



## **REV. DR MICHAEL TRAINOR**

Country: AUSTRALIA

Denomination: CHRISTIAN

### **Nominated for ICCJ BOARD MEMBER**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Michael is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, South Australia, pastor of a local parish, senior lecturer in biblical studies at the Australian Catholic University, and adjunct senior lecturer in the department of theology, Flinders University, South Australia.

### **How I would like to contribute to the work of the ICCJ**

Michael's contribution to the work of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ) includes international, national and local involvement, for which the Australian Government awarded him an 'Order of Australia' in 2007. He represents to the ICCJ the concerns and issues that come from his part of the globe in the southern hemisphere and Australasia. He is currently executive board member of the International Council of Christians and Jews, and chair of the theological committee of the ICCJ. This committee has contributed significantly through its presentations on Worship and Liturgical Feasts common to our traditions and reflected on COVID and the insights which Jewish and Christian understanding can offer to the pandemic. Zoom has been the key tool of the Theology Committee, as for so many people and committees, for disseminating these reflections. Michael is also a contributor to the recently published ICCJ resource, *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource Book for Jews and Christians* (Paulist Press, 2020), immediate past Chair of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews, and co-chair of the South Australian Council of Christians and Jews. Michael continues to be a member of the Australian Roman Catholic Bishops' Council for Christian Unity and Interfaith Matters in which he advises the Catholic Bishops on Jewish-Christian matters.

### **What is my broader vision for the ICCJ in the next three years**

Michael's expectation for the next three years as ICCJ Board member further deepens his expectations and contributions from previous years on the Board and as representative of the Australian-New Zealand region. He will continue to explore avenues of dialogue between different religious groups, raise the profile of ecological-justice concerns which affect inter-religious dialogue, and address issues of anti-Semitism particularly as these emerge within the context of the rise of fundamentalism. Within the Australian context these concern the rise of white supremacist movements and its accompanying themes of anti-Semitism. Of particular interest will be his emphasis on the need for further education to address ignorance amongst Christians, especially Catholics, about Jewish-Christian insights and statements now part of the Christian heritage, especially since Vatican II and its ground-breaking 1965 Declaration, "Nostra Aetate".

Michael sees dialogue as the vehicle to address ignorance, intolerance, misunderstanding and violence.