
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 5 25 November 2020

From the Chair of CCT

Advent is nearly upon us as we move towards summer and Christmas. In Bethlehem it is late autumn and winter approaches. Time to take stock, perhaps.

CCT was conceived on 7 December 2019 with the help of Professor John Warhurst. After a short gestation, it was born in March this year and grew into a fully-fledged association in May 2020. A launch, website, mailing list of nearly 300, over 130 members, and more transiting, followed. It has been a Zoom year to remember.

We continue seeking to meet with our Archbishop by Zoom or otherwise, to discuss ways in which our Church will become more inclusive, transparent and accountable. The much needed and important feedback coming from our regional gatherings will be provided to the Archbishop as a basis for further discussion.

We thank God for the many hours of work contributed by our committee and the generous and kind support of our members and supporters. Your support is affirming. It enthuses us and keeps our hopes up.

On behalf of CCT, I wish you all joy and peace for the coming year.

Kim Chen

...a patchwork quilt Church...

"There is a good reason why the term Australian Catholic Church is frowned upon in official circles. It does not exist. Instead, it is a patchwork quilt of fiefdoms called dioceses. It lacks an energising central authority which, when it needs to, can generate and shape a national church response." John Warhurst, CC Canberra Goulburn

<https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/patchwork-quilt-church-inhibits-national-action?>

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



Who we are

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.

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.

We have a website!

Find the latest about us at www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org.

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Sharing the Journey: Co-Responsibility in Our Church

CCT invites you to a regional gathering focussing on the report:

The Light from the Southern Cross – Promoting Co-Responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia.

This report was commissioned by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia, as recommended in the final report by the Royal Commission. Key aspects of that report will be discussed, with some recorded input from Australian theologian Father Richard Lennan – one of the four international consultants who drew up the final version. Find out more and have your say...

South: Saturday 28th November 2020 – 9.30 for 10.00 to 12.00 noon
Corpus Christi Parish Hall Bellerive

Register at cdsmith18@bigpond.com by Thursday November 26

North: Saturday 5th December 2020 – 9.45 for 10.00 to 12.00 noon
Pastoral Centre, Church of the Apostles, Launceston

Register at donna.mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au by Thursday December 3

North West: Saturday 5th December 2020 – 9.45 for 10.00 to 12.00 noon
Star of the Sea Church, Mount St Burnie

Register at sue.hyslop@icloud.com by Thursday December 3

Latest Developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Saturday 21st November.

Outcomes from Statewide Launch.

The committee discussed the feedback we received from attendees at the launch where they were asked to express their hopes for CCT. We have written to Archbishop Julian telling him of the launch and seeking an opportunity for representatives to meet

...The Spirit shakes the Church...

Jesus taught that discipleship was not just explaining doctrines and modelling righteous conduct, but offering “the experience of the Lord’s living, kindly, and active presence, an ongoing learning through listening to His word.” That word, (Pope) Francis added, was made known “in the concrete needs of our brothers and sisters.” By involving them intensely in the complex pastoral realities and human needs of the outcast, Jesus “shook” the disciples out of their rigidity. In the same way, Francis added, the Spirit shakes the Church out of its rigidity in order to better discern the Lord’s call.

from Defending Marriage is not Enough by Austen Iverleigh in Catholic Outlook, October 2020.

The Pope’s Revolution: The Implications of Laudato Si.

A talk given by Trish Hindmarsh (CCT) to Concerned Catholics Canberra/Goulburn. Available on our website from 4 December.

with him to plan a path ahead where members of our Tasmanian Church will have opportunities to have meaningful engagement about matters of concern for them, and to continue discernment towards the Plenary in 2021. In particular, we are keen to discuss:

- how we can continue collaborative communication and dialogue with him, our Archbishop;
- ways to provide forums for the Tasmanian faithful to discuss issues relevant to their hopes, needs and concerns;
- the formation of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council;
- having The Standard as a voice for all Catholics.

Regional Gatherings: *Sharing the Journey – Co-Responsibility in Our Church* At the time of writing, over 140 church members from across Tasmania have registered to attend one of the regional workshops. There is a particularly strong attendance at the southern gathering from those who were not able to attend the launch in Launceston last month.

Membership The remarkable growth in membership comes in just over six months since establishment and incorporation and is very heartening to us all.

There was discussion on how we can spread the word to those in other parts of the state and to those who are not in a position to receive electronic communications.

Membership Fees 2021. The CCT Financial year is the calendar year, according to the Constitution. It was decided that, as membership has grown so rapidly, and mostly in the latter part of the year, current membership for all will be extended to 2021 also, with ongoing fees not to be called for until 2022.

Modelling what we want our Church to be. The meeting recommitted to always operate in a manner that is open, honest, transparent, welcoming and respectful of all, consultative, synodal and collaborative – all aspects of the authentic Christian community we want our Church to be.

Website. Our website www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org includes a great deal of information about CCT along with links to readings, reflections and events in similar renewal movements around Australia.



Please consider membership of CCT

You are encouraged to consider supporting the mission of Concerned Catholics Tasmania by becoming a member. This also benefits us by your payment of a nominal membership fee.

There is a hard working committee in place, so nothing extra is asked of you as a member, unless you offer help!

Membership and mailing lists of Concerned Catholics Tasmania are completely confidential.

Keeping in touch

Should you have any ideas, questions or other feedback, please contact us at hello@concernedcatholicstasmania.org.

Australasian Coalition for Catholic Church Reform (ACCCR)

As a member of the ACCCR, Concerned Catholics Tasmania has been invited to be part of planning for 2021, as the Plenary Council comes closer (October 2021).

To this end, there will be an online meeting of representatives from all 19 member groups in early December. We hope to reach consensus regarding the best way to dialogue with other Catholics and the Australian Bishops. There will be planning for ACCCR event/s to be held, by Zoom, or face-to-face, early next year, one possibly while the Plenary Council is in session.

The CCT Committee has decided to use the paper *A Complementary Voice in Catholicism*, offered for sharing by Catholics for an Evolving Church (Adelaide), as a resource for reflection on our Baptismal commitment and our missionary vocation.

Reflection – Joan Chittister

Rebuilding is a spiritual gift

There comes a time when criticism of the past is simply not enough. There comes a new moment in life when we must dedicate ourselves to creating the future. And that is hard, hard work.

At that moment we discover the difference between rabble-rousers and leaders, between critics and prophets, between malcontents in an organization and the monumentally committed.

Tearing down the Berlin Wall was one; going about the process of rebuilding a totally demoralized and disenfranchised people is entirely another. Writing papers on the lay vocation was one thing; incorporating

women and laity into the structures of the church has turned out to be a disheartening one. Proclaiming the demise of sexism was one thing; reshaping the patriarchal marriage turned out to be the formidable other. No doubt about it: revolution is the easy part. Rebuilding is the spiritual gift.

Rebuilding is one of the charisms of creation. This time, however, God does not do the recreating. We do. God simply sends us to try again with the very same kind of creatures that were used in the first creation. And therein lies the lesson. To rebuild means to do it with the very same people who corrupted a situation in the first place, if not debauching it themselves, at least by going along with the ride.

The obstacles to rebuilding, to renewing, to revitalizing a decadent system, then, are transparent ones. In the first place, we ourselves are products of the last system. Finding the openness of heart to imagine the possibility of a full gospel, a just world, an honest government, muddles the mind. We stew in the juices of the past and want change, but what we really want is “planned” change; we want revolution as long as it’s a “nice” revolution, or we demand a “new” world but not too new a world.

There is great spiritual merit in being a rebuilders. Rebuilders take what other people only talk about and make it the next generation's reality. They are people who pay with their lives to make an idea an actuality. They give up prestige and money and being the Peter Pans of the public arena for the long, hard struggle of turning our little world on its tiny little axle. They build a new world right in the heart of the old. They show us the world that the rest of the world does not want to see until, forced to see it, we can ignore it no longer.

from [For Everything a Season](#) (Orbis Books), by Joan Chittister, pg 73

