



This weekend's update features a profile of the five Plenary Council Members representing the Diocese of Broome.

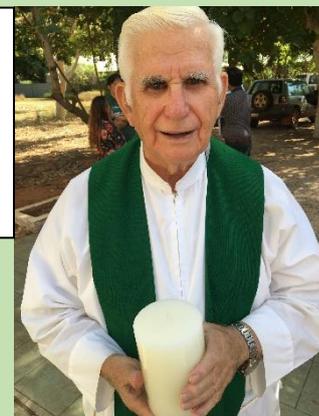


Erica Bernard

Erica is a Yawuru / Gidja woman. She has been the Catholic Education WA Indigenous liaison consultant for the past 17 years. Erica is the Youth Coordinator for the Diocese of Broome and has played vital roles in organising and accompanying young people to national and international gatherings of Catholic Youth. Erica brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Plenary Council activities. Erica said "I would like our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality to be experienced by all people of the Church and Australia, so like John Paul II said, the Church will be complete" Pictured is Erica with her Commissioning Candle with Fr Alexis and Shirley Quaresimin after her commissioning last weekend.

Monsignor Paul Boyers

Mgr Paul began ministering in the diocese in 1980 in the parish of Derby. Since that time he has served the people in parishes across most of the Kimberley including Lombadina, Kununurra, Wyndham, Balgo and Broome. "The Plenary Council is an opportunity for each of us to make a difference to who we are as a Church. It is important that we know what to do and say, to uphold the truth and make our Church a more welcoming community to all" Mgr Paul said.



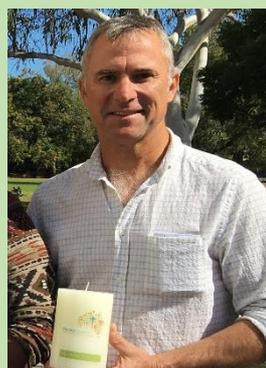
Mary O'Reeri

Mary is a Nyul Nyul woman who was born and raised in Beagle Bay. She has won numerous awards for her advocacy and community work. Mary was a keynote speaker at the 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival and has a drive for implementing positive change in the community and church. As a Plenary Council Member, Mary said "I inherited my faith and passion from my old people and I want to bring that to the work I will be doing with people of the Broome Diocese through the Plenary Council".



Aidan Mitchell

Aidan first came to the Kimberley as a volunteer in 1987 and has taught in remote and town Catholic schools for the past twenty years. Aidan and his wife Rose continue to work in Catholic Education and are parents of four children. "I have experienced great joys being part of the Church, yet have yearnings for its future direction. My greatest wish is that all people of the diocese reflect on the Agenda items and contribute their ideas and proposals through the Plenary Council process, regardless of their experience and involvement in the Catholic Church in the Kimberley or anywhere in Australia", Aidan said.



Shirley Quaresimin

Shirley was born in Derby with the family name Ah Chee. She has worked with the Catholic Education Office in Perth and Broome and for the Bishops Commission for Relations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Shirley is currently Deputy Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council which she is also representing as a Plenary Council Member. Reflecting on her important role, Shirley said "I would like to meet and listen to the views of the people, to listen together with our hearts to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to be".