



### *From the President:*

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has announced a Plenary Council for 2020. The need for such a council at this time was explained by the bishops in these words:

*The circumstances of the Church in Australia in our time, including the patterns of change that are evident within the community of the Church, the issues confronting the Church in modern multicultural and secular Australia, the increase in entrusting responsibility for and leadership of the Church's mission to laity, and even the changing face of the Episcopate, prompt the Church to review, analyse, and discern the signs of the times, to listen anew to the Spirit, and to chart its course into the future.*

A Commission of the Bishops Conference has been established to oversee the planning and preparation of the Council. The Commission consists of five bishops and is chaired by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the archbishop of Brisbane. They will be advised by a Plenary Council Executive Committee drawn from various regions of the country, and bringing a broad range of experience and expertise. A Facilitation Group has been appointed. Its role is to respond to the realities of preparing for and celebrating the Plenary Council. Fr Noel Connolly, who lectures in Mission at CIS, has been appointed to the Facilitation Team.

In July many of the CIS staff attended the annual conferences of the Australian Catholic Biblical Association and the Australian Catholic Theological Association. During the conference Archbishop Mark Coleridge gave an address about the plenary council. He indicated that there will be three phases: a preparatory phase leading up to 2020; the celebration phase in 2020 with the meeting of the council; and the implementation phase after the council. All Catholics will have an opportunity to engage with the council's processes. Initially this will be through the preparation phase, as Catholics will be asked to participate in local consultations.

For students of theology like us at CIS the plenary council is an opportunity to deepen our ecclesiological understanding. The Australian Bishops recognise this, and have reminded us of the words of Pope Francis about being a synodal church:

*A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realises that listening 'is more than simply hearing'. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he 'says to the Churches' (Rev 2:7).*

If you are interested in knowing more about a synodal church and Pope Francis' vision it would be worth reading a recent article by Fr Orm Rush from Brisbane: "Inverting the Pyramid: the *Sensus Fidelium* in a Synodal Church", *Theological Studies* 78 (June 2017), 299-325.usual'."

*Fr Gerard Kelly*

Tuesday 15 August is the *Feast of the Assumption*.  
In the Australian Church it is a holy day of obligation.

Mass will be celebrated at 12.40pm in the chapel,  
Monday to Wednesday this week.

**There will be no Mass on Thursday 17 August.**





*From the Academic Dean:*

We have now come to the third week of the semester and I need to bring a number of issues to your attention.

First, this is the week in which class lists are finalised. **After Week 3 it is not possible to withdraw from a class without incurring academic penalty unless you make a special application, through the Academic Registrar, to the CIS Academic Board.** Such applications are not automatically granted. If the withdrawal after this week is not granted by the CIS Academic Board, regretfully, you will fail the course unit and that fail will count against your GPA. If you are provisionally enrolled, your enrolment may be terminated on the basis of such a fail.

Secondly, a reminder about attendance: **students ordinarily must attend 80% of classes in order to pass a course unit.** In practice, this means that you can only be absent for a maximum of two classes (or a maximum of one day for intensives/extensives). Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. However, should they present, they should be negotiated very clearly with your lecturer and, possibly, with myself.

My final item relates to housekeeping, and it's a gentle reminder that the student common-room facilities are provided for all students, and as such, it's up to everyone to pitch in and ensure it remains a functional and pleasant space. So please wash up after yourself and help to stack the dishwasher when required.

With good wishes for the weeks ahead,

*Dr Rohan Curnow*

***STUDY SKILLS MORNING***

**Led by: Dr Rohan Curnow and Dr Robert Andrews**

**SATURDAY 19 AUGUST 2017 (Lecture Room 3)**

**9.30am — 12.30pm**

**RSVP by Thursday 17 August at the Registry Office.**

**All welcome!** A great opportunity for new students. Content will include how to write an essay through every step of the way, from the essay question to the finished product, analysing the essay question, preparing a mind-map, researching the essay, planning to use the material to answer the question, proper documentation of sources and editing the essay and computer use in essay writing.

**STUDY SKILLS MORNING**

I will be attending the study skills morning on Saturday 19th August 2017

NAME: .....

PHONE No: .....

Please return to Mary Cassar (Registry Office) by Thursday 17th August, 2017

