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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Upcoming mission conference to ask the big questions

As the Australian Church faces the fallout of one of the toughest weeks in its history, organisers of Australia's premier mission conference are optimistic it will provide a healing opportunity.

Among the highlights of the Mission: one heart many voices conference will be a session led by Plenary Council 2020 facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins and President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe sdb, representing the Church's commitment to open dialogue during the historic national process.

Over 450 people are expected to attend the conference on living and leading mission, to be held at the SMC Conference and Function Centre in Sydney from May 13-15.

Ms Turvey-Collins is seconded from her role at Catholic Mission to facilitate the Plenary Council process. Throughout her time in the role she has travelled around Australia encouraging listening and dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

The Plenary Council 2020 will be the highest form of gathering of local churches since 1937 and is intended as a moment of dialogue and reflection on the question of the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. It will be held over two sessions to allow further discernment in the six months between October 2020 and May 2021.

'The Plenary Council is trying to build a shared vision for what is Jesus' mission in Australia today,' says Ms Turvey-Collins. 'At the Mission: one heart many voices conference, people from all different parts of the Church will gather to focus on this vision.'

Following the initial period of dialogue and listening which started in May 2018, the 2019 conference is being held just before the launch of the second "listening and discernment" phase of the journey to the Plenary Council.

By then there will be a good indication of the major topics which people have discussed during the Listening and Dialogue encounters. What is our future as a Catholic community? What is our vision for our future in Australian society? These questions and more will be part of the Plenary Council sessions at the Mission: one heart, many voices conference.

'More than 68,000 people have engaged with Plenary Council so far and we are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed by sharing their story and experience of faith,' said Ms Turvey-Collins. 'The open listening and dialogue encounters have been a rich and fruitful experience for many.'

The 'Mission: one heart many voices' conference will provide an opportunity for participants to begin engaging in the second phase of preparation towards the Plenary Council, a deeper listening and discernment phase.

The participants in the masterclass will be instrumental in the process as they contribute their own discernment and give feedback. The Conference will be also a critical moment to hear the Archbishop's personal vision for the Plenary Council.

'The calling of the Plenary Council is a sign of hope for us all and a call to action,' said Archbishop Costelloe. 'Along with so many others I look forward to doing all I can to see that the promise of the Plenary Council is realised.'

For more information or to register visit mohmv.com.au or call 1800 257 296.

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Media enquiries: Matthew Poynting | media@catholicmission.org.au | 02 9919 7833