



14 February 2020

Announcement of Sandhurst nominees for delegates to the Plenary Council

I was very pleased to receive a total of eleven expressions of interest from people in the diocese about being a delegate to the Plenary Council. Each of them showed great reflection, faith and commitment, and a desire to contribute to building up our Church community and listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in Australia.

At this stage, we anticipate that there will be two delegates appointed for the diocese. However, I have been asked to nominate four people as potential delegates to the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, who will choose two of these, after reviewing the full picture of the body of delegates to ensure that it is a broad representation of the Church in Australia. Having two extra nominees also ensures that if the Holy See grants the Australian bishops' request for double the stipulated number of laypeople, we will have enough pre-nominated people to immediately be called to the Plenary Council as delegates. The additional nominees would also be asked to be 'replacement' delegates should someone who has been called no longer be able to attend.

The expressions of interest were considered by the ten members of the diocese's Coordinating Team for the Plenary Council, which is chaired by Father Brian Boyle. After considering their recommendation, I have decided to nominate the following four people (in alphabetical order):

- Angela Finn (St Augustine's Parish, Kyabram / St Mary's School, Echuca)
- Cathy Jenkins (Catholic Education Sandhurst)
- Ruth Lawlor (St Therese's Parish, Kennington / Sandhurst Youth Ministry)
- David Walker (St John's Parish, Numurkah / Catholic Education Sandhurst)

Those chosen by the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council will receive a letter formally calling them to be a delegate in early March.

I express my appreciation for the generosity and commitment to the future of our Church shown by all those who submitted their interest in participating in the Plenary Council as a delegate.

I look forward to the continuing involvement of people across the diocese in preparation for the first session of the Council in October.

Yours sincerely,

MOST REV. SHANE MACKINLAY
BISHOP OF SANDHURST

