



Dear Fathers, Deacons and Pastoral Leaders,
I write to update you briefly on three important topics of present media interest.

1. ON CELEBRATING MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM

Last week, Pope Francis published his Motu Proprio, "Traditionis Custodes". It pertains to the use of the Roman Liturgy prior to the Liturgical Reform of 1970. There was also a Letter to Bishops accompanying this document.

I have attached both for your careful reading.

I will be meeting soon with the priests in the Archdiocese who accompany our people in the Latin Mass. We will discuss implications of the document for the liturgy in the Archdiocese.

This matter offers also a kind of examen on our celebration of the Mass in English. Matters regarding the dignified and theologically suitable choice of hymns, the place of ritual silences in the Mass, and other elements, could well be evaluated in your parish liturgical committees.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2021/documents/20210716-lettera-vescovi-liturgia.html>

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/20210716-motu-proprio-traditionis-custodes.html

2. EUTHANASIA IN THE A.C.T. AND N.S.W.

Recently, there has been growing public comment regarding the A.C.T.'s ability to make its own laws on Euthanasia. *The Canberra Times* has just begun a sustained campaign to promote this cause. Some public figures are already stating that they are against euthanasia but supportive of the Territory's rights. Given that the two issues are being presented together, it is difficult to understand such a stance.

I will be making some public comments soon on this issue.

Regarding New South Wales, there are also proposals to introduce euthanasia legislation. I have joined other bishops of N.S.W. to oppose such moves.

Please refresh yourselves on the Church's teaching on euthanasia. A good start is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n.2276-2279,2324, 2278).

You may wish to advise your people of our Catholic teaching on euthanasia and the importance of palliative care.

3. PLENARY COUNCIL MEMBER FORMATION

The members of our Archdiocese on the Plenary Council have just concluded their formation sessions. The first assembly will be conducted in the first week of October.

Please continue to pray and inform your people about this historic moment in our Catholic Australian life. Updates and information are available on the Plenary Council website

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Let us continue to pray, keep updated and informed on these issues.

With every encouragement and gratitude as we continue "to walk together" on the evangelisation path of synodality.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

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The Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn