

# AMICI

## Friends of St Augustine // May 2023

### ***My last leader's message!***

***It has been a privilege to be the National Leader of Friends for the last six years. I'm happy to be handing over to the new leader or leaders, yet to be determined.***

***You will have received with this edition a ballot to elect a new leader. It is always easy when these ballots arrive to think "someone else will do that, I don't need to", however I do ask that you consider our worthy candidates and make your contribution to the future of our group. All three candidates have a long association with Friends and will be known to many of you. The handover of leadership will occur at our national congress in July.***

***I am excited that Friends of St Augustine is hosting this National Lay Congress. It has been many years since we have held a truly national congress and whilst acknowledging the issues around travelling for some members, the regional leaders decided the benefits and joy of all coming together as one made a single location worthwhile. We hope those who may find travel an impediment will take advantage of the option to participate via Zoom. It is our intention to integrate the in person and Zoom experience as much as we can.***

***I am confident our two guest speakers, Fr Joe Farrell OSA and Patricia Gemmell, will offer an engaging insight into the ways we can, as laity and clergy walking together, be a part of our dynamic and universal Church.***

***I extend a personal invitation to every reader to attend.***

***Although my last message, it seems of more significance that it is Fr Paul's last Prayer Resource. Along with the handover of National Leader in July there will also be a change of Chaplain from Fr Paul to Fr Dave Austin.***

***Fr Paul has been our Chaplain from the beginning, a period of over 20 years. Fr Paul has been a mentor, support and friend to me for all my time with Friends and I owe him immeasurable gratitude. Many members past and present have benefitted from his Prayer Resource and his dedication to sharing the spirituality of St Augustine in a "user-friendly" way. Thank you, Fr Paul!***

***Thank you to all members and the regional leaders I have worked with over the past six years. St Augustine was sustained by his friends, and I too have found joy and support from the friendships I have made during my term.***

***With Love  
Jacky***





# *You're Invited to*

*A unique opportunity to listen, explore and share the joy of walking together in "one heart & one mind".*

## **National Lay Congress**

**- Walking Together -**

**7-9 July 2023 - Brisbane**

*We are thrilled to invite you to participate in this unique and transformative event. The Congress will take place over the weekend and will feature two outstanding speakers, roundtable discussions and interactive sessions. The focus is on how we, as a Church, can embrace Pope Francis' call for solidarity, fraternity, and welcome.*

*As lay Catholics, we have a vital role to play in the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel and building up the Kingdom of God. Synodality, the practice of listening to one another and discerning together, is an essential part of this mission. Through synodality, we can better understand the needs of our communities, discern God's will for our Church, and work towards greater unity and cooperation.*

*The Congress will explore the concept of synodality from a variety of perspectives both spiritual and practical.*

*No matter how involved you are in the Church, this is a chance to think more deeply about being part of the Body of Christ and what it means to be a member of the Church of the third millennium.*

*Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with other lay Catholics, and learn how to put synodality into practice in your own community.*

### **Our keynote speakers**



**Fr Joseph Farrell OSA**

*Fr Joe is an American Augustinian and member of the General Council of the Order.*

*Fr Joe will explore the meaning of Synodality, how it intertwines with Augustinian Spirituality and how our common baptism calls us to Mission and to "walk the Synodal way", lay and clergy together, as brothers & sisters.*



**Patricia Gemmell**

*Patricia's work as a facilitator on the Plenary Council led her to develop an ongoing interest in synodality. She belongs to the Grail, an international community of women with a vision for transforming the world and is part of the team responsible for the Australian Women Preach podcast each week, and the recently produced book, "in her voice".*



**Bookings can be made on Trybooking via the QR code or <https://www.trybooking.com/CGTNB>**

**\$175 per person (lunches & evening meals included)**

**\$60 per person for Zoom (link will be emailed 7 days prior)**

Venue: Villanova College 24 Sixth Avenue Coorparoo, Brisbane

For more information or accommodation info email: [laycongress2023@gmail.com](mailto:laycongress2023@gmail.com)

# CONGRESS PROGRAM

## FRI 7TH

### VENUE: ST JAMES PARISH HALL

4.30PM REGISTRATION OPENS  
TO OVERVIEW OF THE CONGRESS AND CATCH UP OVER  
7:00PM CANAPES & DRINKS CONCLUDES WITH EVENING PRAYER

## SAT 8TH

### VENUE: VILLANOVA COLLEGE

8:30AM REGISTRATION  
9:00AM OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME  
9:30AM **FR JOSEPH FARRELL OSA -  
*AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY AND THE SYNOD: THE  
MISSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.*** FOLLOWED BY Q&A  
11:00AM MORNING TEA  
11:30AM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & SHARING OF IDEAS  
12:45PM RESPONSE FROM FR JOE  
1:00PM LUNCH  
2:00PM **PATRICIA GEMMELL - *SYNODALITY: LEARNING AS WE GO-  
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF BECOMING A SYNODAL  
CHURCH IN A PARISH CONTEXT*** - FOLLOWED BY Q&A  
3:15PM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & SHARING OF IDEAS  
4:00PM AFTERNOON TEA  
4:30PM RESPONSE FROM PATRICIA GEMMELL  
5:00PM REVIEW OF THE DAY  
5:30PM DAY SESSION CONCLUDES  
7:00PM **CONGRESS DINNER-** VENUE: ST JAMES PARISH HALL  
(A SHORT WALK FROM VILLANOVA COLLEGE)

## SUN 9TH

### VENUE: VILLANOVA COLLEGE

9:00AM MASS  
10:00AM MORNING TEA  
10:30AM PANEL DISCUSSION - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED AS WE HAVE  
WALKED TOGETHER AT THIS CONGRESS  
11:15AM TIME FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION & SHARING - WHERE TO  
FROM HERE?  
12:00PM CONCLUDING COMMENTS - FR JOE  
12:15PM COMMISSIONING CEREMONY  
FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE  
1:00PM LUNCH & FAREWELL



## ON-LINE RESOURCES

*Below are resources that may be of interest.*

*If you are viewing this newsletter online clicking on the links will take you directly to the resource. For those reading the printed newsletter if you type in the subject heading into an internet browser you should be able to access the material.*



### Rule of St Augustine

Source: Midwest Augustinians

<https://www.midwestaugustinians.org/roots-of-augustinian-spirituality>

### Course on Augustinian Spirituality for the Laity

Talks from this 10 part online course are now available on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGHksvA_5YZaoBR3GJGsh_BLbNMHGoPat)

[list=PLGHksvA\\_5YZaoBR3GJGsh\\_BLbNMHGoPat](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGHksvA_5YZaoBR3GJGsh_BLbNMHGoPat)

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# National Lay Congress - Walking Together - 7-9 July 2023 - Brisbane

**Pope Francis has called on us to  
"walk the Synodal way"**

**to be a Church of solidarity, fraternity & welcome**

**Join us to explore what it means to be a member  
of the Church of the third millennium**

**Book now to be part of the  
National Lay Congress!**



**Use the QR code or see inside for more details**

**If you have any queries please contact your local  
leader or email [laycongress2023@gmail.com](mailto:laycongress2023@gmail.com)**

**Friends of St Augustine acknowledge the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.**

### National Leader

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**Interested in learning more  
about Friends of  
St Augustine?**

**Please contact your local  
group**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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