

Circular C20/94 - D39/94
December 1994

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 1994

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST PAUL'S NATIONAL
SEMINARY, KENSINGTON, NSW FROM WEDNESDAY 30
NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 1994

ATTENDANCE The following were present:

- + Edward Cardinal Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney, *President*
- + Thomas Francis Little, Archbishop of Melbourne, *Vice President*

- + Francis Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra and
Goulburn + Leonard Faulkner, Archbishop of
Adelaide + Joseph Eric D'Arcy, Archbishop of Hobart
+ Barry Hickey, Archbishop of Perth + John
Bathersby, Archbishop of Brisbane

- + John Jobst, Bishop of Broome
- + Ronald Mulkearns, Bishop of Ballarat
- + John Satterthwaite, Bishop of Lismore
- + Peter Quinn, Bishop of Bunbury
- + David Cremin, Auxiliary, Sydney
- + William Murray, Bishop of Wollongong
- + John Gerry, Auxiliary, Brisbane
- + Robert Healy, Auxiliary, Perth
- + Leo Clarke, Bishop of Maitland
- + Patrick Dougherty, Bishop of Bathurst
- + Patrick Murphy, Bishop of Broken Bay
- + Noel Daly, Bishop of Sandhurst
- + Bede Heather, Bishop of Parramatta
- + Francis Peter De Campo, Bishop of Port Pine
- + Eugene James Cuskelly, Auxiliary, Brisbane
- + William Brennan, Bishop of Wagga Wagga
- + Geoffrey Robinson, Auxiliary, Sydney
- + Raymond Benjamin, Bishop of Townsville
- + Geoffrey Mayne, Military Ordinary, Australia
- + Patrick Power, Auxiliary, Canberra and Goulburn
- + Edmund Collins, Bishop of Darwin
- + Peter Connors, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + George Pell, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + Jeremiah Coffey, Bishop of Sale
- + Kevin Manning, Bishop of Armidale
- + Brian Heenan, Bishop of Rockhampton
- + Justin Bianchini, Bishop of Geraldton
- + James Foley, Bishop of Cairns
- + William Morris, Bishop of Toowoomba
- + Hilton Deakin, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + Peter Stasiuk, Eparch of St Peter and Paul, Melbourne
- + Peter Ingham, Auxiliary, Sydney
- + Barry Collins, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Bishop O'Connell, Auxiliary, Melbourne and, for part of meeting, Archbishop D'Arcy, Bishop Murphy, Bishop E Collins and Bishop De Campo.

OPENING MASS

The Mass for the Feast of St Andrew, Apostle was concelebrated in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Monastery, Kensington, at 7 am on Wednesday 30 November 1994. The President of Conference, Cardinal Clancy, was the principal celebrant and preached the homily.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting began after recitation of Prayer During The Day at 9.15 am on Wednesday 30 November 1994.

The President, Cardinal Clancy, welcomed the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop Franco Brambilla; the Observers from the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Brother R. Julian McDonald cfc and Sister Helen Clarke rsc; and the Media Officer, Miss Mary Newport.

MESSAGE TO THE HOLY FATHER

The Conference sent this message to His Holiness, John Paul II:

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS, GATHERED IN CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT, SEND GREETINGS TO THE HOLY FATHER AS WE JOIN THE WHOLE CHURCH IN CELEBRATING THIS SEASON OF JOYFUL HOPE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO GREETING YOUR HOLINESS WHEN YOU VISIT US NEXT MONTH TO PROCLAIM OUR FIRST *BEATA*, MARY MACKLLOP. WE HOPE THAT ALL AUSTRALIANS MAY DISCOVER IN HER LIFE THE EVER FRESH MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL. MAY OUR OWN FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST BE DEEPENED BY CONTEMPLATING HER EXAMPLE.

WE ARE GLAD TO HEAR OF THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN THE HOLY FATHER'S HEALTH AND ASSURE HIM OF THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA AS WE ASK HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

ACBC Plenary November 1994

6 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Greetings from Archbishop Gleeson were gratefully received.

7 ***REQUIESCAT IN PACE***

+ E F Kelly, Former Bishop of Toowoomba (2 September 1994)

8 **MESSAGE TO SICK AND RETIRED BISHOPS**

Conference agreed to send greetings to:

+ J P Carroll, Former Auxiliary Archbishop, Sydney
 + J W Gleeson, Former Archbishop of Adelaide
 + A F Fox, Former Bishop of Sale
 + J Cullinane, Former Auxiliary, Melbourne
 + M McKeon, Former Bishop of Bunbury
 + H Kennedy, Former Bishop of Armidale
 + J Torpie, Former Bishop of Cairns
 + J A Morgan, Former Military Vicar
 + A Khalife, Former Bishop of St Maroun, Sydney
 + E Perkins, Former Auxiliary, Melbourne
 + F Rush, Former Archbishop of Brisbane
 + J Heaps, Former Auxiliary, Sydney
 + I Prasko, Former Eparch of St Peter and Paul, Melbourne
 + D Warren, Former Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes
 + J O'Connell, Auxiliary Bishop, Melbourne

9 **VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC PRO-NUNCIO**

His Excellency addressed the Plenary during its opening session.

10 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the April 1994 Meeting had been distributed to all members of the Conference.

MOTION That the Minutes of the April 1994 Plenary Meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference be taken as read and be confirmed.

CARRIED

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REDACTED
Relevance
REDACTED
Relevance

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Conference received the Committee's report, which was presented by Bishop Connors, Secretary.

83 REPLIES BY BISHOPS TO QUESTIONNAIRES FORWARDED BY SOLICITORS ACTING ON BEHALF OF ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has been asked to supply written answers to a questionnaire prepared by solicitors acting on behalf of a prospective plaintiff in a case of sexual abuse by a priest. The purpose of the questionnaire is to enable the Archbishop to avoid attendance at Court to elucidate orally the matters referred to in the questionnaire.

The Committee strongly recommended that when bishops receive similar requests from solicitors, their replies be substantially in accord with the answers given by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. If and when such a similar request is made in another diocese, the bishop is asked to contact Bishop Connors for further information.

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REDACTED
Relevance

The following pages have been
intentionally excluded:

2040-2097, 2099-2123 inclusive