

CONCERNED CATHOLICS TASMANIA

HOPES FOR A NEW ARCHBISHOP

August 2022

Context

These hopes are aspirational and offered with sincerity and hope. They reflect the views of Concerned Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hobart. The hopes are organised as best as possible in accord with Canon Law, particularly Canons 375 and 378 on the functions and suitability of a Bishop.

Canon 375 is used to highlight how best a future Archbishop of Hobart can exercise his particular divinely instituted role. Canon 378 is assumed as generic to all bishop appointments.

- *Can.375: Bishops, who by divine institution succeed to the place of the Apostles through the Holy Spirit who has been given to them, are constituted pastors in the Church, so that they are teachers of doctrine, priests of sacred worship and ministers of governance.*
- *Can. 378: In regard to the suitability of a candidate for the episcopacy, it is required that he is:*
 - 1 *outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence, and human virtues, and endowed with other qualities which make him suitable to fulfill the office in question;*
 - 2 *of good reputation;*
 - 3 *at least thirty-five years old;*
 - 4 *ordained to the presbyterate for at least five years;*
 - 5 *in possession of a doctorate or at least a licentiate in sacred scripture, theology, or canon law from an institute of higher studies approved by the Apostolic See, or at least truly expert in the same disciplines.*

Constituted Pastors in the Church

This pastoral presence would enable:

- A church of the people and the archbishop with an inspiring shared vision and mutual respect for all seeking to establish the good news here in the Archdiocese of Hobart. This vision is inclusive and real rather than exclusive and pious; and missionary where the church exists to serve the needs of the community not itself.
- An adult church with responsible governance and consultative structures including a Diocesan Pastoral Council and Pastoral Councils in each parish across the state and a commitment to hold regular diocesan synods in line with the guidance of Canon Law.

- A compassionate church with deep empathy for vulnerable and damaged people and heartfelt pleas for inclusion of all the people of God.

Teachers of Doctrine

This teaching presence would enable:

- An Archdiocese that helps the faithful see their connection to the Universal Church by the Archbishop's acknowledgement and, where appropriate, overt support for the message and teachings of the Pope.
- Synodality modelled with listening widely to the spirit present in all.
- Creativity and openness to new ways of being church informed by the fruits of the second Vatican Council and current papal encyclicals.
- Humility and openness to the Spirit wherever it is heard.
- Respect for all baptised regardless of position in the church and responsiveness to the needs of the local communities.
- The use of adult learning principles in the ongoing formation and education of the laity.

Priests of Sacred Worship

This sacred presence would enable:

- Demonstrated understanding of a commitment to a personal relationship with God nourished through regular spiritual direction.
- Emotionally intelligent and trustworthy relationships.
- Demonstrated successful leadership and management within and beyond the Church and a recognition that all wisdom does not reside with him alone.
- Lifelong learning that enables personal growth of self and the faithful throughout the Archdiocese.
- A role model for his fellow clergy in fulfilling the expectation for ongoing formation and supervision.

Ministers of Governance

This governing presence would enable:

- Creation of transparent accountability processes across the Archdiocese. Specifically, the establishment of a representative Diocesan Pastoral Council which meets regularly with him to support and discern future directions for our Church.
- Pastoral presence of collegiality and mutual respect with his priests who are entrusted to build the life of parishes in collaboration with the laity. One sign of this presence would be a deep, respectful listening (beyond simply hearing) to both clergy and laity, free of judgment.
- Collegial in decision-making and strategic planning for the flourishing of the Church in Tasmania, including a commitment to develop any Pastoral Plan through authentic engagement with laity and clergy.
- Openness, respect for and curiosity about the history of our evolving Archdiocese to acknowledge and build on past success (enabled by hardworking, faithful and generous clergy, religious and laity) and collaboratively address the future and any areas of concern.
- Pastoral and visible across the Archdiocese with primary focus on being with and listening to local people in addition to ceremonial roles.