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Concerned Catholics Tasmania

Concerned Catholics Tasmania¹ School Strike for Climate Change

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Concerned Catholics Tasmania (CCT), on behalf of its members and supporters, expresses its profound disappointment and regret that the Executive Director of Catholic Education has stipulated that students at Catholic schools are required to change out of school uniform if they wish to attend the School Strike 4 Climate, which is scheduled to occur on Parliament Lawns Hobart this Friday 21 May 2021 from 12 pm until 2 pm and at other venues around the State during that time.

Kim Chen, Chair of CCT, said “The conclusion many people may come to from students not attending in uniform may well be that Catholic students are not attending at all and do not share the concern of their fellow students about Climate Change. Nothing could be further from the truth.”

Pope Francis sets the gold standard.

Vatican News² (2019) reported on a meeting of the Pope with CEOs of global oil companies, entitled, “*The Vatican Dialogues: The Energy Transition and Care for our Common Home*”. In comments to the group, the Pope stated that today’s ecological crisis, especially climate change, “*threatens the very future of the human family*”.

He continued by saying that “*the climate crisis requires ‘our decisive action, here and now’ and the Church is fully committed to playing her part.*”

Pope Francis called for action, stating, “*We must take action accordingly, in order to avoid perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations*” and “*it is the poor who suffer the worst impacts of the climate crisis.*” The Pope stressed that courage was needed in responding to “*the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor*”.

In conclusion, the Pope warned, “*Time is running out!*” He emphasized that we, “*must go beyond mere exploration of what **can** be done and concentrate on what **needs** to be done.*”

Our young people are responding in spades, creating a global movement for Climate Change.

Kim Chen added “CCT sees the tentative approach exhibited by the Executive Director as being out of step with that of Pope Francis. CCT encourages students at Catholic schools to participate in the School Strike for Climate Change this week because, when the prophetic predictions of climate scientists are realised, it is their generation and those beyond who will suffer the most. We appreciate only too well that school students see climate change as an urgent and profound concern and Pope Francis shares their sense that ‘*time is running out!*’”

¹ Concerned Catholics Tasmania (CCT) is a group of committed Catholics seeking renewal in the Church. It was established in 2020 and is affiliated with 19 such groups nationally.

² Vatican News <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-06/pope-declares-climate-emergency.html>