



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops Commission for Family, Youth and Life

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP (Chairman)
Bishop Peter Comensoli
Bishop Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop Michael Kennedy

17 October 2017

Your Graces, My Lords and Reverend Monsignors,

Weekly Communiqué to assist information-sharing for the Marriage Law Postal Survey

Aboriginals get behind the No vote: A heart for marriage from the heart of the country



This photo was recently taken in Central Australia. The Aboriginal community are continuing to voice their concern about redefining marriage. In August 2015 they presented the [Uluru Bark Petition](#) to Federal Parliament. The heart of the Petition states that marriage between man and woman is, and has always been, sacred to the oldest living culture on earth. A [series of recent videos](#) have been made featuring Central Australian Aboriginals talking about the Marriage Law Postal Survey and the importance of voting “No”.

ABS releases third weekly estimate of Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey Response

As of Friday, October 13, the ABS estimates it has received 10.8 million votes (67.5 %) survey forms. This result means there are around 5 million votes yet to be cast, so it is vital that as many people as possible are encouraged to vote. **Requests for replacement forms close this Friday.**

Pope Francis rejects the push to eliminate sexual difference at the Pontifical Academy for Life

In a [recent address to the Pontifical Academy for Life](#), Pope Francis observed that “the utopia of “the neuter” eliminates both human dignity in sexual distinctiveness and the personal nature of the generation of new life.” He also said that “the life-giving covenant between man and woman protects, not hinders, the dignity of our human family. Our history will not continue to be renewed if we reject this truth.”





Sundays in October 2017



#PrayForMarriage

Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Families – Week 4 –October 22

This Sunday, October 22, is the fourth week of the [Month of Prayer and Fasting](#). The prayer theme for this Sunday is: *for our nation's understanding of the importance of marriage: That we will act to protect God's plan for marriage and family life.* The Prayer of the Faithful for October 22 is: *“Today and throughout this week we pray for our nation's understanding of the importance of marriage. Heavenly Father, grant that all Australians develop a true understanding of the meaning and importance of marriage in our society. We pray that we will work cooperatively to ensure our nation upholds your plan for marriage and families.”*

Draft Parish Bulletin Notice



There are effectively 2 weeks to go in the Marriage Law Survey. The outcome of the vote will have a significant impact on our society. It is important for those who believe in traditional marriage to have their say without feeling intimidated. If you have not done so already please fill in your survey form and return it by post to the ABS by the end of October to be sure it is delivered before November 7. For more information: marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au .

Church graffiti attack targets ‘No’ voters



Last weekend, Sunday morning churchgoers were shocked when they arrived for morning service to see their [church vandalised](#) with the sayings ‘Crucify No voters’ and ‘Vote Yes’. The slogans, in reference to the same-sex marriage vote, were painted along church walls in white at Waverley Baptist church in Wheelers Hill, Victoria.

Yours fraternally in Christ

Handwritten signature of Archbishop Anthony Fisher in green ink.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney
Chair, Bishops Commission for Family, Youth and Life

Handwritten signature of Mr Ben Smith in blue ink.

Mr Ben Smith
Marriage Education Project Coordinator
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference