



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Meaning behind the design of the ACBC website and social media banners for *Amoris Laetitia*

In choosing a symbol that would represent the themes within *Amoris Laetitia*, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference chose the image of a tree to reflect the changes and journey through marriage and family life.

The tree with its growth, changing leaves and various branches reflects the light and dark of family life. No family or marriage is perfect, but we are all encouraged “to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy” (AL 5).

Pope Francis said this in *Amoris Laetitia*, ‘Every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world’ (AL 66).

The family, like the changing seasons for a tree, experiences death (the falling leaves) and new life.

Similarly, the different colours running throughout the banner metaphorically represent the shades of family life. The colours also resemble the different characters, personalities, joys, hopes, strengths and weakness that can be present in the family.

Pope Francis said that it ‘helps to break the routine with a party, and to enjoy family celebrations of anniversaries and special events. We need these moments of cherishing God’s gifts and renewing our zest for life’.

‘As long as we can celebrate, we are able to rekindle our love, to free it from monotony and to colour our daily routine with hope’ (AL 226).