

The 29th Sunday Ordinary time, Year B 17th Oct 2021

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931

Parish Office: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au Web: stmacartansparish.com.au

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Parish Secretary: Cynthia Gooriah



PLEASE NOTE:

ALL MASSES CANCELLED!

LOCKDOWN CONTINUES

Until possibly 5th November?

Mass Times:

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday
9:15am

Saturday: Vigil 6pm.

Sunday: 9am, 11am

**SUNDAY 5pm (NOT weekly) - ONLY
2nd & 4th Sunday each Month**

Holy Hour / Adoration

Every Friday after 9:15 Mass & 1st Saturdays each month after 9:15am Mass

RECONCILIATION: Not at the moment!

Note:

**ALL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO
BE EMAILED TO OFFICE BY 4PM
EACH WEDNESDAY!**

Video Sunday Mass

On Line found on Parish's YouTube page: (Ctrl and enter) on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

Also view our Parish website:

[https://](https://www.stmacartansparish.com.au/)

www.stmacartansparish.com.au/

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Mon 18th: St Luke, Evangelist

Youth Mass -

2nd and 4th Sundays at 5pm

And Holy Hour also on the 2nd and 4th Sundays 3:30-4:30pm

Baptism Meetings:

1st Wednesday of each Month (except school holidays) - at 8pm via Zoom.

Volunteers: Gov't requirement!

PLEASE PROVIDE VACCINATION CERTIFICATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE RETURNING TO VOLUNTEER

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS



Recently deceased: John Britton

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Dean Pratt, Tony Formosa, Torquil Hansen, Betty Corke, Sheila Wright, Wilma McCoy, Kevin Paganoni, Maria-Louisa Di Rosato, Fiona Rush, Mignon Field and Aaron Eastley.

Anniversaries: Raymond John Ellis.

First Reading

Is 53:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, and have long life.

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Heb 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Gospel Acclamation

Mk 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Living Gospel

Servant Leadership

What does it really mean to practice servant leadership? It means placing the needs of others before your own desires for prestige or authority. We've all known people who have been given a position of leadership and they really only wanted the job as recognition of their popularity; a thank you for previous work done; an opportunity to demonstrate their strength of will or cleverness with words. Servant leadership is about collaborating; it's about empowering people to do their best; it's about trusting others and about rolling up your sleeves and getting on with the job.

EXPLORING THE WORD

On three occasions, Jesus has told his disciples of his approaching passion and death (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:32–34). Here James and John enthusiastically, if somewhat naively, commit themselves to following him in drinking the cup and undergoing the baptism that Jesus faces. Do they really understand the cost of discipleship? Their question to Jesus would indicate that they have still not fully grasped what it means to follow Jesus. They want him to do their will rather than them doing the will of the Father. They still seem to be thinking in terms of a political and earthly kingdom, where power and riches will come to those who are in special places of favour at the right and left hand of

the ruler. Instead, Jesus offers them a share in his suffering and death. The other disciples too display their human weakness in their indignation that they may be left out. Jesus tries again to make it clear to his foolish disciples that their view of the world, locked as it is in their earthly experience, is not how God plans things to be. Christianity is not a state where power and authority are lorded over others. Instead it is a call to service and humility, and may come at great cost.

- Have you had to pay a price for seeking to become a disciple of Jesus? What 'cup' have you had to drink?
- It is often in serving others that we learn something about ourselves or experience a renewed sense of purpose. Have you experienced this?

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

The 'cup' and the 'baptism' to which Jesus refers are his suffering and death on the cross. These images evoke for us the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist, by which the death and resurrection of Jesus are kept at the heart of our faith and our worship. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

LIVING THE WORD

- What mechanisms are available in your community for the faithful to exercise their call to participate in the priesthood of Christ? Are there ways that catechumens can prepare for participation in these? In what ways does your parish priest act as servant?

DID YOU KNOW?

The brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee, were nicknamed by Jesus 'sons of thunder'.

- Acts 12:2 reports the martyrdom of James. He was killed, probably by decapitation, by Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great, during a persecution of the early Church.
- According to some traditions, John survived until the end of the first century and lived in Ephesus.

SHARING THE TRADITION

Today's second reading reflects on the priesthood of Christ, but Christians understand that Christ has made of the Church 'a kingdom, priests for his God and Father'. The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king. (CCC, §1546)

- Explore the idea that the 'vocation' of all the faithful is lived out in different ways in our lives.
- Explore the difference between the priesthood of the faithful and the special role of the ordained priesthood (see CCC, §1547).
- Discuss ways in which the faithful can carry out their role as 'priest'.
- You could introduce the sacrament of holy orders and outline the three degrees of bishop, priest and deacon.
- You could invite your parish priest to discuss his call to priesthood and his living out of that call.
- You could invite other members of the parish community to talk about how they understand their particular work for the community—for example, in working with the St Vincent de Paul Society, as a pastoral associate, or as a lector or special minister of the Eucharist.
- Next Sunday is Mission Sunday. You could explore the vocation of missionaries and the role of all the faithful in 'mission'.
- Ask the catechumens to discern what contribution they can make to the community.

PPC - Needs more of you!

This Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), is your voice. A voice of parishioners; created to assist and support the Parish Priest in steering the Parish into the future.

Its role includes: meeting regularly to discuss:- growth, improvements, and the ever-changing needs of the Parish community. This committee is formed by volunteers and those invited to attend.

We would really like two parents to join, who have children at our Parish School.

If you could help in this way - Please contact Jody the PPC Chairperson
jody54@westnet.com.au or me at the Office.

GIVING GRATITUDE

The Allen family wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the loving support received from the St Macartan's Parish family and Community at the death of Ronald Allen. The Masses, prayers, food, cards, phone calls/ emails and all the love was so comforting in our time of grief.

"May our Adorable Lord Jesus richly Bless you."

5:00pm Sunday night's on Zoom!

YOUTH GROUP

Games, socials, laughs and Fuel for the week!



 **zoom** 

5:00pm each Sunday night

Email morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au for the zoom link

All youth are welcome!

Come along to compete for a home delivered pizza!



CHILD SAFETY

Dear Parishioners, prior to the COVID pandemic, St Macartan's was very proud to announce that it had a team of over 250 volunteers. Hopefully when our church re-opens early in November, our team of volunteers will be able to continue it's amazing work of helping & supporting not only those in our parish but also those in the wider community.

During October, it would be very proactive for every volunteer to check the expiry date of their working with children check. If your check is due to expire you will receive a reminder email as follows:

Expiry of your Working with Children Check

Your Working with Children Check

To continue doing child-related work, you will need to renew your Check. The renewal process is online.

If you would like to renew your Check, go to <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> and:

- Select the option 'Renew my card' on the home page, or under the 'Current cardholders' menu.
- Log in to, or register for, MyCheck.
- Review and, if necessary, update your personal and work details.
- Complete the renewal application process.

Volunteer Checks are free.

You can choose to renew your Check as a Volunteer or an Employee Check but you will not be able to change your name online.

If you have changed your name and would like the new name on your card, go to 'Apply for a Check' at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> to start a new application.

For more details about the Check, go to <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>.

If you need any assistance with renewing or applying for a WWCC please contact the Parish Office or email Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Much appreciated,

Carmel McGrath

St Macartan's Child Safety Officer



Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic?

R.C.I.A.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is a guided faith journey towards becoming a Catholic

WHO IS RCIA FOR?

Adults who are not baptised.

Adults who are already baptised in another Christian Church.

Non-practising Catholics who wish to renew their faith.

Where do you begin?

New sessions begin with an information night TBA.

There is no obligation – Call and find out more:

The RCIA process is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment and formation.

Those who join the process are encouraged to go at their own pace but on average the journey takes several months of weekly or fortnightly sessions leading to, if the candidate wishes, reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter, with an on-going attendance at Sunday Mass and observance of Catholic teachings and practices.

Like to find out more?

Ring the Parish office at 5975 2200

Or email: mornington@cam.org.au

I CANNOT CONTROL

(So, I can LET GO of these things.)

IF OTHERS
FOLLOW THE
RULES OF SOCIAL
DISTANCING

THE AMOUNT
OF TOILET
PAPER AT THE
STORE

I CAN CONTROL

(So, I will focus on these things.)

THE
ACTIONS
OF
OTHERS

MY POSITIVE
ATTITUDE

TURNING
OFF THE
NEWS

FINDING FUN
THINGS TO DO
AT HOME

HOW
LONG
THIS
WILL
LAST

HOW I FOLLOW CDC
RECOMMENDATIONS

MY OWN SOCIAL
DISTANCING

LIMITING MY
SOCIAL MEDIA

MY KINDNESS &
GRACE

PREDICTING
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN

HOW
OTHERS
REACT

OTHER
PEOPLE'S
MOTIVES

Clipart: Carrie Stephens Art
TheCounselingTeacher.com



**There's been a lot
to take in lately.**

Share the load with us.



 coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au

 1800 512 348

Pope prays for peace with faith leaders: ‘Demilitarize our hearts!’

Pope Francis attends an International Meeting for Peace with leaders of various religions and confessions at Rome's Colosseum, and urges everyone to work toward purifying our hearts so that peace might fill our world.

By Devin Watkins

The St. Egidio Community has held a two-day peace meeting in Rome which was attended by numerous faith leaders from across the globe. The 35th International Meeting for Peace concluded on Thursday evening with a prayer for peace at the Colosseum, which was attended by Pope Francis. Held

theme, "Peoples as
ture Earth", the event
pation of religious
Christianity, Islam,
dhism, Tenrikyo, Hin-
Sikhism.

New beginning

Participants from over
met to discuss how to
the "spirit of Assisi",
friendship and dia-

president of the St. Egidio Community, Marco Impagliazzo, called on everyone not to waste the opportunity presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. "May it become a new beginning, and not just a moment of degradation which separates us one from another," he said in a video message opening the Peace Meeting.

Demilitarize human heart

Pope Francis wrapped up the Prayer for Peace meeting at the Colosseum which was attended by hundreds of people from various faith traditions. Ahead of a moment of silence for the victims of all wars, the Pope offered the concluding address for the event, asking God to "demilitarize the human heart." He opened his address praising the many people who traveled to Rome this week to show that prayer is a "quiet source of strength which brings peace and disarms hate-filled hearts."

From a place of violence to one of peace

Pope Francis noted how the event—whose theme is "peoples as brothers and sisters"—is taking place against the backdrop of the Colosseum, once a site of fights pitting men against one another in fights to the death for mass entertainment.

The Pope said we too can become "spectators of violence and war, of brothers killing brothers," as if it were a game we watch from afar. He recalled that the lives of people and young children are not playthings. "We must not be indifferent onlookers," he said. "On the contrary, we need to empathize with those who share our humanity, its aspirations, its struggles and its frailties."

Everything that happens to our brothers and sisters, he added, affects us, though he added that recognizing this truth takes great courage.



under the
Brothers, Fu-
saw the partici-
leaders from
Hebraism, Bud-
duism, and

40 countries
"start again" in
which is one of
logue. The

.....cont

War a failure of politics and humanity

The Pope said war “plays games with human lives” and is a failure of “politics and humanity.” He then reiterated an appeal launched in the Document on Human Fraternity signed in 2019 with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, who was present at Thursday’s event. He said the urgent task of religions is “in this delicate historical situation: to demilitarize the human heart.”

“As believers it is our responsibility to help eradicate hatred from human hearts and to condemn every form of violence,” he said. “Let us unambiguously urge that arms be set aside and military spending reduced, in order to provide for humanitarian needs, and that instruments of death be turned into instruments of life.”

Peace requires purity of heart

Pope Francis then put particular emphasis on the word “peace”, without which people cannot remain brothers and sisters.

Peace, he added, is the path forward for people of all religions.

“If there are those who work to foment division and conflict, we ourselves believe in the importance of journeying together for peace: with one another, and never again against one another,” he said.

Peace, continued the Pope, requires us to purify our hearts, since it is not only an agreement or a value, but above all an “attitude of the heart.”

And he urged the faithful of all religions to overcome the temptation to fundamentalism and to view one another as enemies.

Sins against Creation and God

The Pope went on to reflect on the other portion of the event’s theme: “Future Earth”.

He said peace among peoples also involves a “commitment to care for creation and our common home.”

The Pope praised Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, also present, for his reminder that “a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.”

He said humanity has “poured the pollution of our hearts upon creation.”

Religions for peace

Pope Francis concluded his address to participants in the International Meeting for Peace with an appeal for courage, saying prayer and action can change the course of history.

“Let us dream of religions as sisters and peoples as brothers!” said the Pope. “Sister religions to help peoples be brothers and sisters living in peace, reconciled stewards of creation, our common home.”

PARISHIONERS PLEASE BE AWARE!

And be ready to show TOLERANCE, RESPECT & KINDNESS

It looks like we may have to use Covid Vaccination Marshalls and they will have to ask you, what we are legally required to ask, so as you can join us inside the Church.

So when we open for Mass, or if volunteering on Parish property, please have your proof of vaccination available for inspection.

Without one, you will not be allowed inside.

Evidence of vaccination status may include:

- An immunisation history statement available from Medicare;
- A MyGov COVID-19 Digital Vaccination Certificate;
- Relevant information from a My Health Record and/or Medicare Online Account, or
- Other documentation/proof of relevant medical exemption

We, like you, don't want to have to police this and we deeply regret it, but facing heavy fines and under orders from the Archdiocese, we will obey.

Fr Geoff

Hello Parishioners - I thought I would share this letter that was sent to me and every Priest in our Archdiocese. Fr Geoff

A Message from the Executive Director Stewardship Authorised Workers and Vaccinations

Dear Fathers,

You will be aware, both as a matter of law and the common good, of your obligation as an employer to maintain a safe workplace for all employees. This obligation is even more important in a time of pandemic. Over the last 18 months, in common with all organisations, we have sought to comply with legitimate direction from Government Health Officers and reduce the risk of infection to each other and those we love. These requirements have involved social distancing, working from home, use of face coverings, QR codes and other measures. Whilst burdensome, they have been necessary.

We now know that COVID vaccinations are the surest and most effective way of keeping people safe. Pope Francis tells us that ***“getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable”***.

Manifesting our obligation to love our neighbour and in line with Government advice, I would urge you to strongly encourage any Parish employees to get vaccinated and to do so as soon as possible. Below is a link provided by the Australian Government Department of Health to information relating to the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

[Is it true? Get the facts on COVID-19 vaccines | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

The Victorian Government has recently announced a mandatory vaccination requirement for all authorised workers (those who are holding a permit to attend the workplace in person) in Melbourne and regional Victoria with the following deadlines:

- **15 October 2021** – all authorised workers in Melbourne and regional Victoria will require their first COVID-19 vaccine dose in order to continue working onsite.
- **26 November 2021** – all authorised workers will be required to be fully vaccinated (two doses) in order to continue working onsite.

These requirements will impact you and possibly parish employers.

If any of your employees are holding an authorised workers permit that covers the 15th of October and beyond, you will need to discuss how the mandate relates to them. It will be necessary for them to provide Vaccination Information to you in order for them to continue to hold the permit. That information should be held by you in confidence and not disclosed to any person except as required by law. Whilst we have not yet seen the formal documentation requirements of the public health order, we expect a certificate of immunisation or letter from a medical practitioner are likely to be sufficient.

If any of your employees currently hold a permit, but are unable to provide the required Vaccination Information, then the permit must be revoked. If you have questions or need support with these conversations, please reach out via email to: covidsupport@cam.org.au.

Naturally the same obligations apply to you as an authorised worker.

For all remaining parish employees who are working from home and do not hold an authorised workers permit, there is currently no government requirement for mandatory vaccination. It should be noted that parish office staff undertaking work that is not an authorised service are not permitted to attend the parish office.

A Message from the Executive Director Stewardship Authorised Workers and Vaccinations

Continued,

From an Archdiocesan perspective, we are not currently mandating vaccinations for CAM employees. Nonetheless, we must have regard for the health directions, common good and prioritise workplace safety (as well as public safety) over personal preference.

We are monitoring the situation carefully and will advise if the government or CAM position regarding vaccination changes. These are not easy issues to navigate and we are conscious that there has been coverage in the media recently about the so-called right not to be vaccinated.

Here some recent comments by Prof Patrick Parkinson, Chair of Freedom for Faith at the University of Queensland are instructive:

"If I object to taking a vaccine because I am worried about side-effects, or because I am concerned that it is insufficiently tested, I am not objecting on moral or conscientious grounds. I am making a decision based upon my assessment of risks versus the benefit to myself on medical grounds.

We should not fool ourselves into thinking such a judgement is a religious one. The Bible gives us no guidance whatsoever on the medical efficacy or benefit of a new vaccine.

A religious person who has a non-religious objection to vaccination is absolutely entitled to refuse a violation of his or her bodily integrity; but this does not mean that governments and employers are not justified in imposing restrictions to protect others so long as the restrictions are reasonable."

Finally, I have set out below some links to further helpful information.

[COVID-19 vaccinations: workplace rights & obligations - Fair Work \(updated 4 October 2021\) Ombudsman](#)

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/covid-19-vaccinations-workplaces>

<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/resources/explainer-mandatory-covid-19-vaccinations-and-your-rights/>

God bless, Tim

Tim O'Leary
Executive Director Stewardship

St Patrick's Centre, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Cont>>>>

Topic Continued:

Below is from Annie Carrett Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Chief of Staff to the Archbishop Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne:

Good morning Bishops, Fathers and Deacons. There are two items I would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, a Statement has been offered from the Archdiocese on the proposed amendment to exemptions for religious organisations. It is important that our people know the advocacy and work being done, and it would be very good to make the document available to your communities where possible (website etc). The Statement is attached – and you will be able to source a link to the website when it is posted later this morning.

Secondly, and something of immediate impact to ministry and employment, is the Government's announcement yesterday that vaccination will be required to undertake authorised work (work that is not done from the home) as the State moves through its Roadmap to re-opening. This includes ministers of religion.

*"On the advice of our public health team, all workers – in Melbourne and regional Victoria – on the Authorised Worker list will require **their first COVID-19 vaccine dose by Friday, 15 October** in order to continue working onsite. **They will need to be fully vaccinated by 26 November.**"*

As you may be aware 'authorised workers' include the following:

- funeral or mortuary services or related activities;
- marriage celebrant only if one or both of the two persons being married are at the end of life, or will be deported from Australia unless the marriage takes place;
- essential services that are required to maintain or protect human health, safety and wellbeing (whether provided by a public or private undertaking);
- faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship, with the minimum number of people required for the broadcast to occur (no more than 5 people);
- administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home (Example: Payroll and IT services); care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services;

(<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-list>)

Late yesterday afternoon we had the opportunity to meet with Minister Ros Spence (Multicultural Affairs); David Burns (Exec Dir. Dept Jobs, Precincts and Regions); Evelyn Wong (Public Health Registrar Dept. Health); and other faith leaders to hear further the reach of this directive and how it is to be implemented. Essentially it covers anyone (employed or volunteer) who needs to leave home to undertake their service or ministry, and notably where that service is a venue open to fully vaccinated patrons and staff. There was no definitive answer offered as yet as to management at 'venues' other than there will be obligations for service providers (churches and places of worship) to sight and maintain a record of some sort (they have indicated it will be a record of limited information). The Government is exploring 4 ways that vaccination confirmation might be available – through the Medicare App, the AI Register; an integration with the Victorian Services App, and through medical certification. No directions have been officially rolled out as yet for the broader industries and services named yesterday.

Naturally there were many questions raised – and we will presenting more questions this week to get further clarity particularly around: operator requirements, privacy, exemptions, management, record keeping and liability. I would be very grateful if you could send me any of your own questions – which will help form what we need to work through and raise with authorities.

With kindest regards, Annie.

A Statement from the Archdiocese on the proposed amendment to exemptions for religious organisations.

2 October 2021

Re: Government's proposal to remove exemptions for religious organisations

Victoria, like all other Australian states, is a pluralist society, that celebrates and protects diversity.

The recent announcement by the Government to further limit employment freedoms from discrimination law for religious providers weakens this simple but important protection.

People of faith want to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic free to shape their communities in accord with that faith, rather than finding themselves further restricted.

The proposed changes mean that various faith-based ministries and services will be impacted, such as education and social services.

In a Catholic context, our schools are known for being inclusive and welcoming, but they need to be allowed to give an authentic witness to our faith.

If the Government values fairness to people of faith, we ask that it pause a head-long rush to legislate, sit down with faith communities, and talk it through properly.

The Archdiocese of Melbourne looks forward to engaging in constructive discussions with the Attorney General on this important matter.

Statements attributable to the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne,
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

Media Enquiries to:

Annie Carrett, Chief of Staff to the Archbishop: 0439 600 233

PLENARY COUNCIL - UPDATE!

Members unpack big questions facing the Church

The 278 members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia have continued to break open the 16 questions related to how we can create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time. After the broad discussions of the first small group sessions on Monday, yesterday's "spiritual conversations" moved to more specific questions, suggestions and even proposals. Reflecting on the day's Gospel reading of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42), the small groups continued their discernment and reported back during the assembly's livestreamed session this morning.

On the topic of conversion, Helen Belcher told the assembly that her group had begun looking at concrete points around training and formation, small ecclesial communities (home/family groups), structural changes such as diocesan synods and parish pastoral councils, and lay preaching by men and women.



She said elements of the group's prayer and discernment included the need to "come down from the mountain and live in the world" and to be "mindful of the optics – how we present and act".

Carol Teodori-Blahut said her group heard the Spirit calling them to "name and respond to the darker side of our Church and society where racism, exclusion and injustice have caused trauma, woundedness and suffering".

"Truth-telling around this part of our story is really important," she said. While the group has not identified any concrete actions yet, two themes emerging were a "yearning for a Church that celebrates and brings into respectful dialogue Indigenous peoples and others" and an urgent call to use "our privilege and our voice to influence society" and change structures leading to injustice and suffering.

Fr Peter Whitely told the assembly his group's discernment on prayer sparked concerns that "too few young people in our schools have not yet been invited into a close relationship with Jesus". He said the group questioned how the Church could engage people to pray, particularly when people were feeling disconnected due to COVID.

Discussions included consideration of the many people who did not feel welcome in our communities: "Sometimes we are seen as too 'clubby' or too comfortable in what we do?"

Tackling the question of how the Church might better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of Churches and immigrant communities, Dr Sr Maeve Heaney said her group reflected on the need to know and understand one another's rites and celebrations through education in schools and in the formation of future leaders and clergy.

Continued>>>>

The aim, she said, was to remove a sense of superiority of any rite over another and, to facilitate this, the group suggested a national body or commission might be necessary.

Significantly, the group voted on two motions: to cease using the term immigrant communities and use language that reflects our inter-cultural reality; and to recommend that the prayer and liturgies of the second general assembly of the Plenary Council reflect the diversity of rites within the Church in Australia.

Deepening the concept of leadership and distinguishing between mission and ministry were the basis for discernment on formation by Gabriele Turchi's group. He said there was also practical discussion around "accessibility, competing with busy lifestyles, the value of work and the challenges faced by workers and the stress on families and marriages".

Also addressing formation, in relation to equipping ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship, Gemma Thomson said her group reflected that holiness was "as much about looking out as looking in".

There is a "need for cultural change, not just structural change", she explained.

The group explored the "ministry of presence" and the practical aspects of the priestly role that would free them to focus on relationship. Collaboration, professional supervision and the need to go back and start with Jesus and "Jesus as priest" were other topics discussed.

Similar themes emerged in the group discussion on parish structures with Raj Rajasingam reporting that there was a lack of understanding of priests and parish leaders on their roles, which could lead to tensions. The need for a new catechist role was raised.

Dr Nimmi Candappa said her group identified that effective governance capitalised on the giftedness of the laity and well-formed clergy who are "truly pastoral leaders with mature faith".

"True authority was seen as the ability to 'bring into being'," she said.

The group was conscious that a lot of work has been done previously on governance, with documents such as the Light from the Southern Cross and the Woman and Man publication, providing well-defined recommendations yet there had been obstacles or resistance to their implementation. There was a question on what currently prevents women deacons.

The group asked whether the Church bureaucracy was serving the people well: "The ease with which regional communities, for example, adapt to meet the pastoral needs of a community was contrasted with the hindrances experienced in other areas."

Also looking at governance, Danny Casey said his group discussed the need for mission clarity and noted how important it was to maintain Catholic identity in the work of agencies.

"Structures and governance do not do the saving; people do," he said.

The group also talked about the importance of being an "outward-facing Church" and, to that end, it was looking forward to inviting expert input on the "why" of mission.

The final small group report, from Fr Cameron Forbes, addressed Catholic education and the desire to strengthen the connection with the faith and to accompany parents as the first educators.

"A challenge exists for educators to ensure that all receive a sense of welcome as we accompany them towards faith, away from the many distractions that exist," he said.

The idea of developing a "national understanding of what a graduate of Catholic education looks like" was put forward.

Find out more and access the livestreams at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Jokes of the Week

#1: Support your senator doing free service:

A priest went into a Washington, D. C. barber shop for a haircut. When the barber finished, the priest asked him what the charge was and the barber responded, "No charge, Father, you are serving the Lord and I consider my service rendered to you as a service to the Lord." The next morning when the barber arrived at his shop he found at his front door a stack of usable Christmas cards and a note of thanks from the priest. A few days later, a police officer went to the same barber for a haircut. When he went to pay, the barber said, "No charge, officer. I consider it a service to our community because you serve our community." The next morning when the barber arrived at his shop there were a dozen donuts at the front door and a note of thanks from the policeman. A few days after this an influential senator came in for a haircut. "No charge, Senator, I consider it a service to my country." The next morning when the barber arrived at his shop there were two congressmen waiting for their chance for the barber's free service, carrying a note of thanks from the Senator!



2: Good old days:

George Bernard Shaw was once asked in what generation he would have preferred to live. The witty Irishman replied: "The age of Napoleon, because then there was only one man who thought he was Napoleon."

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Tuesday to Friday 9am - 4pm
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Schools

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Principal: Colleen McGreal **Deputies:** Philip Hills & Kathleen Ronchi

Padua College Ph: 5976 0100

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Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine Holmes: 5977 2665, Email: charhomes@aapt.net.au

Marriage Prep: See Fr Geoff

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays after 11am Mass, Contact Office: 5975 2200

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Memorial Wall: Contact Carmel in Parish Office **ONLY on Fridays: 5975 2200**

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