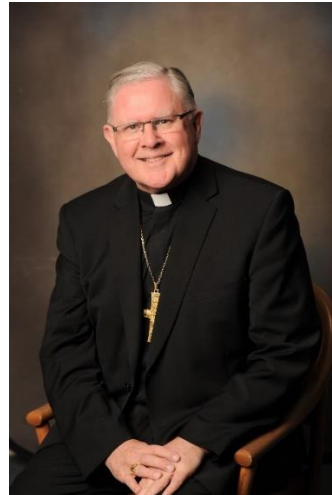


MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE ON THE START OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL FIRST ASSEMBLY



Assembly One: October 2021



After five years of preparation and consultation we're finally arrived at the moment of the first assembly of the two assemblies of the Plenary Council in Australia; the first Plenary Council celebrated in Australia since 1937.

Because of COVID-19 we've had to postpone this first assembly for twelve months. We're still in the grip of COVID-19 but we decided to go ahead even though now the first assembly will be completely online.

But here in Brisbane, unless we have a lockdown, we will gather as a group of about fifteen in Cathedral House each day. So there will be some face to face, but most of it will be face to screen.

Now, not everybody can be a member of the Plenary Council. There will be about 300 of us online as members and expert advisors and helpers of various kinds, so that 300 will be online.

But in fact the Plenary Council is for the entire community of faith, all catholic people whoever you are, it's for you the Plenary Council.

So you may not be online as a member of the Plenary Council, but you are very much part of the journey of this week and that's why I write to you now.

If you're not online there are other ways in which you can take part; you can follow the live stream sessions each day, not all the sessions will be live streamed, but some will be and you are very much invited to join the live stream sessions*.

Then you can each day follow the updates that will be provided at the end of each day.

So again I invite you, I urge you to read the updates but most of all, to surround the assembly with your prayer; that this is a deep and real and powerful way of you sharing in the experience of this first assembly.

So the call is to all of us members or not the fact is you've been baptised and therefore you are very much part of the journey.

So let's take the road together and may God, who has begun the good work in us with the Plenary Council, bring it to fulfilment.

* A google search for "Plenary Council" will find us at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>