



MOST REVEREND TERENCE BRADY DD VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, Titular Bishop of Talattula

AD CLERUM

December 2020

PLENARY COUNCIL

The Season of Advent is one of anticipation and for Clergy and Parish communities it entails a flurry of activity ranging from organising outreach and support for vulnerable members of our community to liturgical preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. This year we feel a similar sense of anticipation and hope as we approach the First Assembly of the Plenary Council in October. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have the promise that discernment and prayer will help facilitate rich dialogue about the life of the Catholic Church in Australia among the delegates and consultants attending the Assemblies.

The October 2021 Assembly will no longer see the gathering of delegates in Adelaide, as initially planned. Despite certain restrictions being lifted across the country in relation to COVID 19, there remains uncertainty about whether the present situation will continue into next year, or whether we will see new travel restrictions and further distancing requirements or other limitations put in place. These and other matters were recently considered by the Bishops Conference and a decision was made to hold the October 2021 assembly via a “multi-modal” format (a combination of online and face to face meetings by local-diocesan and interdiocesan gatherings). This is not ideal but it is realistic in the present uncertain situation. For more information: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/FIRST-PLENARY-COUNCIL-ASSEMBLY-MIXES-IN-PERSON-ONLINE.pdf>

The Archdiocese will work in partnership with other dioceses and the Plenary Council facilitation team to look at possible options to bring NSW delegates together for the October Assembly. The Archdiocese will undertake a commissioning of delegates to the Assemblies early next year with planning underway for a Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral with Archbishop Anthony Fisher to lead us in this momentous initiative. The delegates from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney come from many varied backgrounds and experiences and we ask for the ongoing prayers of our parish communities for both the Plenary Council and the delegates as they gather together over the course of next year to prepare for the first Assembly.



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The delegates who will be attending Assemblies 1 and 2 (2022) from the Sydney Archdiocese are:

Archbishop Anthony Fisher	Fr Isodore Anantharaj
Bishop Terence Brady	Fr Eric Skruzny
Bishop Richard Umbers	Fr Julian Wellspring
Fr Gerald Gleeson	Ms Selina Hasham
Fr Michael de Stoop	Mr Christopher Lee
Fr Kelvin Lovegrove	Mrs Francine Pirola
Fr Michael McLean	Gabriel Turchi
Fr Paul Monkerud	Professor Hayden Ramsay
Professor Dermott Nester	Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan	Sr Isabelle Naumann
Dr Rohan Curnow	Professor Michele Riondino

The New Year will provide an opportunity for parishes and the Sydney Plenary Council working group to reengage with the Plenary Council journey. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how this may be achieved and what support you would consider might be beneficial to assist you and parish ambassadors to lead your community's participation in the final phase of the Plenary Council journey.

Many blessings to you for a joyous Christmas and New Year. May the birth of our Saviour Jesus bring Peace to your Heart.

Bishop Terry Brady and Professor Sandra Lynch
Co Chairs Sydney Plenary Council Working Group