



**CANON LAW SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

**58th Annual
Conference**

1st - 4th September 2025

**Hilton Hotel
233 Victoria Square
Adelaide, South Australia**



Presenters



Most Rev Patrick O'Regan DD, Archbishop of Adelaide

Dr Bernadette Tobin, MA (Melb) MEd (Melb) PhD (Cantab)



Dr Michael Nobel, JCD

Rev Binh Le, JCL



Rev Peter Slack, JCL

Sr Janette Murphy RSJ



Sue Rivett, JCL

Rev John Doherty, JCD



Rev Paul Clark, JCL



Brief History of Adelaide Archdiocese



Catholicism was planted in South Australia by a small company of Catholics who had emigrated from Ireland and England. Initially, as they had neither priest nor church, they met for worship in private houses. Their first priest William Benson arrived in Adelaide in 1841. In 1842 Rome subdivided the vast diocese of Sydney, creating a diocese of Adelaide which embraced the new province of South Australia. Francis Murphy was appointed as first bishop. The first Catholic churches were built in Adelaide (1845) and at Morphett Vale (1846). The first portion of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide was opened in 1858.

Written by Dr David Hilliard, Department of History, Flinders University
Source: adelaide.catholic.org.au



Programme

Day 1 - Monday 1 September 2025

2.00pm	Registration Open	
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.00pm	Welcome Conference Opening and Prayer	Rev Paul Clark President
4.00pm	Session 1 <i>Form Following Function: The Ecclesiological Necessity of a "Sure Compass"</i>	Most Rev Patrick O'Regan
6.30pm	Dinner	



Programme

Day 2 - Tuesday 2 September 2025

9.00am	Morning Prayer	
9.15am	Session 2 <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying: Ethical and Canonical Issues for the Church</i>	Dr Bernadette Tobin
11.30am	Morning Tea	
11.45am	Session 3 <i>Canon 1095 Revisited: Juridical Criteria and Rotal Interpretation of Incapacity to Consent</i>	Dr Michael Nobel
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Session 4 - Seminar Presentations	
	<i>Care of Those in the Deaf Community in Approaching Marriage Nullity</i>	Sr Janette Murphy, RSJ
	<i>Psychological Incapacity and the Art of Evidence: A Canonical Workshop on Canon 1095"</i>	Dr Michael Nobel
	<i>"The Good of the Spouses" – Which Road Do We Take in a Petition for Nullity</i>	Sue Rivett
3.15pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.30pm	Session 5 <i>Q & A Session</i>	
5.30pm	Mass for Deceased Members	St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Adelaide
6.30pm	Dinner	



Programme

Day 3 - Wednesday 3 September 2025

9.00am	Morning Prayer	
9.15am	Session 6 <i>Civil Incorporation and the Church's Mission</i>	Rev Peter Slack
11.30am	Morning Tea	
11.45am	Session 7 <i>Formation of Priests From Other Cultures for Ministry In the Australian Church</i>	Rev Binh Le
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Session 8 - Seminar Presentations	
	<i>Care of Those in the Deaf Community in Approaching Marriage Nullity</i>	Sr Janette Murphy, RSJ
	<i>Psychological Incapacity and the Art of Evidence: A Canonical Workshop on Canon 1095</i>	Dr Michael Nobel
	<i>"The Good of the Spouses" – Which Road Do We Take in a Petition for Nullity</i>	Sue Rivett
3.15pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.30pm	Session 9 <i>Annual General Meeting</i>	
5.30pm	Conference Mass	St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Adelaide
6.30pm	Conference Dinner	



Programme

Day 4 - Thursday 4 September 2025

8.45am	Morning Prayer	
9.00am	Session 10 - Penal Law Practicum <i>The Extra-Judicial Penal Process</i> Professional Development for judges/advocates and other interested delegates	Facilitators: Rev John Doherty Rev Paul Clark
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Conference Concludes	

Visitor Information

Getting to and around Adelaide

Adelaide Airport is less than 20 minutes from the CBD and is serviced by a wide network of international airlines. Domestic airlines operate daily services from Australia's capital cities. For more information, visit adelaideairport.com.au

Public transport

Adelaide Metro is Adelaide's public transport system, providing locals and visitors cost-effective, efficient travel throughout the city and the greater metropolitan area. For ticket information, maps, timetables and further information, visit adelaidemetro.com.au.

Free transport

Operating daily, the free City Connector bus links you to popular city attractions, shopping, dining, education and other services.

**Further information can be found on the [Conference webpage](#)
in the [Adelaide Visitors Guide](#)**

<https://adelaidevisitorsguide.partica.online/adelaide-visitor-guide/adelaide-visitor-guide-2024/responsive>