

Meet Our Seminarian

Nigel McBain



Born in Sydney, Nigel grew up in Randwick, attending St Jude's Anglican Church. After moving to Brisbane in 1990, he worshipped at St Andrew's Indooroopilly and later All Saints' Wickham Terrace. He studied at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and the University of Queensland, graduating with a Bachelor of Music, majoring in Composition.

Nigel felt a call to the sacred ministry from an early age. During his tertiary studies, he was exploring his vocation with the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. After a lengthy period of discernment, Nigel felt called to full-communion with the Holy See, and was received into the Catholic Church in 1996.

He entered Corpus Christi College in 1998, studying for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. At the end of 2000, he decided to take time off for further discernment. After a career in high school teaching in Australia, the UK and Sweden, Nigel then worked as a professional Organist in the USA, where he discovered the Personal Ordinariates. Nigel found the experience of worshipping with the familiar forms he had grown up profoundly moving: "It was like having a piece of your soul back!"

Considering once more a priestly vocation within the Ordinariates, Nigel returned to Australia to study for the Catholic priesthood for ministry within the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Nigel is a seminarian at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, Sydney.

What is Formation?

Men who are in training for the priesthood are said to be "in formation." This means they are learning how to be priests according to the pattern of Jesus Christ. Formation focuses on four areas: Intellectual, Pastoral, Spiritual and Human formation. The Holy See specifies requirements for the formation of seminarians throughout the world.

Every seminarian is discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This process of discernment is an integral part of formation. The formation program itself is designed to assist men to discern this call. Is God truly calling you to be a priest? Many people mistakenly think that this is a decision made *before* entering the seminary. Whilst the seminary program is designed to form men as good priests, it is also very much a time of testing their vocation. Indeed, we say that this testing of vocation continues throughout the seminary program right up until the moment of ordination. "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.*"

Your donation to help fund Nigel's formation for the priesthood is greatly appreciated



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Your
Call**

Vocations Office of the Personal Ordinariate
of Our Lady of the Southern Cross
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