leaders

*To enliven the divine spark in people's hearts  
through contemplative formation*

## **Aim**

The Spiritual Leaders Program focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative and discerning approach to pastoral ministry.

## **For Whom is this Program Designed?**

This program is a one year, part-time program for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries.

It is designed for the following people:

- clergy, ministers and members of Religious Orders
- lay ecclesial ministers, pastoral associates
- school principals, teachers, school mission leaders, and others in education
- pastoral care practitioners, chaplains
- parish co-ordinators, special ministers, youth leaders and others in the parish leadership team
- nurses and others in health and aged care
- community and spiritual leaders.

## **Attendance Timetable**

The attendance timetable appears on the back of this brochure. Classes are held from February to November - during Victorian school terms - on Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm AEST.

Additional to this are:

- two compulsory Reflection Prayer Gatherings, and
- Individual supervision, arranged at a mutually-agreed time approximately once per month.

## **Pre-requisites**

Applicants should be involved in some form of ministry.

## **Content**

Using a contemplative, experiential approach to learning, the Program includes the following seminar work:

- the leadership exercised by Jesus
- Christian prayer and mysticism
- spiritual practices in world religions
- the nature and source of interior movements
- discernment of spirits
- contemplative decision-making.

The program also incorporates the following:

- individual supervision
- peer group supervision of ministry
- written and oral verbatims
- role plays
- supervised 1:1 ministry in small groups
- two reflection gatherings.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is based on the following in each of Semesters 1 & 2:

- Four written verbatim reports of 500 words each
- a 1000-word personal reflection focusing on: the theory and practice of a contemplative approach to spiritual leadership (Sem 1), and the theory and practice of discernment in spiritual leadership (Sem 2)
- a 1000-word personal and professional evaluation on spiritual leadership as experienced and critically reflected upon
- ongoing and final assessment by supervisors.

## Program Recognition

### 1) Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry

On successful completion of the Spiritual Leaders program, participants receive a Certificate of Completion from Heart of Life.

It should be noted that the Spiritual Leaders Program can also be credited for 36 points toward the Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology or the Bachelor of Ministry. Each of these courses of study may be undertaken at Yarra Theological Union (YTU), which is a college of the University of Divinity.

The Diploma in Theology requires completion of eight standard undergraduate units.

The Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Ministry requires completion of 24 standard undergraduate units.

More information on the above University of Divinity awards is available at: [www.divinity.edu.au/study/our-courses/](http://www.divinity.edu.au/study/our-courses/)

### 2) Catholic Education Commission of Victoria

Permission is being sought so that this program may be counted as professional learning hours towards:

- gaining or maintaining CECV accreditation to teach in a Catholic school in Victoria;
- gaining or maintaining CECV accreditation to teach religious education or lead in a Catholic School in Victoria.

## Fees

### [Spiritual Leaders Program](#)

*All fees are in Australian Dollars.*

The fee for students studying Spiritual Leaders in 2023 is \$3,578.

This fee is made up of \$2,828 for Tuition and \$750 for the Reflection Gatherings.

All fees are to be paid in full prior to the start of the course, or in scheduled payments as arranged with Heart of Life.

### [Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry](#)

For those wishing to study the Spiritual Leaders Program as part of the *Diploma in Theology*, the *Bachelor of Theology* or the *Bachelor of Ministry*, \$894 should be added to the Heart of Life fees of \$3,578, resulting in a total of \$4,472.

Applicants should contact the University of Divinity for information on the fees for the remaining units in the above awards.

Government FEE-HELP is available for tuition fees to qualifying Australian citizens. Please note however that FEE-HELP *does not* cover the Reflection Gatherings fee of \$750.

For more information on FEE-HELP, see [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

To apply, applicants must select 'FEE-HELP' as their payment method when completing their course enrolment forms. Proof of Australian citizenship must be provided. After processing, applicants will receive an email that enables them to apply for FEE-HELP through the online eCAF portal.

Fees will continue to be charged to FEE-HELP unless the student advises YTU of a change to upfront fee payment. Contact YTU for more information.

## Refund / Cancellation Policy

Heart of Life's Fee Refund Policy provides for the refund of student tuition fees or the recrediting of a FEE-HELP balance before Census Date, or after Census Date when special circumstances apply. See our Fee Refund Policy at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

## Application Process

Please complete the Spiritual Leaders application form at: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) and include a short spiritual autobiography (approximately 500 words), as well as

two written references from people who know you and your ministry well.

Applications for the 2023 Spiritual Leaders Program close on 1 December 2022.

On receipt of an application, arrangements will be made for a personal interview.

Please address applications to:

*Director  
Heart of Life  
Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC 3144  
Australia  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)*

## SPIRITUAL LEADERS TIMETABLE 2023 - In-person or Online

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Term 1</b>	<i>Thu 23/2/23 (incl Orientation) to Thu 6/4/23</i>
	<b>Term 2</b>	<i>Thu 4/5/23 to Thu 15/6/23</i>
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>	<i>Thu 20/7/23 to Thu 7/9/23</i>
	<b>Term 4</b>	<i>Thu 5/10/23 to Thu 16/11/23 (excluding 9/11/23)</i>

### **Reflection Prayer Gatherings** (compulsory)

*Sat 3/6/23, 10am-4pm  
Sat 28/10/23, 10am-4pm*

**End-of-Year Missioning of Graduates** *Monday 20 November 2023 (evening)*



### **Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation**

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