



## VOTING OUTCOMES FOR THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

PARTS 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 AND 11 OF THE [MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS DOCUMENT](#)

*Announced on July 8, 2022*

***Voting Guide: Placet (Assent); Placet Juxta Modum (Assent with Modification);  
Non Placet (Dissent)***

### ***PART 4: Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men***

#### MOTION 4.1

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 4 shown in paragraphs 49-54, amended as marked in red below.

50. Scripture calls the Church to recognize the equal dignity of women and men and to esteem their contributions. Throughout history, the Church has looked to Mary the Mother of God as a model for every human person and the model for Christian discipleship. At the close of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Saint Paul VI spoke of the “hour of woman,” recognizing the unique contribution that women make in the life of society and the Church. This has been true in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Eileen O’Connor, Mary Glowrey, and Caroline Chisholm are **beloved** examples of **holy faith-filled** women who have made outstanding contributions to society and to Catholic life, often against significant odds.

53. The Plenary Council has heard from women of varied experiences in the Church today. **Sometimes** women are joyful, happy, and thriving in their service to Christ and the Church. **Other times** women experience barriers and a lack of support in **seeking to offer their gifts in service of the Gospel, which has caused frustration and disappointment. ~~their efforts to be missionary disciples.~~** Authentic witness to the equal dignity of women and men requires addressing issues of power, authority, and the freedom of persons to decide and act on their decisions with informed consciences. We need to deepen our understanding of the human person, to appreciate more fully the gifts that women and men together bring to the life of the Church. This will require scriptural and theological formation and catechesis at the parish, diocesan, **eparchial**, and national levels. Here too, there is much work to be done.

54. In light of the above and aware of the extent of the ongoing challenges, this Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to acting in ways that witness clearly to the equal dignity of women and men, with their diverse gifts and experiences. It commits the Church to enhancing the role of women in the Church, and to overcoming assumptions, **culture, practices and language** that lead to inequality.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	192
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	7
<i>Non Placet</i>	7

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	43
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 4.2

That the Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to ensuring:

- a. through formal policies and intentional practice, the experiences and perspectives of women, including women who exercise ministry, are heard, considered and valued at local, diocesan and national levels. This is particularly important for matters which affect them distinctively;
- b. that women are appropriately represented in decision-making structures of Church governance at the parish, diocese or eparchy, and national level, and in Church agencies, entities, and organisations;
- c. that dioceses and eparchies recognise and value publicly, and properly remunerate, women who lead and serve in the Church in various ways.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	188
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	8
<i>Non Placet</i>	11

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	43
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

#### MOTION 4.3

That each Australian diocese and eparchy commits to supporting, with appropriate formation and recognition, new opportunities for women to participate in ministries that engage with the most important aspects of diocesan and parish life.

##### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	183
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	9
<i>Non Placet</i>	17

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

##### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	43
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

#### MOTION 4.4

That the Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to implementing more fully the undertakings made by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in their Social Justice Statement, *Woman and Man: The Bishops Respond* (2000), in response to the research report *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus* (1999).

##### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	173
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	28

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

##### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	38
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	3

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 4.5

That, should the universal law of the Church be modified to authorise the diaconate for women, the Plenary Council recommends that the Australian Bishops ~~receive this possibility with openness and~~ examine how best to implement it in the context of the Church in Australia.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	163
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	7
<i>Non Placet</i>	41

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	37
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	1
<i>Non Placet</i>	5

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## ***PART 5: Communion in Grace: Sacrament to the World***

### **MOTION 5.1**

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 5 shown in paragraphs 57-68, amended as marked in red below.

58 a. Through ordination, priests, who are already baptised disciples, enter into a new relationship with the ecclesial community. Called and consecrated by the Church, through the ministry of the bishop, they are to gather the community, proclaim the Gospel and preside at the liturgy, in order to sanctify the entire community of faith for its mission in the world. As disciples, ordained priests are themselves to be formed by the Word and sacraments they celebrate, so that their discipleship is manifest in their way of life and in their relationships, which are to reflect the Spirit of Jesus, the one who serves.

62a. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults continues to be a source of renewed vitality and new membership for parish communities and the Church as a whole. This journey of initiation, conversion, welcome and acceptance requires considerable community and practical resourcing to celebrate well the various stages of growth and maturing into faith. This can often stretch the capacity of communities, particularly small and isolated ones, to offer a deep and fruitful period of preparation. In addition, and as with children's initiation, parish communities sometimes struggle to maintain contact with neophytes after the celebration of the sacraments of initiation. The experience of welcoming new members into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults offers communities opportunities to collaborate and share resources with other communities, and to foster commitment to discipleship in those who seek to be initiated into the life of the Church.

68. THEREFORE, this Plenary Council affirms the fundamental importance of a sacramental and spiritually rich and joyful prayer life that is transformed, ~~and~~ transforming, and inclusive:

...

*c. It requests the Bishops Commission for Liturgy to prepare a new English translation of the Roman Missal that is both faithful to the original text and sensitive to the call for language that communicates clearly and includes all in the assembly.*

#### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	181
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	18

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

#### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	42
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 5.2

That dioceses promote exercise of and formation for the ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	196
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	8

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	40
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 5.3

That, in the light of the change in circumstances over the past twenty years, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference review the provisions and guidelines it issued in May 2003 for lay people to participate in a formal ministry of Preaching in the Latin Church, as provided for in canon 766 of the Code of Canon Law.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	164
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	7
<i>Non Placet</i>	37

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	36
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	1
<i>Non Placet</i>	3

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

#### MOTION 5.4

That the Plenary Council request an amendment to canon 767 to permit in the Latin Church, where appropriate, those entrusted with this ministry of Preaching to preach in the Eucharistic assembly, under the oversight of the local ordinary.

##### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	141
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	5
<i>Non Placet</i>	63

*The motion did not achieve a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

##### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	20
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	20

*A qualified majority was not achieved. The motion was not passed.*

#### MOTION 5.5

That the Bishops Commission for Liturgy institute a sustained program of catechesis of the Sacrament of Penance to promote an understanding of the conditions for and appropriate practice of each of the three forms of the Rite of Penance.

##### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	178
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	26

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

##### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	38
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	2

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 5.6

That the Plenary Council request that the Pope consider whether the Third Form of the Rite of Penance might have wider use on occasions when it is particularly appropriate, granted an understanding among the faithful of its distinctive nature and requirements.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	143
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	58

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	27
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	2
<i>Non Placet</i>	11

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*



## ***PART 6: Formation and Leadership for Mission and Ministry***

### **MOTION 6.1**

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 6 shown in paragraphs 75-83, amended as marked in red below.

**83.** THEREFORE, to meet the formation needs of the present and future, the Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation that will ensure:

...

f. the ~~hopes concerns~~, spirituality, ~~giftedness, energy~~, and modes of communication and connection of young people are identified, ~~and~~ incorporated, ~~encouraged and celebrated~~;

g. ~~ongoing support and strategies for those who minister to young people~~;

h. the rich variety of spiritual and devotional traditions of the Church are appreciated and celebrated; and

i. synodal practices such as encounter, accompaniment, listening, dialogue, discernment and collaboration are fostered and deepened.

#### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	208
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	2
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

#### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	43
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

### **MOTION 6.2**

That each diocese and eparchy develop or strengthen strategic policies, grounded in fidelity to the Gospel and closeness to Jesus Christ, to identify and support ministry and leadership formation. These will:

a. acknowledge the generational, cultural and ethnic diversity of the contemporary Church in Australia;

b. recognise the changing community profile of many parish and faith communities, ~~incorporating an awareness of and outreach to those beyond these communities~~;

- c. enhance knowledge and skills for participating in local churches' structures and processes for consultation, dialogue and decision-making;
- d. address the particular needs of clergy, with focuses on initial formation and selection processes, and ongoing support and formation;
- e. include strategies for initiation, ongoing formation and appropriate forms of mentoring and accompaniment (human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral) that foster collaboration and are grounded in adult education principles;
- f. **provide ongoing support and strategies for those who minister to young people;**
- g. support opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics to undertake formation and training, ensuring that local circumstances and social data are taken into account; and
- h. consider avenues for financial support through scholarships, sponsorships and grants.

**Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	198
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

**Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	43
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

**MOTION 6.3**

That the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commission the Australian Catholic Biblical Association and the Australian Catholic Theological Association to liaise with appropriate Catholic and diocesan agencies, institutions and educational providers in order to enhance cross-institutional engagement and development of resources and formation programs. The design of these resources and programs will carefully consider the needs of rural, remote, and regional areas and creatively assess the use of available technology in order to improve delivery and accessibility.

**Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	188
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	4
<i>Non Placet</i>	7

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	42
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

### **MOTION 6.4**

That the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference establish a working group with expertise in formation to develop national Formation for Leadership strategies and guidelines designed for clergy, religious and lay leaders to address the possibilities and challenges of synodal leadership in parishes and diocesan agencies and support the Church's work of evangelisation. These strategies and guidelines will:

- a. have a national scope and be adaptable to local circumstances;
- b. aim to enhance competencies in leadership and commitment to synodal practices, with a focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the Church;
- c. identify and promote models of effective engagement with government and civil society;
- d. ensure leaders are formed in scripture, tradition and ecclesiology; and
- e. foster a spirituality of leadership through personal and communal prayer, connection to the sacramental life of the church, and commitment to service.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	183
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	12

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	41
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	2

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## MOTION 6.5

That the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference establish a working group with expertise in Catholic Social Teaching to develop a national framework for formation in Catholic Social Teaching that will encourage, support and expand the offering of programs in Catholic Social Teaching. Situated within the broader teaching and mission of the Church, this framework will emphasise the social dimension of the Church's mission, incorporating contemporary analysis of the Australian context, with a particular focus on the formation requirements of leaders in Catholic social service, health and aged care organisations, Catholic education and dioceses.

### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	181
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	17

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	41
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	2

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## ***PART 9: The Implementation Phase of the Fifth Plenary Council***

### **MOTION 9**

That the Plenary Council adopt the following steps for ensuring the effectiveness and accountability of the Implementation phase, to take place over a period of five years:

- a. the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council will be responsible for establishing terms of review for the Plenary Council's implementation;
- b. a roundtable body such as that proposed in the motion at paragraph 96 will be responsible for co-ordinating the review;
- c. interim reports will be published in 2023 and 2025; and
- d. the final review report will be published five years after the Second Assembly, in 2027.

#### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	185
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	17
<i>Non Placet</i>	6

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

#### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	36
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	1
<i>Non Placet</i>	6

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## **PART 10: The Decrees of the Fourth Plenary Council of Australia**

### **MOTION 10**

That the Plenary Council note that many of the Decrees of the Fourth Plenary Council of Australia have been abrogated by the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, the 1983 Code of Canon Law, and subsequent universal law, and refer the 685 decrees to a competent canonical panel to determine those whose validity may endure, so that they may be restated in local law and any appropriate amendments may be made at diocesan synods or by appropriate persons in the next five years.

#### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	195
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	5

*The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.*

#### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	41
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	1
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.*

## ***PART 11: Closing the Plenary Council***

### **MOTION 11**

That in accord with its Statutes and Regulatory Norms (article 29), and having completed the two general assemblies mandated by the Statutes (article 3), the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia be closed by the President in Session 21 of the Second General Assembly on Saturday 9 July 2022.

#### **Consultative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	182
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	2
<i>Non Placet</i>	4

*The motion achieved the simple majority necessary on the consultative vote.*

#### **Deliberative vote**

<i>Placet</i>	42
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

*The simple majority required was achieved. The motion was passed.*