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# Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics  
Tasmania

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No 2 28 August 2020

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Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter, now titled Around the Well. In an earlier meeting, we reflected on the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well.

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.

We use the inspiration from this 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.

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## Recent Developments in the Formation of CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Items discussed included:

### Planning for CCT Launch – Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 for 10.30am

Plans are well underway for our launch on Saturday October 10. Francis Sullivan, former Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Church in Australia's Truth, Justice and Healing Council, has agreed to be our guest speaker (by Zoom). The meeting will reflect on where we have come from, and the path ahead, allowing as much open dialogue, questions and sharing of ideas from people as possible. Invitations, publicity and other operational details were further developed.

**Dialogue with Archbishop Porteaus.** Last week a quite lengthy and disappointing reply was received from the Archbishop in response to our proposals for continuing diocesan consultation and dialogue over the issues raised in preparation for the Plenary Council 2021. At this point in time, we have very different approaches to how this may

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Concerned Catholics  
Tasmania (CCT) was formed  
in early 2020.

**Please join us for our official  
launch on Saturday October  
10<sup>th</sup> in Launceston. Details  
are in the invitation included  
at the end of this newsletter.**

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.

be best achieved. However, we continue to seek opportunities to dialogue with him to achieve the best possible outcomes from such community consultations but, if necessary, put our own processes in place.

We have sent a brief letter by way of reply to the Archbishop expressing our shared response to his letter and attaching an invitation to the CCT launch. We await his reply.

**Lay delegates to the Plenary Council** . We agreed to contact the two Hobart lay Diocesan representatives to the Plenary Council selected by the Archbishop. We wish to keep them informed of our ideas and concerns and invite them to our Launch Meeting.

**Membership.** We now have nearly 40 formal members – and a growing email list. There was discussion around the process of membership, and how to keep spreading the word – a challenge for each of us.

**Renewal movements around Australia.** Groups such as ours are being established around Australia and now NZ and a report from ACCCR will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. With these comes a wealth of opportunities for tapping into a wide range of papers, webinars, Zoom meetings and other resources which make very considered, challenging, re-assuring and hopeful responses to the challenges we face together. These will be shared with you through our newsletter and by separate email from time to time. We are certainly not alone!

## Some possible readings...

**On parish:** For a critique of the recent Vatican document *The pastoral conversion of the parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the church*” see *Let’s use the title ‘co-worker for lay people in parish leadership*:

<https://www.ncronline.org/channel/parish>

**On transparency and the Plenary:** For commentary on transparency and participation of laity in the lead up to the Plenary see

[https://johnmenadue.com/david-timbs-the-polding-house-push-and-the-catholic-weekly-bugle/?mc\\_cid=dc51093553&mc\\_eid=54db217a75](https://johnmenadue.com/david-timbs-the-polding-house-push-and-the-catholic-weekly-bugle/?mc_cid=dc51093553&mc_eid=54db217a75)



## Membership of CCT

You are encouraged to consider supporting the formation 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 assistance! Membership lists are, of course, confidential,

## Church Governance Report

The final version of *The Light from the Southern Cross* can be found at

<https://catholic.org.au/governance>

You are encouraged to read the accompanying reading guide.

## Our Membership of ACCCR

Trish and Vin Hindmarsh are our representatives on ACCCR and have prepared this report.

ACCCR has been renamed the **Australasian Coalition for Catholic Church Renewal** to include its new Pacific member organization, *Be the Change New Zealand*. There are now nineteen member organisations in ACCCR.

During August, CCT has been invited, through its membership of ACCCR, to participate in a number of initiatives and actions, for example:

1. A letter from ACCCR to Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, requesting 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.
2. CCT members received an invitation through Peter Johnstone, Chair of ACCCR, from the latest member organization to join ACCCR, *SA Catholics for an Evolving Church*. This invitation was to take part in their Zoom meeting (Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 7.30pm) to discuss 'How do we make the Plenary Council a positive event for all of us?'
3. We have received an invitation to our members to take part in a webinar arranged through the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) for us to be informed about the changing nature and demographics of our Church as researched by the National Centre for Pastoral Research in Melbourne in the project *Knowing the Community we are Called to Serve* on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am.

We hope that CCT will be represented at both online events.

Our membership of ACCCR continues to offer both support for our fledgling Tasmanian group, and opportunities to engage with other organisations committed to church renewal.



## Webpage or graphic design - are you able to assist?

We are looking for someone who may be able to help us by designing a simple webpage so that people who hear about us can do search online for information.

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](mailto: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](mailto:sue.hyslop@icloud.com).



## Reflection

**There are wells hidden in the hearts of all the thirsty strangers we meet along the way. Sometimes, our honest search for living water can lead us to these wells, and exchanges can be made that quench our thirst.**

What makes this world so lovely  
is that somewhere it hides a well.  
Something lovely there is about a well  
so deep  
unpiped and real  
filled  
with buckets and buckets  
of that life –giving drink.  
A faucet will do in a hurry,  
but what makes the world so lovely  
is that somewhere  
it hides a well!

Sometimes  
people are like wells  
deep and real  
natural (unpiped)  
life-giving  
calm and cool  
refreshing.

They bring out what is best in you  
They are like fountains of pure joy  
They make you want to sing, or maybe dance  
They encourage you to laugh  
even, when things get rough.  
And maybe that's why  
things never stay rough  
once you've found a well.

Some experiences are like wells too.  
People create them  
They are life-giving happenings  
They are redeeming experiences

They are wells,  
wells of wonder  
wells of hope.

When you find a well  
and you will some day,  
Drink deeply of the gift within.  
And then maybe soon  
you'll discover  
that you've become  
what you've received,  
and then you'll be a well  
for others to find.

*So lift up your eyes  
and look all around you:  
Over the mountains, down in the valley  
out in the ocean, over the runways  
into the cities, into the country  
sidewalks and highways  
paths in the forest  
into the hearts of a thirsty people.*

Look!  
And I beg you  
Don't ever stop looking

Because what makes this world so lovely

Is that *somewhere* it hides a well,  
a well that hasn't been found yet.

And if you don't find it  
maybe nobody will!

And if you don't be one  
maybe  
nobody will find you!

**Macrina Wiederkeh**



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](mailto: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