

### Conditions

- A minimum of 10 students from each school. There is no maximum number of students. For every 15 students Catholic Mission will subsidise 1 teacher.
- Students must be at least 16 years old on the day of departure and in years 10 to 12.
- No mobile phones (the group leader will carry a mobile phone for emergency use).
- No cameras (a single camera will be carried by the group leader or a nominated participant to ensure that all photos taken are culturally appropriate and sensitive).
- Strictly no alcohol, drugs, or smoking.
- Accompanying teachers maintain responsibility, duty of care and legitimate authority for their students.
- Catholic Mission maintains overall responsibility for the immersion.
- Participants must agree to abide by Catholic Mission's COVID-19 policy.



### Paying our way

Catholic Mission is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to never burden any community that we visit. Providing mutually beneficial outcomes underpins all the work we do.

This includes the employment of local people to provide services such as preparation and maintenance of camp sites, catering, acting as on country teachers and guides, as well as to Elders who share their time, wisdom, and culture with groups. All of these fair payments support local families.

*Immersion provides an opportunity for participants to develop a greater appreciation and respect for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peers, now and into the future.*



*Immersion Experience*

### For more information please contact:

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## CATHOLIC MISSION'S INDIGENOUS IMMERSION PROGRAM:

# Annual Combined Schools Immersion





## Where

Yolŋu country, North East Arnhem Land



## Cost

\$4,690 per person (ex nearest capital city)



## Dates

7–14 April 2022



## Inclusions

- 📍 Flights, accommodation, meals and local transport in North East Arnhem Land.
- 📍 Insurance and Risk Management services.
- 📍 Local guides, Elders and caretakers and a Catholic Mission trained Facilitator.
- 📍 All permits and entry fees.
- 📍 Donations and just remuneration for Indigenous partners.



## About the Immersion

The Catholic Mission Immersion is an annual event comprised of student groups in years 10 to 12 from various Catholic Schools around Australia, in partnership with the Yolŋu people of North East Arnhem Land.

The 8-day immersion allows students and their teachers to meet the Yolŋu People and experience their language, culture, and traditions on their stunning country in North East Arnhem Land. Learn firsthand the hidden treasures of their “bush university”.

This deep encounter with the Yolŋu People and their ancient culture dating back more than 50,000 years inspires respect and creates a sound foundation for a whole new level of engagement with Australian First Nations peoples. Participants are challenged to consider their role in promoting reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and on return how to build an Australian society built on the Gospel imperative of bringing about fullness of life for all, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Activities on country are led by Yolŋu elders and include a ‘Welcome to Country’, listening to dreaming stories, learning greetings and phrases in Yolŋu language, gathering bush tucker and plants for bush medicine, learning about sustainable land management, dyeing, and weaving pandanus baskets, traditional painting, spear making & throwing, fishing, fire making and learning how the Yidaki (didgeridoo) is made and played.

Accommodation is camping in tents and may include sleeping under the stars, weather permitting.

The immersion will run on Yolŋu time, so participants are encouraged to open their minds and hearts, move out of their comfort zones and be led by the Spirit.

## This is a 3-Phase Program

**PHASE 1:** A 6-hour preparation workshop held 4-6 weeks prior to departure. The workshop is facilitated by Catholic Mission and prepares participants for what to expect, logistics, and how to sensitively and respectfully approach the experience to receive the most while on immersion.

**PHASE 2:** The 8-day on country immersion.

**PHASE 3:** A 3-hour review workshop facilitated by Catholic Mission in which participants debrief, discuss what they have learnt and review the experience. Participants reflect on what they are personally called to do with this new-found knowledge in living out their mission of cultivating a more just and compassionate society. They are particularly challenged to consider how they can promote reconciliation with their Indigenous sisters and brothers.

## Fundraising

Many schools consider the option of fundraising to subsidise the selected students and teachers who will represent the school. Catholic Mission can offer suggestions and strategies to facilitate fundraising.

