

Recipients of the 2015 Scholarships from the B.J. Hickey Biblical Foundation

Congratulations to the recipients of scholarships for biblical studies from the B.J. Hickey Biblical Foundation!



Laura Firth: Laura is undertaking a Masters of Arts (Theology) through distance education at the Augustine Institute (Colorado). Her scholarship will fund the biblical units included in the degree. Laura has been teaching courses on the Old Testament and New Testament at the Acts 2 College of Mission and Evangelisation since 2007. "The Augustine Institute course will expand my knowledge of Scripture," Laura explains, "and enhance the teaching I am able to impart to my students." She goes on to say, "I am also open to exploring new areas to develop my gifts and contribute to the Church in whatever ways God leads me."

Gem Oliveiro: Gem has received a scholarship to participate in the course "In the Footsteps of Jesus" at the Center for Biblical Formation in Jerusalem. She writes, "I believe these biblical studies will enable me to contribute to the communities I am currently part of by developing in me a deeper understanding of the Word and sharing with others the awareness that we are profoundly shaped by what we experience in our encounter with God in his Word." Gem adds, "I also feel these studies will inspire me to create literary and artistic works which will help others with more vividly experiencing the stirring adventure their faith journey is."



Helen Vester: As part of the Archdiocese of Perth Prison Ministry team, Helen offers pastoral care at Bandyup Women's Prison. She also ministers to those in hospital facing a health crisis and to their families. Moreover, Helen is training to become a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor. Helen is completing a Bachelor of Theology online from Charles Sturt University. Her scholarship will help fund the biblical component of her degree. Helen writes, "By completing my Bachelor of Theology, I hope to gain a more in-depth knowledge and appreciation of Scripture, which I can pass on to prisoners and patients I work with in my pastoral roles, including when breaking open the Word in the Sunday worship service that I lead in prison. I would also use it to help CPE students grapple with how the pastoral care they offer is informed by Scripture and theology."