

Catholics for Renewal Inc
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Cardinal Pell's Transfer to the Vatican

Catholics for Renewal welcomes the appointment of Cardinal George Pell to the new Vatican position of Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, and his vacating the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Cardinal Pell, who will be 73 in June, was described by the English Catholic magazine *The Tablet* as “*arguably the most conservative*” of the eight cardinal advisers to Pope Francis. He headed the Committee that supervised the English translation of the Roman Missal, a translation that was seen by many as failing to engage the people of the Church. It is worth observing that Cardinal Pell's new economic role is essentially administrative and could be ably filled by many prominent and skilled lay women and men with international reputations in the fields of banking, finance and corporate governance.

Catholics for Renewal is confident that Pope Francis will take a close interest in the appointment of Cardinal Pell's successor to the Archdiocese of Sydney. We trust that the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, will consult closely with the people of the archdiocese in identifying outstanding candidates for the Pope's consideration.

Pope Francis stated in an interview last year that he believes that consultation is very important, not “*token consultations, but real consultations*”. The Pope wants the selection of bishops to reflect the Vatican II emphasis on collegiality, co-responsibility, dialogue, and wide consultation through synods and councils.

Pope Francis also wants bishops who will be ‘pastors, close to the people, fathers and brothers, with great gentleness, patient, and merciful...not having the psychology of princes’, and ‘able to support the movements of God among their people.’

Catholics for Renewal sees the selection and appointment of a new Archbishop of Sydney as presenting a valuable opportunity for the people of the Church in Sydney to think carefully about the qualities they want in a new pastor, and to claim a rightful role in the selection process. This is critically important at a time when the Church is facing a crisis of governance and dwindling attendances.

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