

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics Tasmania, August 2020

We are pleased to introduce this Newsletter as one means of communicating with you regarding Concerned Catholics Tasmania (CCT). Through this newsletter we hope to keep you up to date with initiatives being undertaken to work towards the aims of CCT, including a report on the recent committee meeting.

This first edition is a little longer, to give background to CCT as well as to report on recent meetings and our connection to other groups. Future editions will have a proper title – still in planning!

Thank you to each of you who receives this Newsletter – your encouragement, support, interest and prayers sustain us all – as do the consistent messages from around Australia and the world that Church renewal is now imperative! May the Spirit continue to guide us to find an effective path.

Who We Are

Concerned Catholics Tasmania was formed in 2020 with the following Vision and Mission Statements to guide its operation:

Our vision is for an inclusive Church which welcomes all in the spirit of the Gospels, and in which the talents, gifts and wisdom of all Catholics, female and male, whether lay, religious or ordained, contribute at every level of participation and decision making in the Catholic Church in Australia.

As Canon Law itself clearly expresses: *"The Christian faithful have the right and even, at times, the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful."* (Canon 212.3) (CCT Vision Statement, 2020)

We are committed to ensuring Catholic lay people in the Archdiocese of Hobart have an effective role and voice in its administration and direction, and an effective means of providing support to one another as we work collaboratively to carry out the mission of our Church. (CCT Mission Statement 2020)

Our History

A meeting of interested faithful was held in Launceston on December 7th, 2019 and a Steering Committee formed to further the formation of an organisation to give voice to the concerns of the faithful in Tasmania. After the development of a Vision and Mission Statement, Concerned Catholics Tasmania was formed on February 15th, 2020 and incorporated on May 26th.

A general meeting was held in June 2020, leading to the election of a Committee to further the aims of CCT. Committee Members are: Kim Chen (Chair), Chris Smith (Deputy Chair), Sue Hyslop (Secretary), Donna McWilliam (Treasurer), Trish Hindmarsh (ACCCR Rep), Vin Hindmarsh (ACCCR Rep), Kathy Cuthbertson, Sue Chen, Carey Mclver, Judy Mclver, Chris Reynier and Carmel Taylor.

Affiliation to Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform

Concerned Catholics Tasmania has been accepted as an affiliate of the Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR), an Australia wide body comprising 18 Catholic groups seeking structural and cultural change within the Church. www.acccr.com.au

Concerned Catholics Tasmania is not alone in its concerns and interest in encouraging hope filled discernment and engagement about better and more transparent structures, communication, accountabilities and processes within

the Catholic Church in Australia!

Report from July Committee meeting

A meeting of the CCT Committee was held via Zoom on July 25 and these were some of the issues discussed:

- **Dialogue with Archbishop Porteous over the nature of the Diocesan Assemblies.** We had proposed to continue the process of consultation and synodality in preparation for the Plenary Council, now to take place next year. After two Zoom meetings with the Archbishop and then submitting our very detailed plans for how proposed Diocesan Assemblies could occur, the Archbishop informed us, through his personal assistant, that they would take a very different form – the first event being a lecture from a Conservative theologian about the nature of the Church, and short discussion around that content followed by, at a later date, a shortened opportunity for discussion on the Plenary focus papers. This was a great disappointment and frustration to all – a reversion to a very hierarchical model of “consultation”. The subcommittee has responded and is hopeful of revitalising the discussion following the recently published information from the Plenary Council Steering Committee. <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/plenary-post/>
- **Public Launch of CCT Inc.** COVID restrictions have forced us to delay a public launch but we now feel it is time to go ahead. An October function – on a Saturday morning in Launceston (as the most central meeting place statewide) – with an interstate guest speaker is being planned. Stay tuned for details when they are finalised.
- **Membership.** We now have 31 formal members – including several religious sisters and brothers – and over 150 on our email lists. Such interest and support definitely show the work of the Spirit, but each of us needs to spread the word. Do you know someone who might like to hear more about our work? Joining the mailing list is a very simple first step – all you have to do is pass on their email address to our Secretary, Sue Hyslop, sue.hyslop@icloud.com.
- **Communication.** We are also working on streamlining our membership and communication processes to keep you all up to date on all that is happening in this space (without overwhelming you). There certainly are a lot of really interesting and challenging papers being published worldwide! Should you come across something that captures your attention please let us know via Sue Hyslop.

Report from ACCCR Representatives

Concerned Catholics Tasmania is a member of ACCCR, and we were invited to attend its two Zoom convocations, one in June, and the latest in July. There are now 17 member groups of ACCCR and most of them attended the Zoom meetings. Kim Chen and Trish Hindmarsh were our representatives at this meeting.

The purpose of the meetings, as stated by ACCCR, was ‘to harness the momentum of the growing church renewal movement, to learn from each other, and to take some practical steps forward’.

Brief reports from each of the attending member groups around Australia were heard, including ours presented by Kim Chen. Trish Hindmarsh gave a short paper to both meetings related to the preparation of the Plenary Council agenda.

The July ACCCR meeting resolved to lobby the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) **to appoint a female co-chair** for the Plenary Council sessions in 2021 and 2022. See the ACCCR media release: <http://accr.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/200720-ACCCR-MEDIA-RELEASE-Catholic-bishops-urged-to-get-serious-and-appoint-a-woman-as-co-chair-of-the-plenary-council.pdf>

Plenary News

The Archdiocese of Perth News gives a good update on the Plenary:

http://perthcatholic.org.au/News_Events-News-2020-July-Week_5

[PLENARY 2020 Working Document next step on Plenary Council journey.htm?latest news=yes\)](#)

Concluding Reflection

The Well

It is reported that Carl Jung's favourite story went like this:

The water of life, wishing to make itself known on the face of the earth, bubbled up in an artesian well and flowed without effort or limit. People came to drink of the magic water and were nourished by it, since it was so clean and pure and invigorating.

But humankind was not content to leave things in this Edenic state.

Gradually they began to fence the well, charge admission, claim ownership of the property around it, make elaborate laws as to who could come to the well, put locks on the gates.

Soon the well was the property of the powerful and the elite.

The water was angry and offended; it stopped flowing and began to bubble up in another place. The people who owned the property around the first well were so engrossed in their power systems and ownership that they did not notice that the water had vanished.

They continued selling the non-existent water, and few people noticed that the true power was gone.

But some dissatisfied people searched with great courage and found the new artesian well. Soon that well was under the control of the property owners, and the same fate overtook it.

The spring took itself to yet another place – and this has been going on throughout recorded history.

May the water of life continue to refresh and renew us!

