



**MEDIA RELEASE
2025**

Tuesday 8 July

Church leaders to explore contemporary issues at Canon Law Conference in Adelaide

The Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand (CLSANZ) is pleased to announce its 58th Annual Conference, to be held from 1–4 September 2025 at the Hilton Adelaide, South Australia. The event brings together canonists, theologians, clergy and lay professionals to discuss key legal and pastoral issues facing the Church in Australia and beyond.

This year's conference offers a diverse program, with keynote presentations and workshops covering topics such as the ethical and canonical implications of voluntary assisted dying, the civil incorporation of Church entities, and pastoral approaches to tribunal ministry.

CLSANZ President Fr Paul Clark is looking forward to attendees engaging deeply with current and emerging challenges in canon law at the upcoming conference.

"This year's program includes a rich mix of canonical scholarship, pastoral insight, and practical skills development in areas of canon law," Fr Clark said.

The speakers and highlights of the conference include:

- **Most Rev Patrick O'Regan DD** – The Archbishop of Adelaide will open the conference with a keynote reflecting on the Australian Plenary Council and the Synod, offering his insights into their ecclesiological significance and implications for the local Church.
- **Dr Bernadette Tobin** – A leading ethicist from the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Dr Tobin will address the Church's engagement with voluntary assisted dying legislation, an area of growing legal and moral complexity.
- **Fr John Doherty JCD** – Fr Doherty from the Archdiocese of Sydney will lead an extended practicum on the penal process, particularly relevant to those working in chanceries and safeguarding roles.
- **Michael Nobel JCD** – From Saint Paul University, Ontario, Dr Nobel will examine incapacity in giving consent to marriage and offer a practical workshop on instructing such cases.



- **Fr Peter Slack JCL** – Drawing on his experience in the Diocese of Lismore, Fr Slack will explore the canonical implications of civil incorporation for entities conducting the Church's apostolic works.
- **Fr Binh Le JCL** – From the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Fr Le will address the challenges and canonical procedures related to the incardination of clergy from other cultures in the Australian Church.
- **Sue Rivett JCL** – From the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Sue will present a workshop on instructing cases concerning the *bonum coniugum* (the good of the spouses) in marriage nullity causes.
- **Sr Janette Murphy RSJ** – Insights into providing pastoral care and canonical support to members of the deaf community who are seeking a declaration of nullity.

For further information and to register for the conference, visit the [CLSANZ Conference 2025 website](#).

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Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand

Pope John XXIII's 1959 announcement to hold an Ecumenical Council and revise Canon Law was the inspiration for envisioning a society to receive the teaching of the Council and implement the revised Code of Canon Law. On 20 June 1967, The Canon Law Society of Australia was founded. The membership of the Society embraces lay persons, clerics and religious. Presently in excess of 200, members come from diverse nations and cultures across Oceania and South East Asia. The Society holds an Annual Conference to promote professional development and publishes academic journal, *The Canonist*, twice a year. For more information visit: clsanz.catholic.org.au