



MEDIA RELEASE
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Canon Law Society Conference draws internationally acclaimed experts and record numbers in Brisbane

Summary

- *Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand (CLSANZ) concluded its 57th annual conference from 2-5 September at the Rydges Hotel, Brisbane.*
- *Over 95 delegates attended from across the Catholic Church community.*
- *CLSANZ President, Fr Ken Cafe ofm applauded the international speakers for the content of their sessions and the canon law knowledge shared over the three days.*

Yesterday, the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand (CLSANZ) concluded its 57th Annual Conference. Held at Rydges South Bank, Brisbane from 2-5 September, the event brought together over 95 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, Asia and North America. The conference featured a line-up of internationally recognised canonical experts providing attendees with practical skills and knowledge in this area of the Church's essential ministry.

President of CLSANZ, Fr Ken Cafe ofm, expressed his satisfaction with the conference's success, highlighting the importance of such gatherings for the continued growth and understanding of canon law within the Catholic Church.

"We are delighted with the turnout and the engagement we witnessed over the past four days," Fr Ken said. "This conference provided a welcome opportunity for our members to reconnect and delve into the critical issues facing the Church's legal framework today."

The conference sessions were designed to equip both laypeople and clergy with the tools needed to address the challenges they face in their respective roles within the Church.

One of the highlights of the event was the session by Msgr Dr Brendan Daly on spiritual abuse as a crime. Since 2017, Msgr Brendan has been a Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of the Catholic Church for New Zealand.

"The opportunity to share knowledge with such a dedicated group of professionals is always rewarding," Msgr Brendan said. "The discussions we had here in Brisbane will equip delegates with the necessary resources to apply canon law appropriately in their respective parishes, dioceses, and wider Catholic communities."



In addition to Msgr Brendan's address, the conference featured internationally acclaimed speakers that included Dr Edward Morgan KC, from the UK, who offered important insights into the workings of church tribunals. Additionally, Fr Giorgio Giovanelli, from Italy, presented a session on simulation in marriage law. Dr Rocio Figueroa, from New Zealand, analysed the New Zealand Royal Commission's findings; and Dr Chad Glendinning, from Canada, focused on Juridical Reflections on the Synod on Synodality.

As this year's conference came to a close, Fr Ken reiterated the Society's dedication to supporting education and discussion in canon law. "With the positive feedback from delegates and the high level of participation, this year's conference will have a lasting impact on the ongoing practice and understanding of canon law."

[Find out more about being a member of the Canon Law Society](#)

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