

Guide for Leaders

In the spirit of *embracing God's mission in partnership*, formation is central to ongoing Good Samaritan life and mission. As increasing numbers seek to enter into a relationship with Good Samaritans, the necessity for targeted, intentional, ongoing and reflective formation opportunities becomes critical. In order to fulfil their roles imbued with the Good Samaritan Benedictine spirit, all partners in ministry require a strategically developed formation program.

This series of modules has been developed with the aim of engaging participants in the story, traditions and spirituality of the Good Samaritan Benedictine charism. Respectful of individual needs, participants have the opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of Good Samaritan life, and to reflect upon how it aligns with their vocational and professional context. The modules seek to offer a holistic, quality, multimodal, cohesive formation experience which responds to the differing realities of those who choose to enter into partnership with Good Samaritans.

The *Good Samaritan Formation Modules* offer an opportunity to explore and reimagine contemporary and complementary pathways to engagement with formation through a range of digital platforms. It is envisaged participants will be able to experience the modules in ways and means that are compatible with the competing demands of work and family life.

The Good Samaritan Formation Modules are:

- a series of stand-alone topics aimed at enhancing an understanding of the Good Samaritan Benedictine tradition;
- pitched at an introductory level and offer suggestions for reflection and deeper engagement with the tradition;
- organised sequentially so that participants become familiar with the pattern of reading, watching, listening, reflecting, praying and going deeper;
- firmly situated within the context of the:
 - Rule of St Benedict
 - Parable of the Good Samaritan
 - Constitutions of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan; and
 - Statement of Directions

Delivery

Formation can be likened to entering a story, and as such, is invitational and relational. Participants are invited into the Good Samaritan Benedictine story and travel the path with others in coming to know that story and spirituality.

It is suggested small groups work together with a mentor through the formation modules. Leaders may like to consider the following simple approach which can be used and adapted for both in-person gatherings and for digital conferencing platforms such as Zoom or Teams.

Step 1

Welcome and Introductions

Step 2

Work through the read, watch and listen components of the modules

- this can be done during the session
- you may like to ask participants to read, watch and listen before the session so that you can focus on discussion and reflection
- you may like to break the group into twos or threes and assign them either a read, watch or listen component to summarise and report-back to the whole group

Step 3

Play the reflective music and ask participants to respond personally to the reflection questions through journaling, prayer, poetry or art

Step 4

Invite participants to share their reflections

Step 5

Thank the group for participating and confirm arrangements for the next meeting