



## Archbishop's Message

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

*"Let us place all our hopes for the Plenary Council under the protection of the Saints. As the Southern Cross has shone above us over the millennia, may Mary, the Star of evangelisation, lead us to where Jesus wants us to be."*

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

LIVE STREAMED  
ARCHDIOCESAN  
Plenary Masses  
[www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

## Vinnies CEO steps down

BY DON SMITH

Barnie Van Wyk is stepping down after almost five years as CEO of Vinnies Canberra and Goulburn.

President John Feint announced the CEO's resignation to take effect from 8 October, citing Barnie's wish to take a career break.

Michelle Colefax will be acting CEO until a replacement has been appointed.

The president described Barnie as an "outstanding leader" who had served Vinnies and the community with great commitment.

"He has navigated the society through challenging and exciting times, such as the devastating bushfires and COVID-19 and has assisted with major change management and fundraising initiatives such as the well-known CEO Sleepout."

He said under Barnie's leadership the society had seen growth in its revenue base to \$30



million per annum, the opening of new shops and renovations to others, record fundraising from the annual CEO Sleepout, and operating surpluses over the past five years.

Barnie said what stood out most for him aside from corporate and financial achievements was the people side of the business.

"I've met people of great heart in the society," he said. "It's amazing to see people with such

dedication and commitment. It's something I will never forget."

He had also seen a significant increase in stakeholders and donors which he credited to the community's understanding of Vinnies' achievements.

"They could see it was about supporting the most vulnerable and those who couldn't look after themselves. That's what it is all about."

He said he would miss most seeing Vinnies' programs come

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together and the benefits they brought.

"They make a huge difference," he said.

Barnie has no immediate plans but says taking a break and catching up with family and friends as conditions allow is the main thing.

Barnie grew up in South Africa in a family background of helping others and he credits that for the motivation behind his time with Vinnies.

"I believe the only way you can truly be blessed is by looking after one another," he said.

"It doesn't mean you are materially blessed. It means you are blessed spiritually with great peace and joy of heart."

LIVESTREAMED

Plenary  
**ARCHDIOCESAN  
MASSES >>**

[www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)  
With Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Monday 4 – Saturday 9 October at 8am

LIVESTREAMED

Plenary  
**NATIONAL  
MASSES >>**

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/)  
**Opening Mass 2:00pm AEDT (Sunday 3 October)**  
**Daily Mass: 9:30am AEDT (Monday – Saturday)**  
**Closing Mass: 10am AEDT (Sunday 10 October)**

LIVESTREAMED

Plenary  
**DAILY  
SUMMARY >>**

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/)

## St Joseph becomes the 'guiding hand'

BY DON SMITH

It's an unlikely combination but a project engineer and a Canberra Braves ice hockey player have joined forces in the Year of St Joseph to produce a new painting of the great saint.

Engineer Daniel De Valentin is a talented local artist whose works have hung in the National Portrait Gallery, the Australian National University and in private collections.

This year he was commissioned by archdiocesan Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy to produce a painting of St Joseph for his parish church at St Anthony's, Wanniasa.

The two began by discussing concepts involving a younger St Joseph instead of the older versions commonly portrayed.

Further inspiration came from one of Daniel's friends



Ruth created the costumes



Daniel in his studio

who suggested a more hands-on St Joseph, positioning him alongside Jesus teaching him a specific skill. This would be different from classic scenes where both are pictured working separately.

"For my painting it, therefore, became St Joseph guiding the hand of Jesus to hammer a nail into wood," Daniel said.

"It's something very ordinary we could imagine our fathers teaching us. But takes on a new meaning when you consider that Jesus is God.

"The hammering of a nail into wood also of course has resonance with Jesus's later crucifixion.

"It adds another layer to the painting that's quite special."



The finished painting

The project took about six months from concept discussions, to sketches, to photography, to black and white colourings, to the finished work.

Daniel worked from photographs of a carpentry set in his garage which is where the Canberra Braves ice hockey player Michael Giorgi entered the picture.

Michael was the model for St Joseph in the photographs and he was joined by Ben Jeffery who modelled the child Jesus.

Daniel's wife Ruth (costume design) and brother Nathan (photography) were other key members of the team.

The finished painting will now be framed and varnished before finding its home at St Anthony's.

# What is the Andrews Bill?

The “Andrews Bill” was a proposed law introduced to the Commonwealth parliament in September 1996 by Kevin Andrews, a Liberal MP from Victoria.

It was later enacted into law as the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997.

The Act overturned a euthanasia law passed by the NT parliament and specifically prohibited the ACT and Norfolk Island from passing similar laws.

## Can the Commonwealth parliament do this?

Yes. The ACT, NT and Norfolk Island are Commonwealth “territories”.

Under Section 122 of the Australian constitution the Commonwealth can make laws for the government of any territory. This power is rarely used in practice. The Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 is an exception.

## How does the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 specifically apply to the ACT?

It amended the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 to state explicitly that the ACT has “...no power to make laws permitting the... intentional killing of another called euthanasia...”.



Liberal MP, Kevin Andrews

## What are the latest developments?

The Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 remains in place despite many attempts to repeal it.

In August this year NT Senator Samantha McMahon introduced legislation (Ensuring Territory Rights Bill 2021) to the Senate in an attempt to overturn the Euthanasia Laws Act but only as it applies to the Northern Territory.

The original wording of the bill does not include the ACT. With passage through parliament it could be amended to

include the ACT but to date this has not happened.

A Senate committee is currently considering the bill and is due to report on 6 October. The bill has not yet gone to the House of Representatives.

If it becomes law in its present form, the ACT would remain prohibited from introducing euthanasia laws unless federal legislation first repealed those sections of the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 that applied to the ACT.

Several ACT political representatives at both the federal and territory level have publicly advocated in support of euthanasia or at least for the ACT’s right to decide the issue for itself.

## What is the situation for euthanasia in Australia’s states and territories?

Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland have all passed assisted suicide dying laws.

In NSW, independent MP Bill Greenwich has prepared legislation. He says he is committed to introducing the bill once the NSW parliament resumes after the lifting of COVID restrictions. This may take place in October.

# Schools Local Life



Congratulations to Damia O’Loughlin of Carroll College, Broulee, and Justin Garlick of Hennessy College, Young, who were both presented with Order of Australia Youth Community Service Awards. PHOTOS: Carroll College and Hennessy College Facebook sites, respectively.



Congratulations also to Dave Moore for his recent ACT VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award. Dave is the Head of Hospitality and Food Technology at Marist College, Canberra. The Awards recognise the commitment, innovation and outstanding achievement of those involved in the ACT Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. PHOTOS: Marist College Canberra Facebook site

www.catholicvoice.org.au  
**LIVE STREAMED**  
 8.00am  
 Plenary Council 2021 Archdiocesan Mass

# Looking back to the Plenary Council of 1937

BY DENIS CONNOR  
 ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

The first formal session of the Australian Church’s Fifth Plenary Council is set to go ahead in early October.

Most people are surprised to hear that there have been four previous councils, but the most recent was held in 1937, probably well before any of the current participants were born!

For those wanting a summarised understanding of the Fourth Plenary Council these frequently asked questions (and answers) may be of interest.

They suggest the Fifth Plenary Council in its planning, aims and conduct is very different to its immediate predecessor.

## Why was the Fourth Plenary Council called?

The Plenary Council was called at the urging of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Giovanni Panico. A landmark achievement for the Church was the issue of the Code of Can-

on Law in 1917, the first time Canon Law had been codified to a single document. The Vatican was concerned that in the wake of this all national churches hold a Plenary Council to bring their own governing decrees into line with the new code, and this had been the subject of discussion from the mid-1920s between the Australian Bishops and Panico’s predecessors, Archbishops Cattaneo and Bernardini. With Panico’s urging the Vatican gave approval in 1936 for the Fourth Plenary Council to meet in September 1937

## Where did it meet?

The Fourth Plenary Council met in Sydney on 4-12 September 1937. It was hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney. Plenary sessions were held at St Mary’s Cathedral and in the Cathedral precinct.

## What did it achieve?

The agenda of the Plenary Council set out 685 draft decrees



Bishop John Barry (centre of group wearing biretta) PHOTO: National Archives of Australia, A3560, 4812

– modelled on the 1917 Canon Law code – for consideration/ approval. This was achieved with little discussion, and with only minor amendments proposed.

When the proceedings of the Council were published in 1939, following Vatican endorsement, the approved 685 decrees were included, but this part of the document was written in Latin.

A joint pastoral letter from the Australian Bishops was issued at the Council’s conclu-

sion. It deliberated more closely on matters of direct relevance to Australian Catholics, including the social dislocation of the 1930s Great Depression, ongoing levels of unemployment, the international threat of atheistic communism, and the Bishop’s agreement to establish an Australian Secretariat for Catholic Action.

## Who attended the Council?

Attending the Fourth Plenary

Council were:

- Archbishop Panico
- The 31 ‘Fathers’ of the Australian and New Zealand Churches, ie the Archbishops and Bishops of the dioceses and heads of related geographical regions

• 53 priests. These included theologians and other advisors to the Bishops, superiors of religious congregations and a small number of observers.

## Who attended from our Diocese?

There were three participants from the then Diocese of Goulburn:

- The Bishop of Goulburn, Bishop John Barry
- The Diocesan Chancellor, Father Michael Carey (Fr Carey was also Parish Priest of Bega)
- Father Edward O’Donnell. (Fr O’Donnell was a priest of the Goulburn Diocese, but was a noted scholar and in 1937 was lecturing at St Columba’s Seminary, Springwood).