Australian Catholic University

An Australian Catholic University (ACU) education is grounded in the Catholic understanding of faith and reason working together in the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of human dignity, and advancement of the common good.

We aim to transform lives and communities. Students are challenged to look beyond the classroom, solve real-world problems, develop their own search for meaning and cultivate strong professional ethics. They are invited to stand up for people in need and causes that matter.

Our research and enterprise activities develop innovative solutions to issues impacting human dignity and the common good. Through ethically informed research we deliver positive change across ACU, industry, community and government.

We foster academic collaboration and engage with local and international partners to enable the exchange of knowledge and skills, and develop dynamic educational and research initiatives. We build healthy social partnerships, assisting communities in actively shaping initiatives that directly impact them.

ACU is a university for everyone. Like all Catholic institutions, the university is inclusive and supportive of everyone, every day – regardless of their faith, tradition or circumstance.

The university has seven campuses around Australia, a campus in Rome, Italy, and an online campus - ACU Online.

ACU FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY INTERFAITH BREAKFAST
Great Hall, Parliament House
Canberra

CRICOS registered provider: 00004G | PRV12008

ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

ACU Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast

25 November 2025

ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Message from the Vice-Chancellor and President



It is my honour to welcome you to Australian Catholic University's 2025 Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast.

Over a decade ago, when this event was launched, we envisioned it as a space where leaders from across the religious and political spectrum could come together to celebrate the diversity that is such a distinctive feature of our nation.

Since then, ACU's Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast has become a cornerstone of our commitment to open dialogue – a platform where conversations take place concerning our democracy and the role that faith plays in our communities.

Representing Australia's rich cultural fabric, leaders from many religious traditions have joined with parliamentarians from across both chambers, embracing the opportunity to highlight values that are common to us all. This act of unity and acceptance has fostered a culture of tolerance and harmony. It has stood as a testament to the foundation of trust, dignity, and love that underpins our democracy, reaffirming our embrace of the multitude of cultures and faiths that define Australian life.

As a Catholic and publicly funded university, ACU is one of the few Australian tertiary institutions that embraces faith as a core element of its identity. This means we are uniquely placed to bring together parliamentarians, faith leaders and community members in a spirit of openness and respect.

In recent years, this event has been co-sponsored with the Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and it has been our pleasure to collaborate with him. We look forward to continuing this important partnership.

ACU's 2025 Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast offers a chance to forge connections, deepen understanding, and promote healing. It fosters an appreciation of the sacred in life, serving to demonstrate our university's mission in action: a commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, human dignity, and the common good.

Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Vice-Chancellor and President, Australian Catholic University

Message from the Speaker of the House of Representatives



On behalf of my parliamentary colleagues, I would like to welcome everyone to the 9th annual Australian Catholic University (ACU) Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast.

As Speaker of the House of the Representatives it gives me great pleasure to again co-sponsor this event with ACU. I am pleased that the event is continuing in the 48th Parliament. It is wonderful to welcome you into the people's house – the Parliament of Australia.

I am a strong supporter of the interfaith mission, particularly in these times where the nation can feel divided. It has never been more important that we come together to support one another and show unity.

Meaningful interfaith dialogue strengthens social cohesion, providing opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to find commonality and connect, breaking down prejudices, build trust and promote mutual respect.

As faith leaders, I know this is an ethos you live in your daily lives as you connect with members of your own communities and others in need through your charitable works. Our country remains strong as long as our faith communities continue working side-by-side.

As a Member of Parliament, I am here to learn from you – to understand the challenges you face and hear about your experiences and hopes for the future. I urge you to take this opportunity to meet with all the Parliamentarians in the room today.

We have come together in the spirit of open dialogue with a shared purpose and to find ways to continue engaging with our community, to strengthen our democracy and society.

The Hon Milton Dick MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of Australia

Order of proceedings



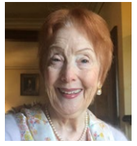
Master of Ceremonies
Ms Kelly Humphrey
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)
Australian Catholic University



Speaker's Welcome
The Hon Milton Dick MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of Australia



Vice-Chancellor's Address
Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Vice-Chancellor and President
Australian Catholic University



Prayer before the Meal
Sr Giovanni Farquer RSJ
Director of the Archdiocese of Sydney's Commission for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations



Keynote Address
Ms Geraldine Doogue AO
Award-Winning Journalist & Broadcaster,
Honorary Doctor of the University,
Australian Catholic University



Closing Remarks
The Hon Martin Daubney AM KC
Chancellor
Australian Catholic University

Please scan the QR code to view the speakers bios

acu.edu.au/interfaith