



Catholics have vital role in shaping Australia's future

Australia's Catholic bishops say the federal election is an opportunity to bring hope where hope has been lost, especially for the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Pope Francis has approved the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' for the 2025 Holy Year of Jubilee.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement has drawn on this theme for the federal election statement, *Called to Bring Hope in the Year of Jubilee*, released today.

"Pope Francis reminds us that 'all of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered, and hearts overwhelmed by adversity'," the statement reads.

The statement sets out broad issues to reflect on before voting.

"In determining our electoral choices, Australian Catholics search always to uphold the sanctity of life, protect the vulnerable, support and strengthen families, promote the common good, and foster a just society where all Australians can thrive."

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, commended the statement to all people of good will.

"As political discourse becomes increasingly polarised, we must commit ourselves to conscientious voting, carefully considering the facts and supporting policies that improve the lives of all, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged," Archbishop Costelloe said.

The full statement can be downloaded at [Election Statement 2025](#)