



# Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century with John Roberto

## 23-28 AUGUST

### **ENGAGING ALL AGES AND GENERATIONS: 23-25 AUGUST**

#### **Learning Intensive with John Roberto**

#### **Focus**

The Intensive explores the vision and practices for 21st century faith formation that can guide a congregation in developing faith formation for all generations, taking into account the diversity of people's life situations, needs and spiritual yearnings.

#### **Tuesday 23rd August**

2.00pm Welcome, introductions, opening prayer

#### **2.20pm John Roberto - "A New Ecosystem for 21st Century Faith Formation" (Part 1)**

Why do we need a approach to faith formation in the 21st century and what might this new approach look like? A faith forming ecosystem has five elements - intergenerational faith formation, family faith formation, age group faith formation across the life cycle, missional faith formation to the unaffiliated and uninvolved, and digitally-enabled and digitally-connected faith formation.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

#### **4.00pm John Roberto - "A New Ecosystem for 21st Century Faith Formation" (Part 2)**

5.30pm Break

6.00pm Dinner

#### **7.15pm John Roberto - "Becoming an Intentionally Intergenerational Community"**

Intergenerational faith formation and whole community faith experiences are at the center of the new faith forming ecosystem. People learn by participating in the life of a community. Practices of faith are taught through the interrelationships of worship, learning, service, ritual, prayer, and more. A faith forming education that is centered in the life of the Christian community is intrinsically an intergenerational experience. This session explores the theory, research, and principles of intergenerational faith formation; and examples for becoming intentionally intergenerational in a congregation.

9.00pm Supper

## Wednesday 24th August

9.30am Opening prayer

### 9.40am **John Roberto - "Families at the Center of Faith Formation"**

The family is the single most important influence on religious transmission and faith practice, as show in research studies, the Christian tradition, and pastoral experience. The faith of parents and grandparents, their role modeling, their teaching, their warm and affirming parenting style are key factors in religious transmission and developing faithful children, youth, and young adults. In the new faith-forming ecosystem, congregations seek to equip families as centres of faith formation developed around three essential elements. Congregations equip families to become centres of learning and faith growth at home by 1) nurturing family faith at home, especially through faith practices; 2) strengthening family life by developing family assets; 3) developing the faith life of parents and grandparents; and 4) developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents (and grandparents) for parenting.

11.00am Morning Tea

### 11.30am **John Roberto - "Families at the Center of Faith Formation (Part 2)"**

12.30pm Break

### 2.00pm **John Roberto - "Faith Formation across the Life Span (Part 1)"**

Sessions 6 and 7 explore how to develop lifelong faith formation that addresses the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of age groups from childhood through adulthood. The two sessions present effective practices and approaches for faith formation at each stage of life, and specific ways to utilize 21st century methods for designing and delivering faith formation, including how to utilize multiple settings—self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community and world; and in online learning environments.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

### 4.00pm **John Roberto - "Faith Formation across the Life Span (Part 2)"**

5.00pm Break

## Thursday 25th August

9.30am Opening prayer

### 9.40am **John Roberto - "Missional Faith Formation"**

Session 8 explores missional faith formation by understanding the research and experience of people who are unaffiliated or spiritual but not religious or "done" with established churches. It presents missional faith formation approaches that expand and extend the church's presence through outreach, connection, and relationship building; and that provides pathways for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.

11.00am Morning Tea

### 11.30am **John Roberto - "Developing an Integrated Plan for Faith Formation"**

12.30pm Break

### 2.00pm **John Roberto - "Leading Faith Formation in the 21st Century (Part 1)"**

Sessions 10 and 11 presents an understanding of 21st century leadership that is relational, networked, contextual, decentralized, collaborative, and focused on emergence—discovering how God's presence and action among us emerge and often change over time. It explores two essential skills for leading faith formation in the 21st century: how to design and implement innovation, and how to curating resources for lifelong faith formation.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

### 4.00pm **John Roberto - "Leading Faith Formation in the 21st Century (Part 2)"**

5.00pm Close

Please note that the program is subject to change and will be updated prior to the events.

These events are co-sponsored by the Uniting Church Assembly and the NSW-ACT Synod.

For more program information contact Craig Mitchell [craigm@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:craigm@nat.uca.org.au)

For registration information visit [reimaginingfaith2016.com](http://reimaginingfaith2016.com)

# FORMATION & MISSION IN A DIGITAL WORLD: 26-28 AUGUST

## A National Conference

### Focus: Ministry and mission in a digital world

- The impact of digital technology in a social world
- Blended faith formation in a digital world
- Curating learning experiences
- Resources and tools for faith formation

### Friday 26th August

2.00pm Welcome, gathering, introductions, prayer.

2.20pm **Keynote session – Greg Whitby**, CEO, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

**“The Transformation of Education and some implications for Churches”**

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

4.00pm **Electives** (see below)

5.30pm Break

6.00pm Dinner

7.00pm **Keynote session – John Roberto**

**“Unlocking the Potential of the Digital World for Evangelism and Faith Formation”**

We will explore the emergence of a connected world and the abundance of digital media and technologies and the enormous opportunity it presents for schools, churches, and religious organizations to reimagine learning, ministry, and faith formation. We now have the unprecedented ability to reach and engage everyone, anytime, anyplace, 24x7!

8.20pm Break

8.30pm **Panel conversation - “Challenges and opportunities for the church in the digital world”**

9.15pm Supper

### Saturday 27th August

9.15 am Gathering and prayer

9.30 am **Keynote session – John Roberto**

**“Designing Evangelism and Faith Formation in a Digital World”**

We will explore how to utilize digital platforms, media, and tools to offer a variety of content and experiences that address the life issues and situations, needs and interests, and spiritual-religious identities of all ages and generations. We now have the ability to personalize and customize evangelism and faith formation around the lives of people today.

10.45 am Morning Tea

11.15 am **Keynote session – John Roberto**

**“Using Digital-Enabled and Digitally-Connected Approaches in Evangelism and Faith Formation”**

We will explore five different ways to utilize digital media and approaches to connect gathered settings and online settings by extending gathered experiences at church into people’s homes and daily life through a variety of digital media, by blending online and gathered faith formation in one integrated approach, and by delivering faith formation in online settings and communities. We now have the ability to offer people multiple ways to learn and grow in faith and to engage with them in their daily lives.

12.30 pm Lunch

1.30 -3.00pm **Electives** (see below)

3.00pm Afternoon Tea

3.30 pm **Multimedia Expo** (see below)

5.30 pm Break

6.00 pm Dinner

7.15pm **Digital Storytelling** – Mary Hess (online): possibilities for faith formation through narrative

8.00pm **Communities of Practice** (see below)

10.00 pm **Short Film Festival** and supper

## Sunday 28th August

Morning - **Visit Sydney churches** with digital/multimedia dimension. Options provided.

Lunch not provided

1.00 pm **Keynote session – John Roberto - “Leading in the Digital World”**

We will explore some key skills that leaders need for evangelism and faith formation in a digital world, including the skills for being an adaptive and innovative leader, and for curating resources—people, print, audio, video, online, and more—to provide people with engaging content and experiences that address their lives.

2.30 pm Afternoon Tea

3.00 pm **Q&A session**

3.45 pm Closing thanks and prayers

4.00 pm Finish

## ELECTIVES – Friday 26th August, 4.00-5.30pm

- Engaging young people with multimedia – leader to be confirmed
- Discipleship, social activism and social media - Adrian Greenwood
- Online learning to grow disciples and leaders – Mel Perkins
- Raising Digital Children – Dr Bex Lewis, UK (online session) hosted by Craig Mitchell
- Sharing your Story with Social Media - Assembly Communications Unit
- Reimagining Sunday worship – Simon Lee
- Spiritual Disciplines in a 24/7 World – Dr Lynne Baab, NZ (online session)
- Media advertising and spirituality – Duncan MacLeod
- Engaging tertiary students online – Jay Robinson

## ELECTIVES – Saturday 27th August, 1.30-3.00pm

- Developing engaging websites – Adrian Drayton
- Using multimedia in intergenerational worship & learning – Craig Mitchell
- Facebook, Twitter & Instagram - Emma Parr & Bradon French
- Starting a Blog with Wordpress – leader to be confirmed
- Steps to better Digital Photography – Simon Lee
- Engaging young people with the Bible in a digital world – leader to be confirmed
- School chaplaincy in a Wired World – leader to be confirmed
- Reimagining school religious education for the 21st century – leader to be confirmed
- Curating online learning with Weebly – John Roberto

## MULTIMEDIA EXPO - Saturday 27th August, 3.30-5.30pm

A marketplace of ideas, skills and resources to explore. 30 minute presentations (3.30-5.00pm)

- Design and branding for churches – Selwood Media
- Vinteract: Mobile App for churches – Simon Berry, Verto Group
- Mobile Apps for personal spiritual growth – Craig Mitchell
- Simple, effective graphics using Canva – Assembly Communication Unit
- Video for beginners – leader to be confirmed
- Other sessions to be announced

Plus a range of Resource Displays (3.30-5.30pm)

## COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE - Saturday 27th August, 8.00-9.30pm

Communities of practice are peer interest groups who gather to share learnings, questions, ideas and resources

- Creative worship using multimedia - Facilitator: Craig Mitchell
- Promotion and marketing - Facilitator: Adrian Drayton
- Online Learning – Facilitators: Mel Perkins, Duncan MacLeod. Presenter: Steve Watt on *“How universities are responding to the challenge of the digital generation and how this is relevant for the church”*
- Social transformation through digital communication - Facilitator: Adrian Greenwood
- Multimedia production - facilitator to be confirmed
- Intergenerational Faith formation – Facilitators: Emma Parr, Bradon French

Other Communities of Practice can be formed by participants at the event.