
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 3 27 September 2020

Welcome to the third edition of *Around the Well*.

We have been heartened by the gradually increasing size of our mailing list and membership and look forward to our official launch on Saturday October 10th. Details are repeated further in this newsletter.

The Committee is very grateful for the support from all of you, and for the growing response from many others in our Tasmanian community to our Vision and Mission. May we continue to pray for the Spirit's guidance and wisdom as we move on to the next big step, our launch in the coming weeks.

Looking forward to meeting up with many of you on October 10!

Latest Developments in the Formation of CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Saturday 19th September. Items discussed included:

Planning for CCT Launch – Saturday October 10th at 10 for 10.30am We have now secured a larger room for the launch, necessary because of the interest shown. Francis Sullivan has been briefed and, after giving his address, will have a chance to answer some questions. We are indeed fortunate to have someone with his passion, experience and understanding of Church as our speaker on the day. Plans for the further development will then be discussed and we welcome ideas from those present.

All priests in Tasmania were sent a letter of introduction from CCT to explain our formation and invite them and their parishioners to the launch. The invitation has been printed in at least three Parish bulletins to date. We will also publicise the event through a media release. We have requested that the Standard publish the invitation.



Where are our 'well' moments in our Church?

Throughout history, the well has been a place of meeting and of refreshment. There people drew water that would be cool and life giving. To quench their thirst, they drank deeply.

At the interaction at the well, Jesus ignored social mores that diminished women. He engaged the Samaritan woman in discussion and shared with her, non-judgmentally, that he is the living water, the wellspring of life.

Rather than encouraging genuine open dialogue and a shared journey of understanding, many find that our Church is stifling debate and turning its back on the very society with which it is meant to be engaging. It is not providing 'well' moments.

We use the inspiration from the well story to gather 'around the well' to share, support each other and to gain refreshment in our faith, looking beyond the challenges presented by our institutional Church, towards a church that is humble, inclusive, transparent and life giving for all.

Dialogue with Archbishop Porteous. The Chair, Kim Chen, is contacting The Archbishop to see if there has been any progress in planning for a diocesan gathering regarding the six themes emerging from Plenary Council consultations after the Archbishop rejected a CCT suggested model. We remain committed to following through with ongoing consultation as intended by the Plenary Council organisers.

Membership. We now have nearly 50 formal members with many more on a growing email list. There was more discussion around the process of membership, and it is evident that personal invitation is by far the most effective way of spreading the word.

We hope that many of the non-members on our mailing list will pursue membership. This benefits us by the payment of a nominal fee. No extra time or work is expected unless people wish to be more involved!

Renewal movements around Australia. We spent some time discussing developments in other parts of Australia and noted the great energy coming from very talented and passionate people who share our concerns.

Website Preliminary discussions have commenced on the development of a simple website to act as a landing page for people seeking information about CCT and to hold links to resources and to similar organisations.

Church Governance Report

Church leaders have thanked those involved in the Implementation Advisory Group for *The Light of the Southern Cross*. The blog contains a comment from Peter Johnstone, Convenor of ACCCR., regarding a replacement body for Catholic Professional Standards Limited

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/catholic-leaders-thank-implementation-advisory-group-members/?unapproved=3476&moderation-hash=786b614e26883f30419faac6576ce645#comment-3476>



A voice from the past..

"Half the world is woman and the status of woman has been changing with staggering speed this century, making vast changes that we have just begun to perceive, in all our major institutions from family onwards. Hence the roots of the debate regarding the possibility of the ordination of women. It is central to this whole change – it is not a peripheral and a marginal issue. It is not going to lessen – it is going to intensify. We are discovering woman. And it is certainly not going to be stopped by papal encyclicals or by bishops' pastorals"

Archbishop Guilford Young,
*Post Vatican II Seminar:
Constitution on the Church in the
Modern World*
(Unpublished manuscript: Archives
and Heritage Collection of the
Catholic Archdiocese of Hobart in
Tasmania, May 1968)

From Canon Law....

"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)

Our Membership of ACCCR

Trish and Vin Hindmarsh are our representatives on Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform and have prepared this report.

Letter from ACCCR to Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Chair of Plenary Council Committee

A reply has been received to the August 4 letter from ACCCR to Archbishop Costelloe, where ACCCR requested that:

- a woman committed to the renewal of our Church be appointed as co-chair or deputy chair for the Council;
- two extra women be appointed to the *Instrumentum Laboris* writing team, and the work of this team be fully transparent;
- the urgent establishment by diocesan bishops of diocesan pastoral councils, and diocesan synods or assemblies.

The Archbishop's Office Director, Fr Daniel Lynch, wrote with the suggestion that ACCCR contact Peter Gates from the Council Facilitating Team with any Council-related queries. The letter explained that the Archbishop receives many requests for face-to-face meetings and cannot respond to them all. Peter Johnstone (ACCCR Chair) replied in turn to this letter, re-requesting an online meeting with the Archbishop, stating that ACCCR represents 20 national groups committed to church renewal and reform and therefore needs to be heard. We await the outcome.

Plenary Council Preparation

An article from Paul Collins, church historian and theologian, has been sent to us via ACCCR, recommending us to seek alternative ways to model a renewed church, separate from the Plenary Council initiatives, which as Paul pointed out, are stymied by the necessity of strict adherence to Canon Law. However, CCT has decided, after discussion at the Committee level, to inform ACCCR members of our commitment to continue to work with the Plenary Council preparation, in solidarity with the commitment and involvement of so many thousands of Catholics around the country who, since 2018, have responded to the bishops' call to dialogue and discernment. If an alternative event organised by church renewal and reform groups were to be proposed to take place in Adelaide at the time of the Council, CCT is prepared to support that in any way we can. We would see such an initiative as a contribution to church renewal that would have the advantage of being open to all, and free of the constraints of Canon Law.

Consultation does happen in other places....

The call for reform of diocesan and parish governance at the first session of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Synod will strongly influence planning for future sessions. Synod organisers have heard and are acting upon the call for governance that is more inclusive, participatory, accountable, and humble. <http://mnnews.today/your-diocese/2020/52549-diocesan-synod-to-draw-on-national-governance-report/>

I Sought and I found – my experience of God and the Church

How much I must criticize you, my church and yet how much I love you!

You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe more to you than to anyone.

I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence.

You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.

Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face – and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!

No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you.

Then too – where would I go? To build another church?

But I could not build one without the same defect, for they are my defects. And again, if I were to build another church, it would be my church, not Christ's church.

No. I am old enough. I know better!

Carlo Carretto (1910-1988), Italian writer, mystic, and member of the Little Brothers of Jesus, modelled himself upon desert contemplative Charles de Foucauld.

Graphic design - are you able to assist?

We are looking for someone who may be able to help us by designing a simple logo based on our well theme.

We would also be grateful to hear from anyone able to assist with the occasional graphic design task.

If you can help with either of these please contact Sue Hyslop

sue.hyslop@icloud.com

Keeping in touch

We continue to look for ways to improve our contact with you, our members and supporters, and the wider Catholic community and beyond. Should you have any ideas, questions or other feedback, please contact our Secretary Sue Hyslop at sue.hyslop@icloud.com



Interested people are invited to join us for the

Launch of Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc (CCT)

We share a vision for an inclusive Catholic Church that is welcoming of all in the spirit of the Gospels. Members seek to find mutual support, opportunities for spiritual growth, and an effective role and voice in responding to Christ's mission in today's world.

Saturday 10 October 2020
10.00 for 10:30 to 12:30
The Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Dr, Launceston

COVID restrictions prevent us serving refreshments, but the Centre's Coffee Shop will be open before and after for breakfast/coffee/lunch.

Guest Speaker: Francis Sullivan AO (by Zoom)
former CEO of the Catholic Church in Australia's Truth, Justice and Healing Council (2012-2018)

Registration is necessary to meet COVID safety requirements - please register by email to Donna McWilliam donna_mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au by Wednesday 7 October.

Donations welcomed at the door



A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum. Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 41