



2026

All Hallows' Staff Retreat

Welcome All with Love and Respect



Session 1 Keynote Address: Anh Nguyen Austen

On the morning of 20 June 1982, at a town named Vung Tau in southern Vietnam, 101 men, women and children set off on an overloaded fishing boat bound for the Philippines, joining countless others who fled their homeland after the communist takeover of 1975.

Anh Nguyen Austen was on that boat. She was six years old at the time. Most of the passengers on board the boat were devout Catholics. When the storm hit, putting the vessel in danger of succumbing to the sea's force, the passengers placed their hope in the belief of God's command over the journey.

In recent years, Anh Nguyen Austen has herself been a keen contributor to refugee research and engagement. She is a cultural historian with ACU's Research Centre for Refugees, Migration and Humanitarian Studies at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences.



10.00–10.30am

Morning Tea: Piazza



Session 2: Choice of one of the following workshops



2a. Understanding Culture Through Food (20)

Friends of the Romero Centre will come and share their stories while they teach you some cultural cuisine secrets. A cooking class like no other!



2b. UnOther: Disability Awareness Workshop (20)

Staff will learn to identify barriers that exist in society for people living with disability. They will experience the impact of living with disability and engage in other activities to help build empathy and understanding.



2c. The Holocaust and Antisemitism Today: Neal Quilinan (30)

Join Neal Quilinan in a presentation which seeks to aid in our understanding of the history and impact of antisemitism.



2d. If These Walls Could Talk: Angela O'Malley and Cathy Clem (20)

A cultural and social history of All Hallows' School as told through its built environment and the All Hallows' Heritage Centre.



2e. The Colour Nest: Meditation Through Art and Creative Works (20)

Art encounters offer a chance to slow down and rediscover the peacefulness of 'creative flow'.



2f. Interfaith Dialogue: (30)

We can only 'Welcome All with Love and Respect' if we take the time to understand the diversity that exists within our own community. Learn about the fundamentals of other world religions to deepen your appreciation of the rich tapestry that is the Australian community.



2g. Catholic Meditation with Fr Jack Ho (20)

Learn how to read scripture and understand its implications to our lives through contemplative reading and prayer.



2h. Palm Crosses Made with Love (13)

Learn a new skill as you create a palm cross out of timber under the direction of our very own Kerry McGregor. These crosses will be donated to the residents of Villa Maria.



2i. Love and Respect for the Earth (18)

Run by the Faber Institute, this session will include silent, contemplative walks in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, prayer, time to journal and have a conversation in the Spirit.



2j. Welcoming All Through Catholic Social Teachings (30)

The team from Catholic Mission will explore the connection between Catholic Social Teaching and our 2026 theme, "Welcome All with Love and Respect."

11.45am–12.45pm

Lunch: Piazza



Session 3: Choice of one of the following workshops



3a. First Nations Spirituality: (30)

Join Marlon Riley from Ngutana-Lui as he explains some of the fundamental elements of First Nations spirituality, connection to land and expressions of that spirituality.



3b. UnOther: Disability Awareness Workshop (20)

Staff will learn to identify barriers that exist in society for people living with disability. They will experience the impact of living with disability and engage in other activities to help build empathy and understanding.



3c. Creating Moving Liturgies: Liturgy Brisbane (20)

Past pupil, Clare Schwantes and Michael Mangan will guide us in understanding the principles and practice of meaningful liturgical celebration, including the elements of liturgy, accessing appropriate resources, and creating celebrations that are engaging, prayerful and authentic for teenagers and young adults.



3d. If These Walls Could Talk: Angela O'Malley and Cathy Clem (20)

A cultural and social history of All Hallows' School as told through its built environment and the All Hallows' Heritage Centre.



3e. The Colour Nest: Meditation Through Art and Creative Works (20)

Art encounters offer a chance to slow down and rediscover the peacefulness of 'creative flow'.



3f. Interfaith Dialogue: (30)

We can only 'Welcome All with Love and Respect' if we take the time to understand the diversity that exists within our own community. Learn about the fundamentals of other world religions to deepen your appreciation of the rich tapestry that is the Australian community.



3g. Catholic Meditation with Fr Jack Ho (20)

Learn how to read scripture and understand its implications to our lives through contemplative reading and prayer.



3h. Palm Crosses Made with Love (13)

Learn a new skill as you create a palm cross out of timber under the direction of our very own Kerry McGregor. These crosses will be donated to the residents of Villa Maria.



3i. Mercy Cooking (20)

A practical session where your hard work will result in some delicious treats which will be donated to local ministries working with those experiencing homelessness.



3j. Love and Respect for the Earth (18)

Run by the Faber Institute, this session will include silent, contemplative walks in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, prayer, time to journal and have a conversation in the Spirit.

2.15 – 3.00pm

Closing Liturgy: Loretto Hall

