
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

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From the Chair of CCT

Words! Words! Words!

In the last few weeks, there have been many calls for justice linked with the assertion of “rights”. The figure used to represent justice is Lady Justice. Blindfolded, to symbolise her disinterest or impartiality - she does not see the contenders. Scales to weigh argument and evidence and a sword to show that justice will be carried out. Lady Justice has her hands full! Nevertheless, she will only hear from the contenders and arbitrate their differences.

Justice extends to notions of social justice stemming from human dignity.

We are called to do what we can to see justice done. That is not the end of the story for us. We are also called to show compassion for those who suffer injustice. For us, there is a calling to help bind up wounds and comfort those in distress or anguish. There are numerous examples in the Gospels of Christ doing just that. Let's keep it up!

Kim Chen

Important gatherings for our Tasmanian Church....

Archbishop Julian has distributed to parishes information in relation to two gatherings the diocese will be promoting to discuss Instrumentum Laboris – the latest working paper for the Plenary. Whilst we have not had input to content or process, it is important that we support this important event in our Archdiocese. Venues have limited capacity so CCT members and supporters should register as soon as possible so that we can listen to others and so that our voices can be heard as part of this important consultation.

Details from the flyer from the Archdiocese about the Plenary Preparation Day explaining how to register are overpage.



Pope Francis on diocesan pastoral councils...he can't think of not having one!

"It is impossible to think of a bishop who did not have these diocesan institutions: a presbyteral council, consultors, a pastoral council, a council for financial matters. This means really being with the people. This pastoral presence will enable you to be thoroughly acquainted with the culture, customs and mores of the area, the wealth of holiness that is present there. Immerse yourself in your own flock!"

Address to a group of recently appointed bishops.
Sept 2013.

Regional Lenten Gatherings – a great success!

Over 130 people across the state were enriched, stimulated and challenged by Fr Michael Tate's Lenten Reflections held recently. Building on our own hopes of dreaming a renewed Church to reality, Michael took us through the Gospels and Acts to help us ground our dreams in scripture and tradition; dreams, the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to penetrate our consciousness.

He pointed us to New Testament stories of the significance of women in the early Church and challenged us to ask why they have been shut out for so long since. Also looking at the early Church, we visited parts of scripture showing how important discussion, reflection and discernment were when deciding how the disciples would carry out their mission of spreading the good news of Jesus. Vigorous debate was encouraged at the time!

Michael finished by urging us to keep rowing! As Jesus challenged the disciples to set out 'to the other side', so should our Church, the Church of Jesus, be prepared to do so, even if there be storms.

We are very grateful to Fr Michael for his generous contribution to our spiritual growth as individuals and as Concerned Catholics Tasmania. A summary is available on the website.

Archdiocesan Plenary Preparation Day

In the lead-up to the first assembly, parishioners and others are invited to attend a Preparation day for the Plenary Council, in either Launceston or Hobart. Information and registration is at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/preparation-day-for-the-plenary-council-tickets-146532210787> or by typing [plenarypreparation.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/preparation-day-for-the-plenary-council-tickets-146532210787) into your browser. The free events include keynote speakers, small discussion groups and a provided lunch. Registration is essential.

Launceston St Anthony's School Saturday April 24th

Hobart Archdiocese Centre (Murphy Room)
Saturday May 1st

Each session will run from 10am to 2.30pm.

Rowing with Jesus to the 'other side'...the call to be prophets of a better future

'At every crossroad, every one of us has three possible options. The first choice is to quit a road that is going somewhere we do not want to go. We can move on in another direction. We can distance ourselves from the difficulties of it all. We can leave the mission unfinished.

The second alternative is to . . . crawl into a comfortable cave with nice people and become a church, a culture, a society within a society. We can just hunker down together and wait for the storm to calm down, go by, and become again the nice warm womb of our beginnings.

The third choice is to refuse to accept a moral deterioration of the present and insist on celebrating the coming of an unknown, but surely holier, future. The third choice is to go steadfastly on, even if we are not sure what we will find at the end of it. . . . The third choice is a choice that demands great courage. . . . And courage is a prophet's road. The prophets had a choice. So do we.'

Based on a theme in the recent Lenten Reflections by Fr Michael Tate: 'Keep Rowing!'

Due to government COVID guidelines, each person wishing to attend a preparation day event must register before attending. Please bring your ticket with you to the event.

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 15th March. Matters discussed included:

Lenten Reflections. Reported on the previous page.

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

May 21st	AGM with guest speaker Statewide – Launceston venue tba	
August	<i>Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home</i> Trish Hindmarsh et al Regional Gatherings. Saturdays tba	
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!

Meeting with Archbishop. Committee members Kim Chen, Trish Hindmarsh and Chris Smith met with the Archbishop on February 11th. In an amicable meeting, including the Vicar General, Fr Shammi, topics discussed included the place of synodality in the Tasmanian Church (with CCT pushing that it is not necessary to await for Plenary outcomes before making progress in this direction), assemblies to discuss *Instrumentum Laboris* (CCT had requested some consultation process and the Archbishop said he would organize assemblies. CCT expressed a hope that they would be discussion and discernment based rather than didactic focused), access to *The Standard* (the Archbishop explained that this is the official voice of the Tasmanian Church) and CCT use of school facilities (this will be up to the Principal).

ACCR Convocations. Joan Chittister will be presenting the first on May 2nd. Details in the ACCCR Report overpage.



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.

Ritual of Lament

CCT was represented at this moving occasion on Saturday March 20th at Marist Regional College. Transcripts of speeches from the liturgy held are available on our website.

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

First Convocation: Sr Joan Chittister OSB will be the keynote speaker at a Convocation of Catholics on Sunday, 2 May 2021 (by Zoom), 9.00am EST, with opportunities for participants to meet in face-to-face groups in various locations and or to log in individually.

Joan's topic, 'A vision for Catholicism in Australia: Renewal directions, priorities, hopes and aspirations', will combine practical proposals and visionary ideas from local and overseas sources, including submissions to the Plenary Council process, Vatican II and Pope Francis, having regard to synodality, subsidiarity, inclusivity, transparency and accountability.

Joan's 30 minute presentation will be followed by a panel and then small group (breakout) discussions, a plenary Q&A and her own closing/summary comments.

As soon as registration details are released, CCT will make them available to you by email and on the website.

Other Convocations

This convocation on 2nd May will be the first of three proposed as a contribution to the success of the Australian Plenary Council. The others are scheduled for 26 August and 4 November 2021, before and after the first Plenary Council assembly. The broad intent is to support the Church's mission by uncovering ways forward for the hierarchy and the People of God, and

by playing our part in the global movement towards renewal.

Aims of the convocations :

To give a voice to Catholics, promote critical thinking and build personal confidence through sharing ideas and perspectives, particularly in the light of Vatican II and the leadership of Pope Francis,

To promote a vision for the future of Catholicism, informed by the lives of ordinary people.

To address the role of women in the Church and gender balance in decision making;

To promote justice with special regard to the treatment of LGBTIQA people.

To identify necessary areas of improvement in accountability, transparency and inclusiveness – particularly the role of the laity.

To assist the bishops of Australia in understanding the priorities and concerns of the faithful.

No registration fees.

Convocations will be open gatherings. There will be no registration or participation fees. Donations will be invited to cover costs.

Intended participants.

The target participants are primarily the Catholic people of Australia. All people seeking Church renewal, lay, religious, clergy, bishops, members of other churches or none, and community groups, will be welcome.