
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 7 9 February 2021

From the Chair of CCT

I believe, I believe, I believe in new beginnings!

The liturgical cycle moves on and we are approaching Lent. The steady rhythm carries on amidst what sometimes look like turmoil. A refugee couple brings forth astonishing new life. A new US president brings some hope and calm. Lent gives us pause for thought as we once again move towards the Paschal Mystery.

Let's hope our Church is up for new beginnings, as the song goes:

And I believe in new beginnings, no matter what they say

Yesterday is over, it's over

And even though tomorrow can't be promised

Today's a brand new day and love lasts forever, forever

I believe, I believe, I believe in new beginnings!

Kim Chen

A few readings that may interest....

Crux: Taking the Catholic Pulse. [Leading nun says decision-making should not be a matter of ordination.](#) Loretto Sr. Patricia Murray

[Pope Francis tells Latin American Ecclesial Assembly not to be elitist](#)

International Theological Commission. [Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church.](#)

These readings are also available on our website

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



Pope Francis on transparency and a listening Spirit...

(Pope) Francis gave advice to those in organizational governance, saying they are called "to favour and implement transparent consultation not only within the governing bodies, but at all levels, by virtue of that logic of communion according to which everyone can place at the service of others their gifts, their opinions in truth and with freedom."

Speaking to Focolare Movement, Vatican City, Feb 6 2021

". . . I ask everyone to speak frankly and to listen to others because, there, too, the Spirit is listening."

Writing in 'Let Us Dream', regarding the synodal process

Page 1

Regional Lenten Gatherings

DREAMING
FROM
SCRIPTURE
FOR THE
CHURCH



Concerned Catholics Tasmania, along with similar church renewal groups around Australia, is considering models of Church which give the laity a greater voice in leadership and governance. CCT is also keen to provide opportunities for reflection and discussion on our faith and our Church.

We are pleased to offer this Lenten opportunity to reflect on scripture that can guide us in our understanding of Church.

Fr Michael Tate will offer four reflections on passages from the New Testament as sure foundations for "Good Faith" discussions about the Church.

They will invite reflection on the mind brought to the discussions, examine some topics to see if they are truly grounded in Scripture, and conclude with a message of hope for those in the Barque of Peter with our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Meetings will be held in the North, South and North West:

North: Saturday 27th February 10am to 12.30
Pastoral Centre, Margaret St Launceston

Register at donna.mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au by Thursday 25th February

South: Saturday 6th March 10am to 12.30
Corpus Christi Parish Hall, Bellerive

Register at csmith18@bigpond.com by Thursday 4th March

North West: Saturday 13th March 10am to 12.30
Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall,
Devonport

Register at sueehyslop@gmail.com by Thursday 11th March

There will be a tea and coffee break halfway through.

A blessing of discomfort

*May God bless you with
discomfort,*

*at easy answers, half truths,
and superficial relationships*

*so that you may live deeply
within your heart.*

*May God bless you with
anger,*

*at injustice, oppression, and
exploitation of people,*

*so that you may work for
justice, freedom and peace.*

May God bless you with tears,

*to shed for those who suffer
pain and rejection,*

*so that you may reach out
your hand and comfort them*

to turn their pain into joy.

*And may God bless you with
enough foolishness,*

*to believe that you can make
a difference in the world,*

*so that you can do what
others claim cannot be done*

*to bring justice, understanding
and kindness to all.*

Franciscan Benediction

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Saturday 30th January.

2021 Program. At this stage, the Committee is planning the following events for members and guests in 2021:

Feb/March	Lenten program Regional Gatherings (details on p2)	Fr Michael Tate
May	AGM with guest speaker Statewide – Launceston	
August	<i>Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home</i> Trish Hindmarsh et al Regional Gatherings	
Oct/Nov	Plenary Council Review Zoom – regional	ACCCR

More details on these and any other initiatives will be circulated as they become available – stay tuned!

Upcoming Meeting with the Archbishop. A request for a meeting with Archbishop Julian in November revealed his first available date was February 11th. Delegates (Kim Chen, Trish Hindmarsh and Chris Smith) will be seeking discussion on how the Church in Tasmania can be more synodal. We seek regular avenues for authentic engagement for the faithful in Tasmania. Please pray for a fruitful outcome.

Parish Councils and Diocesan Pastoral Council. The committee is exploring models which may be helpful for us in the future. It was pleasing to note that almost all parishes in Tasmania have an existing Parish Pastoral Council in some form.

Plenary Council. Further information was shared about the changing arrangements for the Plenary Council in October this year. It was resolved to continue efforts to involve Hobart's delegates – Dr Rachel Bradley, Mr Daniel De La Motte, and Fr Shammi Perera – in our activities.

Ritual of Lament. It was resolved that CCT will issue a Press release in the week preceding March 20th to express our solidarity, prayers and support for those so deeply affected by sexual abuse at Marist College and elsewhere.



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@concernedcatholics.tasmania.org.

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

ACCCR wrote to ACBC Chair,

Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Jan 2021) about the importance of Plenary Council processes being 'inclusive of all of the people of God'. The letter reiterated three specific proposals, all within the purview of the ACBC:

1. That a female Plenary Council delegate be appointed co-chair or deputy chair. *ACCCR notes that no decision has been taken on the issue of a Plenary co-chair or deputy chair.*

2. That gender balance be ensured in the writing team for the *Instrumentum Laboris*, with the work of this team being fully transparent. *ACCR notes that work on the Instrumentum Laboris has proceeded confidentially without gender balance.*

3. That all diocesan bishops urgently establish diocesan pastoral councils, and diocesan synods or assemblies with gender balanced membership, as essential preparation for the Plenary Council. *ACCCR notes that there has been no general agreement on diocesan pastoral councils and synods/assemblies.*

It is also noted the Statutes and Regulatory Norms for the Plenary Council, have apparently been approved by the ACBC without consultation with the faithful.

National Convocations in 2021 ACCCR is planning a series of national Convocations of the Faithful in 2021, aiming to develop the voice of Catholics, share perspectives, explain the processes and rules of the Plenary Council, inform about the current status of preparations, and note potential opportunities - always praying for the success of the Council.

The convocations will support local diocesan and parish groups, enable networking, and facilitate exchange of information. ACCCR has requested a meeting with Archbishop Coleridge to discuss the above concerns and provide clarity prior to the convocations.

Other continuing priorities for ACCCR

- a. A new model of church, one that is faithful to the vision and mission of Jesus and fit for our times, as envisaged by the principles pursued by Pope Francis
- b. Equality of Women – key to Coalition priorities and Church reform.
- c. Reform of decision-making practices and structures to ensure inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability.
- d. Plenary Council approved Statutes and Regulatory Norms: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/STATUTES-AND-REGULATORY-NORMS-Revision-6-November-2020.pdf> These norms determine the decision-making processes of the Plenary Council and the role of delegates.
- e. LGBTIQ discrimination, including suppression therapy.
- f. Support for bishops - how to best indicate to bishops that ACCCR and member groups are continuing to support them in 2021.
- g. Coalition member initiatives on Plenary Council – member groups to take initiatives of their own and to ensure maximum recruitment of participants in ACCCR Convocations.
- h. External communications and media – getting mainstream media interested in the societal impact of our issues.
- i. Advising ACBC of concerns, e.g., *Light from the Southern Cross*, *Instrumentum Laboris*.

Co-Convenor for ACCCR Andrea Dean, former Director for the Catholic Church Office for the Participation of Women, and current Chair of WATAC, has been welcomed as ACCCR Co-Convenor, with Peter Johnstone.