



Detail from *Deposition* by Safet Zec, in the Church of the Gesù in Rome.

This detail focuses on Pedro Arrupe SJ, one of the three figures in that painting: Joseph Pignatelli SJ (1737-1811), Jan Roothan SJ (1785-1853) and Pedro Arrupe SJ (1907-1991).



The implementation of these five priorities will be overseen by the Provincial and his Delegates through the Ministries Commission. The Provincial and his Consultors will meet with the Ministries Commission on a regular basis to review and discern the implementation of this Apostolic Plan.

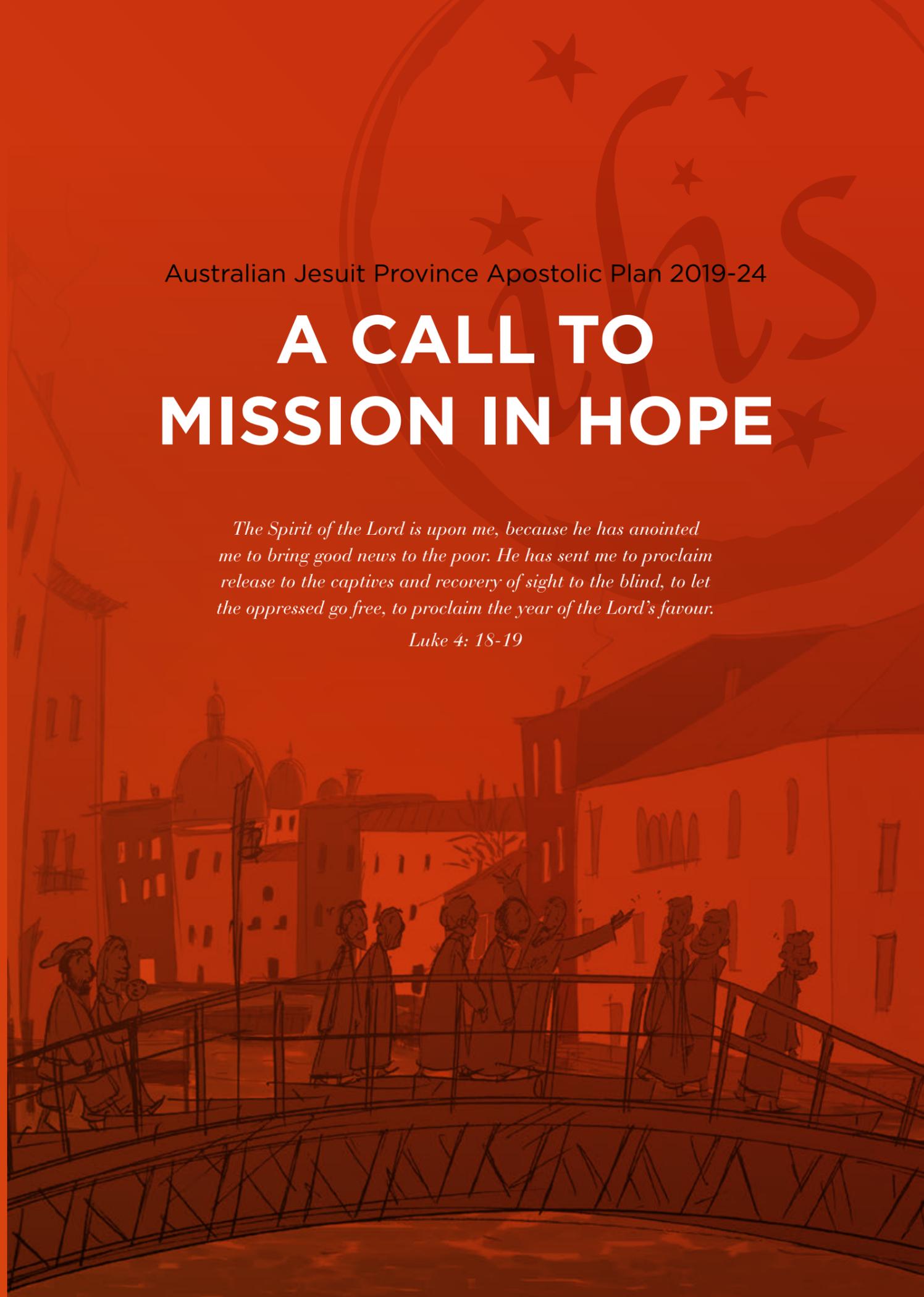
Cover image: *The First Companions In Venice*, created by Ignasi Flores for the book *Ignacio de Loyola* (2016) published by Mensajero. Image used with the permission of the publishers.

Australian Jesuit Province Apostolic Plan 2019-24

A CALL TO MISSION IN HOPE

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Luke 4: 18-19



Since 1848, the Society of Jesus has sought to be of service to the Church within Australia. Over that time, we have been known for our contribution to spirituality, education, intellectual life and public discourse promoting a faith that seeks justice.

At this point in our history, we have been reflecting on our Province mission, responding to the Society's renewed commitment to ongoing apostolic planning (GC 36, Decree 2). We are also conscious of Pope Francis' reminder to Jesuits in 2016 of the magis, the 'plus' that was so much a part of Ignatius's way of proceeding, leading him not only to undertake apostolic initiatives but also to follow through on them and evaluate them (GC 36, Decree 1, 39).

In our reflection over the last two years, we have sought to enter into the contemplation on the Incarnation as found in the Spiritual Exercises. With faith, hope and love we gaze upon our world with the Trinity, and especially on Australia and the Asia Pacific region, with all its diversity and need, seeking to see where we are called to respond with discerning creativity over the next five years.

Ignatian reflection is always attentive to historical and social context. Our current review comes at a time when the Church in Australia is struggling to come to grips with the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse. We are acutely aware that our own Province has not been immune to serious failures in this regard. This Province Apostolic Plan includes our commitment to ensuring that the highest professional standards prevail in all our ministries, making the safety, protection, and flourishing of the young and vulnerable our paramount concern.

The diminishing numbers and increasing age profile of the Jesuits within our province present another major challenge. Nonetheless, many senior Jesuits continue to contribute generously in our ministries

and to provide their wisdom and experience. We are also blessed that young men of quality, albeit fewer in number, are still inspired to join us as companions of Jesus, willing to place their talents and gifts in lifelong service of the Church and society. Moreover, lay partners who share our charism – women and men, many in positions of leadership – have ensured that our ministries continue to grow and flourish in new and significant ways. As the Australian Church prepares for a Plenary Council in 2020-2021, we seek to embody new models of governance and leadership within the mission of the Christ and the Church.

Being part of the universal Society of Jesus, we will continue to reflect upon and respond to the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus 2019-29 that were issued on 19 February 2019 and as will be implemented in the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP).

In this context, drawing upon Ignatian Spirituality and the grace of spiritual conversation, Jesuits and lay partners seek to be companions of Jesus in service of His mission according to the following Province priorities for mission for the next five years.



FIRST PRIORITY:

Nourish our ministries through Ignatian Spirituality

We seek to express our life and mission in Christ through deepening our Ignatian Spirituality. We seek to be open to the constant renewal to which this spirituality calls us. We seek to ensure that it permeates all aspects of our life and ministry;

including our conversations and listening, the way in which we support each other as companions, and our discernment in decision-making.

Linked to UAP: To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment.

- Establish Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA) with responsibility for oversight for the promotion of the Spiritual Exercises and Ignatian Formation.
- This mandate will include the development, implementation and evaluation of Ignatian formation frameworks in all Province ministries.
- A key priority for JISA will be to develop strategies for outreach of the Spiritual Exercises and Ignatian Formation.
- Mobilise all Jesuits to work on this Province-wide priority along with lay partners.

PROVINCE PRIORITIES



SECOND PRIORITY:

Heal humanity and our world

We seek to be close to Christ who is revealed in the suffering and vulnerable of our world. We commit ourselves to reconciliation with God, with one another and with creation. With Christ we are called to a personal experience of closeness and companionship with all of humanity, especially those most in need.

Linked to UAPs: To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice. and

To collaborate in the care of our common home.

- Establish Jesuit Social Ministries Australia (JSMA) with responsibility for oversight of Province social ministries.
- Build upon the Bookends Project to make a particular commitment to ongoing reconciliation with our First Nations people and accompanying and advocating for refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Promote a culture within all our ministries that advances the safety and dignity of all, especially children, including achieving accreditation with the Australian Childhood Foundation.
- Strengthen the mandate and charter of the Province Reconciliation With Creation Advisory Group.



THIRD PRIORITY:

Form the young in a faith seeking justice

We encourage outreach to and with the young. We seek to listen to them, inviting them to be creative, just and generous, encouraging them to be open to the journey of Christian faith. For our Church

and nation, we wish to form a new generation, grounded in faith and justice as modelled by Christ.

Linked to UAP: To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future.

- Continue to commit to our educational ministry through Jesuit Education Australia (JEA), our Jesuit schools and Companion schools including support for a Jesuit Companion school in Auckland, New Zealand.
- Establish a Province Young Adult Ministry Team to make a stronger and renewed commitment to form young adults in faith in their post-school years and develop the networks of former students of our schools.
- Ask all our ministries to seek creative ways to engage with young people and support them so that they can have an experience of faith that meets their experiences of life and their commitment to justice.
- Renew efforts to promote a culture of Jesuit vocations in every ministry.



FOURTH PRIORITY: Strengthen Jesuit and lay partnership in mission

We seek to strengthen our Jesuit mission by deepening our collaboration and networking amongst all

with whom we work, especially within each ministry and between our ministries. We seek to grow in appreciation of the reality that Jesuit and lay vocations are distinct yet complementary. We seek to deepen companionship between all who share the mission of Christ.

- Model and develop authentic collaboration between Jesuits and lay partners in all Jesuit ministries.
- Seek to ensure that distinctive vocations within the Church are understood, valued and expressed.
- Welcome and encourage the voices of women in the Province, in particular in roles of leadership and on boards and councils.
- Restructure the Province Ministries Commission as a strong, inclusive management team for the Provincial.



FIFTH PRIORITY:

Serve Christ through the Church within our Jesuit and Ignatian tradition

We serve Christ and the Church, of which we are but one part among many.

We offer the spiritual and intellectual depth the Church seeks from us, ready to engage at those frontiers others may have difficulty reaching. We are available to contribute to the needs of the people of God, not just locally but also within the Asia Pacific region and globally.

- Establish a new structure to broaden, support and strengthen the network between the laity and Jesuits involved in pastoral ministries and migrant chaplaincies.
- Continue engagement with theology, Ignatian Spirituality, society and culture, especially through our intellectual apostolate and the outreach of Jesuit Communications.
- Re-establish a Province Development Office.
- Encourage and facilitate the participation of Jesuits and lay leaders in the universal mission of the Society, especially within the Asia Pacific region.