



Archdiocese of Hobart

Chancery Services

10 August 2022

Mr Kim Chen
Chairman, Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc.

Dear Kim,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July 2022. I have been asked to respond to you in my capacity as the Diocesan Coordinator for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia which ended with the Second General Assembly in Sydney on 9 July 2022.

I understand that following the scheduled meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in November this year, the acts and decrees of the Council will be submitted to the Apostolic See for review in accordance with those requirements set forth in canon 446 of the Code of Canon Law. On receipt of the Apostolic See's *recognitio*, decrees may then be promulgated in the Australasian Catholic Record and the website of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in accordance with its usual practice. Any such decree/s will oblige, or take effect, a further six months following the promulgation.

While I note your observations with regard the *particular churches* of Melbourne and Parramatta, I would remind you that the Archdiocese of Hobart has its own unique circumstances which we might reasonably expect would principally inform our way forward. In this regard, His Grace has taken advice that until the Council's decrees receive proper juridic force from the Apostolic See it would be precipitous and imprudent to advance further discussion on matters which may yet be subject of further changes, amendment or for that matter rejection in part, or complete.

Obviously, the activities available to Concerned Catholics Tasmania members are a matter for you. For its part, the Archdiocese will in good time and in consultation with those diocesan advisory structures proper at law, develop an informed response to any promulgated decrees and implement a suitable program of engagement to support the local Church to transition to any new arrangements any such decree/s might necessitate.

Kind regards

Michael McKenna

Director, Chancery Services.