



VOTING OUTCOMES FOR THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

PARTS 7 AND 8 OF THE [MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS DOCUMENT](#)

Announced on July 7, 2022

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

PART 7: At the Service of Communion, Participation and Mission: Governance.

MOTION 7.2

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 7 shown in paragraphs 89-93, amended as marked in red below.

91. The practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision-making and the overcoming of “a ‘culture of clericalism’ that promotes privilege and enables abuse of power.” Pope Francis has stressed that “it can prove especially divisive if sacramental power is too closely identified with power in general.” Attending carefully to Pope Francis’ reminder and the principle of subsidiarity, those whose roles involve responsibility for decision-taking need to ensure that decision-making is not confined to those who exercise sacramental ~~power~~ **ministry**. Those who will be affected by a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and express their view before the decision is taken, to the extent that this is possible and appropriate. As decision-making authority in the Church is most often exercised by ~~men~~ **the ordained**, there should be careful attention to **ensuring that** the voices of **lay women and men, as well as Religious,** ~~when considering~~ **are heard and considered on** all matters, especially those that impact distinctively on them.

93. THEREFORE, this Plenary Council:

a. affirms that governance in the Catholic Church should be exercised in a synodal manner, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised. For a diocese or eparchy, this would mainly involve the participation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Diocesan Curia, **various boards and governance bodies**, and, at times, a Diocesan Synod. For a parish, this would mainly involve the participation of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee;

...

c. **calls for all dioceses to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council, and** affirms the continuing work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Centre for Pastoral Research to develop guidelines and provide resources for the establishing and flourishing of

Diocesan Pastoral Councils, ~~which are highly recommended~~, Parish Pastoral Councils, and other appropriate synodal structures;

...

e. commits the Church in Australia to fostering the discernment and synodal leadership envisaged at Vatican II, called for by Pope Francis and experienced in the Plenary Council's ~~First Assembly~~ journey through the actions proposed below.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	173
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	11
<i>Non Placet</i>	28

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	38
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	1
<i>Non Placet</i>	5

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 7.3

That dioceses and eparchies support parishes to establish and strengthen appropriate synodal structures by developing guidelines and providing resources for the flourishing of Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Finance Committees, and other parish bodies.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	207
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	2
<i>Non Placet</i>	8

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	44
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 7.4

That representatives from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and the Association of Ministerial PJP's form a working group to ~~develop and establish a roundtable structure, after conduct~~ appropriate and broad consultation, ~~with the proposed name of the~~ to develop and establish a National Catholic Synodal Life Roundtable, to foster, assess, and report periodically on the development of synodal leadership across the Church in Australia. The roundtable will bring together representative members of those groups with Diocesan Pastoral Councils and other key national bodies of the Church, including Catholic social and community services, health, and education.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	153
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	47

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	30
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	14

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 7.5

That the National Centre for Pastoral Research be commissioned to study the implementation of recommendations from *The Light from the Southern Cross* which has already happened, to identify examples of effective initiatives that have been taken and thus promote further implementation of those recommendations judged helpful and practicable.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	168
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	6
<i>Non Placet</i>	40

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	34
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

PART 8: Integral Ecology for the Sake of Our Common Home

MOTION 8.1

That the Plenary Council adopt the introductory statement of Part 8 shown in paragraphs 98-104, amended as marked in red below.

99. Throughout the Scriptures we learn of God’s love for creation, from the affirmation of the goodness of creation in Genesis (Genesis 1:2-4) to the Book of Revelation’s vision of a creation made new (Revelation 21:5). **All life and all that sustains it comes from God the Creator as gift: and so we are committed to care for our Common Home, and to cherish and promote the dignity of human life from conception to natural death...**

101. Laudato Si’ reiterates Pope Saint John Paul II’s call to ecological conversion, and encourages the Church especially to undertake ecological education and to foster ecological spirituality. The call to ecological conversion is part of the call to defend human life from conception to natural death, **especially those who are most vulnerable**, and **to care for** all forms of life on Earth, because “systems of life and love are deeply interconnected”. Responding to this call requires new ways of seeing the world, thinking and behaving. Ecological conversion entails turning from human dominance to belonging to the community of life and to interdependence with all other creatures, awe in the beauty of creation and being nourished by a sense of God’s presence.

102. Ecological conversion is both personal and communal, and therefore we must act to care for creation in ways that are both personal and communal. Such action will be informed by Scripture, our theological tradition, Catholic Social Teaching, **and** human knowledge, **and scientific insight...**

104. THEREFORE, this Plenary Council:

a. recognises the sacred duty to care for and protect the Earth as a common home for all God’s creatures, including the generations to come;

b. encourages all Catholic people, families, parishes, dioceses, eparchies, religious institutes, **educational institutions**, and **other** Catholic organisations to accept Pope Francis’ invitation to join the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and either develop Laudato Si’ Action Plans, or participate in existing Laudato Si’ Action Plans, as a vehicle for their ecological conversion; and

c. **affirms promotes** initiatives in Church and society which promote and defend human life from conception to natural death, **especially those who are most vulnerable**.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	196
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	10
<i>Non Placet</i>	5

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	44
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	0

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.

MOTION 8.2

That, witnessing to their communal ecological conversion **and the urgent need for action**, by ~~2030~~ 2024 each Catholic parish, diocese, eparchy, **educational institution** or organisation **commits to joining the Laudato Si' Platform; and by 2030** either develops its own or participates in an established Laudato Si' Action Plan which includes the following elements:

- a. a public commitment;
- b. a governance model, processes and procedures;
- c. a mechanism for listening to the ecological wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, developed in partnership with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and diocesan justice, ecology and peace bodies where these exist;
- d. regular reporting on progress towards and accountability for defined goals and objectives; and
- e. co-construction of those goals and objectives with the people they are meant to support and serve.

Consultative vote

<i>Placet</i>	176
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	10
<i>Non Placet</i>	24

The motion achieved a qualified majority on the consultative vote.

Deliberative vote

<i>Placet</i>	41
<i>Placet Juxta Modum</i>	0
<i>Non Placet</i>	3

A qualified majority was achieved. The motion was passed.