



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Second Assembly of the Plenary Council continues

It has been a week of looking back and looking forward for our Church.

Hot on the heels of our celebrations for the 175th anniversary of our Diocese, we have, very fittingly, celebrated [a special Mass for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday](#) at St Patrick's Cathedral, where [Sherry Balcombe, Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria \(ACMV\)](#), was presented with the 2022 NATSICC Service to the Community Award. It was a time to give thanks for the rich gifts we receive as a Church from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters, the inheritors of a culture and spirituality stretching back more than 60,000 years, and to commit ourselves to walking more closely with them into the future.

ACMV has played an integral role in bringing people on this journey of accompaniment, and as part of our 'Moments of Grace' series, we hear about [the early days of ACMV](#), and the remarkable people whose faith and vision planted the seeds of this important ministry.

As well as marking the beginning of NAIDOC Week, last Sunday also marked the beginning of the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council in Sydney, where Members from around Australia are gathering with our bishops to pray, discern and vote on a number of topics of significance to the future of the Church in Australia. In this issue, we explore [the Council's endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart](#), and also reflect on [the role of rituals of lament in our response to the tragedy of sexual abuse](#) within the Church. We also hear from Dr Nigel Zimmerman, one of the *periti*, or theological advisors to the Plenary Council, about the [important role each of us plays in making disciples](#).

As the Plenary Council continues the important and sometimes difficult work of discerning and voting on the motions before it, let's continue to pray for the proceedings and for all participants, that the Spirit might lead the Church in Australia on the path to God's promised future.



Our story of faith ‘through the eyes and hearts of Indigenous Christians’

Written by:

On Sunday 3 July, at a special Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, Sherry Balcombe, Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, was presented with the 2022 NATSICC Service to the Community Award.

Continue reading: [Our story of faith ‘through the eyes and hearts of Indigenous Christians’](#)



Making disciples is not ‘for a privileged few’: Dr Nigel Zimmermann

On Wednesday 6 July, Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia heard reflections from the periti, the theological advisors to the Council. One of these was given by Dr Nigel Zimmermann from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He invites the Council to reflect on the need for formation in discipleship.

Continue reading: [Making disciples is not ‘for a privileged few’: Dr Nigel Zimmermann](#)



‘Rituals of lament’: Plenary Council mourns for those suffering because of abuse

One of the more significant items on the agenda of the Plenary Council has been the Church’s response to the sexual abuse crisis. On Tuesday, it was announced that all motions relating to this theme had been passed by an overwhelming majority.

Continue reading: [‘Rituals of lament’: Plenary Council mourns for those suffering because of abuse](#)



Plenary Council officially endorses Uluru Statement from the Heart

In a recent announcement, the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia has revealed that the Uluru Statement of the Heart has been officially endorsed by the Council.

Continue reading: [Plenary Council officially endorses Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)



Gathering people together: the early days of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria

The story of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria's earliest days gives us a glimpse of the way the Spirit often starts small, moving powerfully through unexpected moments of grace. Aub and Barb Kinchella have a special place in this story. While they are no longer with us, their steadfast faith and vision continue to bring people together.

Continue reading: [Gathering people together: the early days of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria](#)

‘It is not a task for a privileged few, but for all of us. To serve the Lord faithfully, we must be prepared and taught, humbly learning the craft of sharing the Good News.’



Dr Nigel Zimmerman

addressing the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council

