

MEDIA ALERT

1 May 2025



Plunkett Centre webinar to explore Pope Francis' bioethical legacy

Australian Catholic University's Plunkett Centre for Ethics will host a webinar exploring Pope Francis' contributions to bioethics and moral philosophy during his 12-year pontificate.

Plunkett Centre director Dr Xavier Symons will lead the webinar with guest speakers including the centre's founding director Dr Bernadette Tobin, who is also a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Plunkett honorary fellow Associate Professor Natasha Michael from the University of Notre Dame Australia and Oxford University bioethicist Dr Michael Wee.

Dr Symons said while Pope Francis would rightly be remembered as being a pastoral leader, the world and the Church should not forget his numerous contributions to bioethics and moral philosophy.

"Pope Francis was a tremendously ambitious thinker and we need experts to turn their minds to exploring the methods, key themes, and implications of his moral and social writings," Dr Symons said.

"His historic encyclical *Laudato Si'* called for an integrated approach to caring for all of creation, including our fellow human beings, and his declaration on human dignity *Dignitas Infinitas* sought to synthesise many decades of Catholic thought on human dignity and apply this framework to contemporary challenges," Dr Symons said.

"Our upcoming webinar hosted on the eve of the conclave will offer a critical appraisal of Pope Francis' contribution and unpack what he taught the world about the complex human nature of health and illness."

Pope Francis died on 21 April and was buried on 26 April at the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

The College of Cardinals will meet on 7 May to elect Pope Francis' successor.

Webinar: Bioethics and moral philosophy in the Francis pontificate

Date: Tuesday 6 May 2025

Time: 4:00pm - 5:15pm AEST

Cost: Free

Registrations: [Click here to register](#)

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