



Remain in my love

Jn 15:9

13 September 2017

Statement on Plebiscite on Marriage

In the next few days we will receive our voting paper in the Plebiscite on Marriage.

In the discussion about the postal plebiscite we are being asked to either vote Yes or No to the proposed redefinition of Marriage. The proposed changes if passed into law may have far reaching implications: our freedom to speak; our freedom of belief and conscience; about what is taught in schools about sexuality and its expressions; the removal of rights of parents and religious faiths to express any objections.

In Australia, same-sex couples in civil partnerships generally already have all the civil and legal benefits that come with marriage.

In any debate people do not always agree with each other. There is no place in this dialogue for criticism, abuse or denigration of other people. We should be respectful of the points of views of others and respect the dignity of each person regardless of race, religion or whatever other choices a person may make.

Regardless of differences, each of us has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This is also a right everyone has as stated in the United Nations Bill of Rights. Such rights should never be watered down. Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights freedom of religion is an inviolable right.

The plebiscite is an opportunity for us to witness to our deep commitment to marriage as part of God's divine plan for the human family. Please reflect deeply on this important issue before voting.

For more information go to: <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>

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