



VOTING OUTCOMES FOR THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

PARTS 3 AND 4 OF THE [MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS DOCUMENT](#)

Announced on July 6, 2022

**Voting Guide: *Placet (Assent); Placet Juxta Modum (Assent with Modification);
Non Placet (Dissent)***

PART 3: Called by Christ - Sent Forth as Missionary Disciples

MOTION 3.2

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 3 shown in paragraphs 34-44, with paragraph 37 amended as marked below in red.

37.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* n. 28 Pope Francis describes four key characteristics of an evangelising parish:

- It is “in contact with the homes and the lives of its people”
- It is “an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration”
- It “encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers”
- It is “a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	162
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	27
<i>Non Placet</i>	23

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	37
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	4
<i>Non Placet</i>	2

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 3.3

46. That those responsible for Catholic schooling and early childhood education, in consultation with representatives of Catholic parents' groups and parish-based organisations, led by the National Catholic Education Commission and drawing upon the document A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education (2017), establish a national forum, which will seek to:
- identify and respond to the needs of the diverse and distinct circumstances of Catholic schools in Australia;
 - build partnerships which enhance the vision of Catholic education as an instrument of evangelisation and an essential dimension of the contemporary mission of the Church;
 - offer a process for critical reflection and discernment of the vocation of Catholic education today;
 - support formation opportunities for catechesis, faith formation, leadership development and training in religious education pedagogy; and
 - to assist parish engagement with schools and young people.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	174
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	15
<i>Non Placet</i>	23

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	32
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	7
<i>Non Placet</i>	4

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 3.4

47. That the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service establish a triennial National Forum of Catholic social service, health and aged care, disability, prison ministry, refugee and asylum-seeker, and justice, ecology and peace organisations, **and representatives of those served by these organisations**; and that

the purpose of this forum include:

- a. providing opportunities for dialogue that will contribute to the ability of the Church in Australia to attend to “examining the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel”;
- b. identifying and exploring priorities for evangelisation through outreach, service provision, advocacy and formation;
- c. addressing gaps;
- d. seeking opportunities for collaboration; and
- e. informing the development of local social teachings to be issued by the Australian Bishops.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	173
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	11
<i>Non Placet</i>	23

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	34
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	3

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 3.5

48.

- a. That each diocese identify ways of promoting ecumenical and interfaith relationships (e.g., an Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer) that are practical and appropriate for the diocese.

b. That the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue – in collaboration with Catholic tertiary institutions and theological associations – provide guidance, advice and resources to dioceses for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and relationships, and formation for those responsible for ecumenical and interreligious relations.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	182
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	15
<i>Non Placet</i>	16

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	39
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	3
<i>Non Placet</i>	1

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

PART 4: Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men

MOTION 4.5

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 4 shown in paragraphs 49-54, with paragraphs 50, 52 and 54 amended as marked in red below.

50. Recognition of the equality of women and men has grown in western societies over time, with political and civic institutions responding accordingly. Particularly since the 1960s, a growing awareness of the equal dignity of women and men has reshaped Australian social and political life. Nonetheless, inequality between women and men persists and there is still much to be done **and the Church is called to respond actively to these issues in society.**

52. On this matter, the Church in Australia has travelled some distance in more recent times. The living witness of countless women of faith has profoundly shaped our history in many ways, including through family, **motherhood**, work, and the lay apostolate...

54. THEREFORE, this Plenary Council commits the Church in Australia to acting in a way that witnesses clearly to the equal dignity of women and men, **with their diverse gifts and experiences**, overcoming the assumptions that lead to inequality, and to “enhancing the role of women in the Church”. This will involve:

- a. ensuring that women are appropriately represented in decision-making structures of Church governance at the parish, diocese or eparchy, and national level, and in Church agencies and organisations;
- b. ensuring, through formal policies and intentional practice, that the experiences and perspectives of women are heard, considered and valued. This is particularly important for matters which affect them distinctively;
- c. ensuring that dioceses and eparchies value more publicly, recognise and, where necessary, remunerate more appropriately those women already leading and serving in the Church in various ways;
- d. *Reviewing actions taken to address the findings of the research report **Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus** (1999) and identifying where further action is appropriate to progress the commitments made in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement, **Woman and Man: The Bishops Respond** (2000);*
- e. women engaged in ministry sharing with the Australian bishops their experiences and reflections on ministry, and reporting to Pope Francis' reconstituted Study Commission on the Female Diaconate;
- f. considering women for ministry as deacon – should Pope Francis authorise such ministry in light of the findings of the reconstituted Study Commission on the Female Diaconate; and
- g. presenting scriptural and theological formation and catechesis on the dignity of women at the parish, diocesan, and national level.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	148
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	27
<i>Non Placet</i>	36

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	25
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	10
<i>Non Placet</i>	8

The motion did not achieve a qualified majority on the deliberative vote. The motion was not passed.

MOTION 4.6

That each Australian diocese and eparchy foster new opportunities for women to participate in ministries and roles that are stable, publicly recognised, resourced with appropriate formation including theological education and commissioned by the bishop. These ministries and roles should engage with the most important aspects of diocesan and parish life and have a real impact on those communities.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	84
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	31
<i>Non Placet</i>	97

The motion did not achieve a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	27
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	5
<i>Non Placet</i>	11

The motion did not achieve a qualified majority on the deliberative vote. The motion was not passed.