



Proclaim Conference gave strong messages

A strong message threaded its way through many of the presentations and discussions at the recent national Proclaim Conference, “The young are not the church of the future, they are the church now!”

Around six hundred delegates from around Australia attended the Proclaim Conference in Brisbane 12-14 July. Nine people from Ballarat Diocese were there – six from parishes, two from Catholic Education Ballarat and one from the Ballarat Diocesan Office.

It was a very good Conference with a wide range of excellent speakers. Shane Dwyer, Director of the National Office for Evangelisation, welcomed us with a moving, scripture-based talk that asked us to “get out of the boat,” in other words move out of our comfort zone.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane was the first keynote speaker. While he might be perceived as “pale, male and stale” (his words), he gave a lively and inspiring talk: touching on the two words **Proclaim** and **Proclamation**, he said “We make a **claim**, we don’t **clam** up – we have something important to say!” He continued, “Christianity is not a religion, it is an experience.” We need to “listen first,” then “hear speak and act.” The “Word of God is not just spoken it is done,” and “Listen to the young, they are the canary in the darkness.” This was just the start of an engaging and inspiring three days!

There will be further Proclaim reports and information in the next edition of e-news.

Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant.

Proclaim 2018

The Proclaim Conference 2018, held in Brisbane from July 12 – 14 was a great success. Attended by more than six hundred people from all across Australia and internationally, it was an extraordinary learning experience to assist us in facilitating the renewal of parishes. We were also welcomed on the journey of the recently begun Plenary Council, inviting us to listen.

Key areas of discussion focused around the themes of Belonging, Leadership, Evangelisation and of course Youth. Each day was filled with outstanding keynote speakers such as Cardinal John Dew from N.Z., Ron Huntley from Canada and homegrown talent such as Lana Turvey-Collins and Karolina Gunsser.

An innovation of this conference was the Facilitated Conversation Sessions where participants were able to break into small groups to discuss, at a grass roots level, what the challenges, strengths and possibilities were of each theme. These groups were a great success in that they allowed the ‘local wisdom’ of those on the ground to flow and merge, preventing what can sometimes become hypothesis and hot air into a legitimate “tool” to take back to parishes.

Our challenge now (and always) is to become real “Proclaimers” and not walk 500 miles, but “get out of the boat” and make real disciples.

Marie Shaddock, Ouyen Parish



1. From left (back): Thomas Thukkumury, Jess Salazar, Jamin Howman, Ann-Maree Convery, Sandra Dillon, (front) Sue Crowe, Amanda Smith, Marie Shaddock.
2. Young people from Evangelisation Brisbane lead morning prayer.
3. Delegates enjoying the warmth at morning tea.
4. John Meneely at the Garratt Publishing stand

Jamin is from Portland Parish
 Ann-Maree from Cororooke Parish
 Sandra from Wendouree Parish and Catholic Earth Ballarat
 Sue and John M. from Catholic Education Ballarat
 Marie from Ouyen Parish
 Amanda from the Ballarat Diocese Bishop's Office
 Marie, Thomas and Amanda are also members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.