

PLEBISCITE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The current issue of same-sex marriage and the proposal to change the basic definition of marriage in Australia raises issues that are central to a society seeking maturity. We all know and love same-sex attracted people in our families, parishes and communities. They do feel particularly vulnerable in the current national discussions. Our respect and care reaches out to them as always. That been said, traditional marriage must be considered one of the great treasures of humanity. Clearly, Christianity has given it a particular sacramental understanding. Yet, the exclusive love sharing of a man and a woman that is open to the possibility of giving life to children has been a central benchmark of healthy societies over millennia. St John Paul II often wrote that society comes through the family. Strengthening society means strengthening marriage and families. How can changing the basic and enduring definition of marriage assist a strong society? Several recent Popes have also made the parallel with environmental ecology and human ecology. They rightly see their interconnection. For example, why be strong on protecting the natural beauties of Australia but less so on protecting proven human beauties, like traditional marriage? Indeed, we seem to be strong on protecting the environment but seemingly more ready to endanger the delicate ecology of human relationships in re-defining marriage. Subjective considerations are significant but must be balanced carefully with objective truths about the value of traditional marriage and its links with the flourishing of society. Clearly, too, if overseas examples are a guide, many countries that have permitted same-sex marriage are now encountering all sorts of challenges regarding abuses to the fundamental rights of religious freedom and speech. Various ideologies can be asserted in a subtle manner as the new "right". Pope Francis warns us about the advance of an "ideological colonisation" in our world. Let us do all we can to protect traditional marriage from any legal re-definition. Make sure you vote! For more information, we encourage everyone to visit The Coalition for

Marriage website: www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** Columban Calendars have arrived for those people who ordered them. Please pickup and pay \$9-00 at the Parish office between 9-30am and 1-30pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Thanks. SCRIPTURE TEACHER NEEDED Due to the retirement of three of our wonderful volunteers we have positions available to teach the children at Scripture at some of our local state primary schools. This involves 30 mins per week, you are trained, supported and join a great team of 220 across our Archdiocese. If you are interested, please contact Matt Ransom at: matt.ransom@cg.org.au FOO<u>D BANK</u> (Roster for November 2017 - GROUP 4) For any further information, please feel free to contact either Louise on (0477) 380 795 or Mary-Louise (Tootsie) on (0429) 811 081. **OFFERTORY PROCESSION** If anyone is interested in joining a Roster for the Offertory Procession during either Mass on a weekend, please contact Trish Saines on (0433) 391-788 to add your name to the list.