



18 November 2021

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Vinnies National President joins church reform discussion

Thursday 18 November: 7:30pm (AEDT)

[Free Registration Here](#)

Thousands of people will hear from prominent Catholics tonight following the conclusion of the first assembly of the Plenary Council last month.

National President, **Claire Victory** who is a member of the Council will participate on the panel which will highlight the hopes and expectations of Catholics for the final assembly of the Plenary Council to be held in July 2022.

Other panellists include Plenary Council members and reform leaders Virginia Bourke, Nimmi Candappa, Robert Fitzgerald, Eleanor Flynn, Susan Pascoe, Francis Sullivan, and John Warhurst.

**Ellen Fanning**, Presenter of The Drum on ABC TV, will moderate the discussions.

'The Plenary Council is an opportunity for urgently needed change in the Church,' Ms Victory said.

'Too many people have been alienated because of the rigid application of dogma and canon law established in the last 200 years or so. This is especially so for young people, divorced and remarried Catholics and LGBTQIA+ people.

'As part of the largest lay Catholic organisation in Australia we sit outside the institutional structure of the Church.

'But far from being an offshoot, many of our members see their participation in Vincentian work as an authentic expression of their faith at a time when they do not feel welcome in the pews.

'I am more interested in making sure everyone has a seat at the table. Every day as Vincentians we work with people who have been rejected, marginalised and ostracised.

'It's time to revisit the church's mission to be a place of welcome.

'The next nine months will be crucial, not only to set the tone of the final assembly, but to ensure that the voices of all Catholics are well represented.

*The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.*

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