



Calvary course

Archbishop Mark Coleridge is placing the people of his diocese on a direct collision course with the ACT Government, in urging them to pray that “the will of Christ” be done over the proposed sale of Canberra’s Calvary Public Hospital (“Catholics urged to pray over Calvary”, October 9, p1).

He appears to be far more interested in turning this into a battle of public versus private health care, than he does in working with the Government, which is faced with the dilemma of having to build a third public hospital if the deal fails to materialise. Writing in his own archdiocesan newsletter, Catholic Voice, he says “there is little evidence that a government bureaucracy can run public hospitals better or more efficiently than private providers. If anything, evidence points to the contrary.” But his real intentions begin to emerge in his assertion that this is not the time to sell Calvary when “there is pressure to drive religion of any kind from the public square into some purely private realm”.

Ultimately, Coleridge sees the sale of

Calvary not as a matter of who will provide the better health care to “the most vulnerable”, but as a matter of who is the spiritually superior. And if Catholics are going to pray for “the will of Christ”, then they should start praying for their archbishop to renounce all such false consideration of power and superiority.

Reverend Dr Vincent Zankin, Rivett

Richard Johnson (Letters, October 11) says there was a misstatement by Paul Monagle, that the proposed \$77 million payout for Calvary Hospital “will leave the territory”.

Johnson goes on to say that the Calvary board has “consistently and frequently stated that the money it will receive from the sale of the hospital will be spent providing a new private hospital in Canberra”.

He may be a little premature in assuming that the money will stay in Canberra, as the provision of a new private hospital on the Bruce site will be, as it should be, the subject of an open tender process.

Carolyn Mongan, Campbell