



Pope Francis reflects in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* that “the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,” and that the Church “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. All Christians, their pastors included, are called to show concern for the building of a better world. This is essential, for the Church’s social thought is primarily positive: it offers proposals, it works for change and in this sense it constantly points to the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ.” Marist Schools Australia supports a First Nations voice to parliament. It is about listening to the views of those who will be directly affected by decisions being made. It is about what Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Bowman calls *Didarri* - deep inner listening which puts personal views and prejudices aside, and allows true discernment to happen. It is an essential step on the journey towards National Reconciliation which can only make our nation stronger. As the nation prepares for this historical referendum on a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution, let us pray that all Australians make decisions that reflect in some way “the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ”.