



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE: YEAR OF ST PAUL NATIONAL E-CONFERENCE

The Year of St Paul National E-Conference, taking place on 30 June 2009, will enable Catholic dioceses across Australia to join together in reflecting on the legacy of one of the most important yet elusive figures in church history.

Studying St Paul offers a wealth of insights and challenges for people of all backgrounds. His personal conversion and the work he did in spreading the Christian faith throughout the known world changed the course of history. Yet he has often been subject to misunderstanding, oversimplification and caricature. To understand St Paul, it is important to return to his own times and the influences of his Jewish faith, the dominant Greek and Roman cultures of his time, and the dynamics of the emerging church.

Yours is challenging work, but I am sure you will find it richly rewarding. I trust the conference will facilitate a productive exchange of ideas for those who share in the Catholic tradition in Australia, and that it will benefit the communities you represent across the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd'.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister of Australia