

Welcome

**A SYNODAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

**DREAM
or
POSSIBILITY ?**

Philomena Billington: May 22 2021



PENTECOST

*Scaling the mountain
of church renewal*

(Joan Chittister)

***All I Can Offer is
the Journey I have
been on and the
person I am
becoming*** (Rohr)



*I acknowledge the
Traditional Custodians
who have walked
upon and cared for
this land for
thousands of years. I
continue to commit to
reconciliation, justice
and recognition,
especially on Sorry
Day on May 26*



A

CONVERSATION

'Conversion through conversation' – Tim Radcliffe OP

- ~ a link to what's gone before
- ~ description of the present
- ~ a way into the future

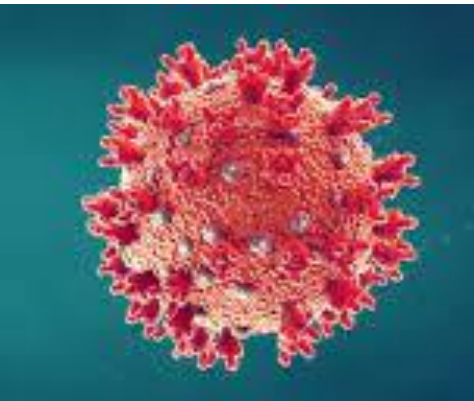


Fr Cyril Halley



Change of Era not Era of Change

Pope Francis



We are in transition to a new form of Christianity...

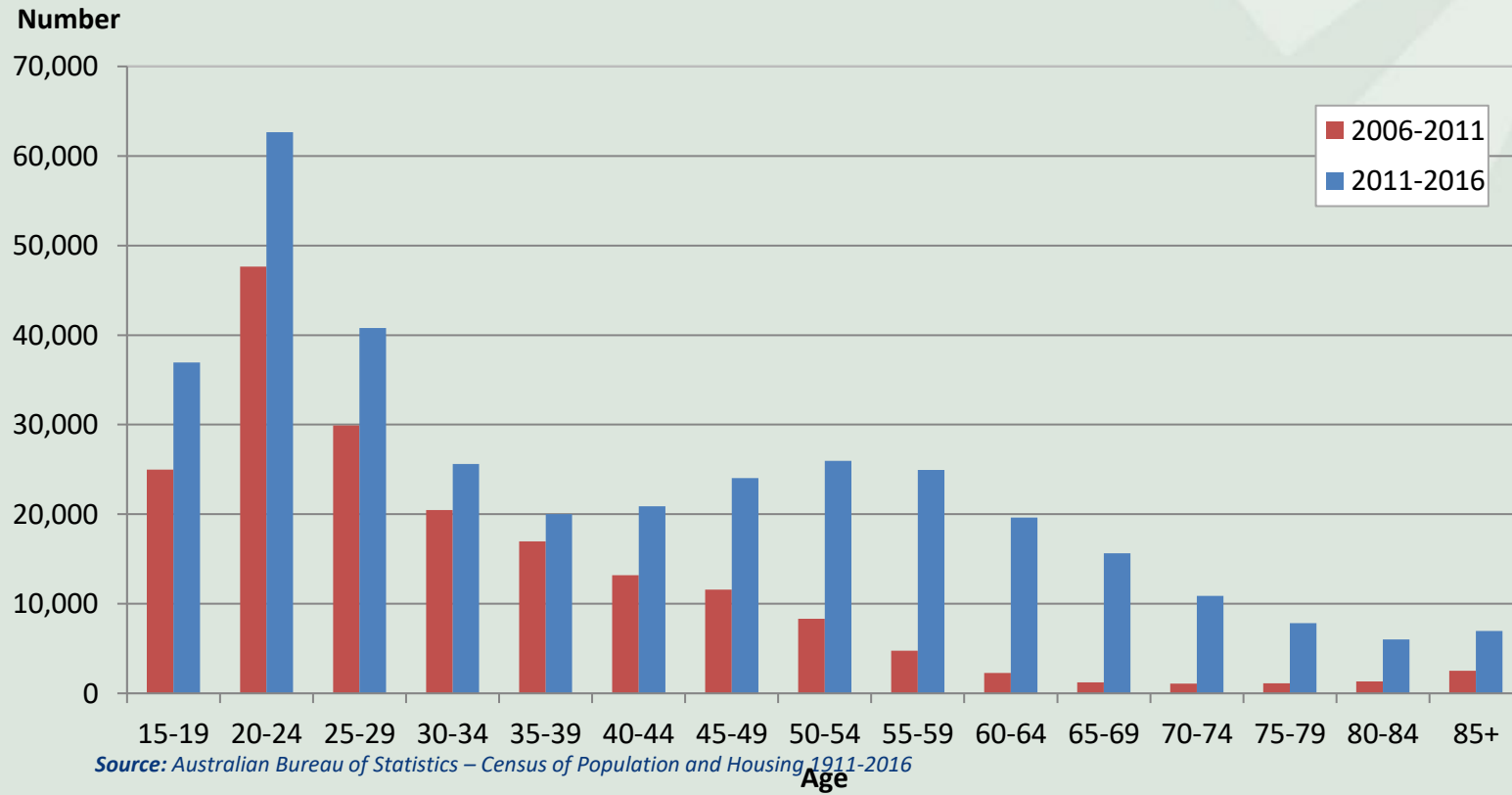
Joan Chittister



Context

Indeed, the context is one of a 'liminal age' described as a time in which people and societies can feel disturbed when many long held views and beliefs about life, including Church, family and the broader world are called into question through the influence of increased globalisation through the media and increasing multi-faceted influences' (D'Orsa & D'Orsa 2013)

Australian Census Catholics dis-identifying 2006-2011 and 2011-2016





The call of Vatican II to everyone

**HOLINESS
COMMUNITY
MINISTRY**

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

INFLUENCE OF VATICAN II

‘The laity should develop the habit of working in the parish in close union with their priests’ (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, #10)

- Opened up a new vista of opportunities for life in parish communities...people in parishes to enter into a dialogue and involvement of a different kind.*
- Laypeople are not second-class members at the service of the Church hierarchy, but are disciples of Christ called to “enliven every environment, every activity and every human relationship according to the Gospel,” Pope Francis has said. (2015)*
- The priesthood of the people – all the baptised*
- Vatican II was a spurt of spiritual growth*



THE LIGHT FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS



Promoting
Co-Responsible
Governance in
the Catholic
Church in
Australia

1 MAY 2020
PUBLIC RELEASE 15 AUGUST 2020



Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Instrumentum Laboris (Working Document)
FOR THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA





When I hear the word →

SYNODALITY

What comes to mind?

How do I feel?

What do I wonder?

Share with the person next to you



So then...

**HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND
SYNODALITY ?**

**IS IT JUST A DREAM
or
IS IT A POSSIBILITY?**



So...

What did we hear?

Big Ideas:

- **Journeying together → Listening**
- **Being a Church together in a Pilgrim Church**
- **Synodality is a Call → the Vocation of the Church in the world**
- **Living reality of ALL the Baptised → the People of God**

Pope Francis ~ October 2015

Commemorative Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops

A synodal church is a listening church, knowing that listening 'is more than feeling'. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. Faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: we are one in listening to others; and all are listening to the Holy Spirit, the '*Spirit of truth*' (Jn 14:17)

FROM PERSONAL TO COMMUNAL

~ **SYNODALITY** ~

CO-RESPONSIBILITY

DIALOGUE

MISSION

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graph TD; MISSION((MISSION)) --> CORESP[CO-RESPONSIBILITY]; MISSION --> DIALOGUE; MISSION --> STEWARDSHIP; MISSION --> SUBSIDIARITY;
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STEWARDSHIP

SUBSIDIARITY

SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT

Synodality

Pope Francis is constantly reviving its understanding and describes it as

'a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium' (2019, p. 1).

A synodal Church is a Church of participation and co-responsibility. In exercising synodality she is called to give expression to the participation of all, according to each one's calling, with the authority conferred by Christ on the College of Bishops headed by the Pope. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. (International Theological Commission, 2018, n.67).

As the Church endeavours to find new ways of living God's mission, an understanding of synodality is imperative to guide leaders so that the principle is enacted in all processes of discernment, consultation and co-operation at every level of decision-making whether in the context of ministry or the broader life of the Church.

Discernment *

(Pope Francis: Gaudete et Exsultate (2018))

- *'calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.'*
- 'Communal discernment of the Spirit calls for vision, sensitivity and prayer...in brief, members individually and collectively prepare and maintain themselves in':
 - *spiritual growth* → *motivation* → *commitment* → *competence*

Ref: Wilkinson in McMahan et al (1990) Leadership in Catholic Education.

Subsidiarity

- The principle of *subsidiarity* is fundamental to governance and leadership. Even though, it was enshrined in a papal encyclical in 1931 (Centessimus Anno) as ‘an injustice...to transfer to the larger and higher collectivity, functions which can be performed and provided for by lesser and subordinate bodies’.
- It has also informed governance in civil society, most notably as a general principle laid down in the Treaty of the European Union, defining the circumstances in which it is preferable for action to be taken by the Union, rather than the Member States

(Colombo, 2012, p. 4).

Co-responsibility

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (2009)

- The principle of *co-responsibility* is logically related to subsidiarity and advances the relationship. It describes a way of leading with others for the good of the community whether that community is local or a larger geographic region.
- Within the context of Church, it refers to the common responsibility of all members through Baptism for the mission: Co-responsibility requires a shared understanding, achieved through dialogue, of the vision for the community being served. *They must no longer be viewed as "collaborators" of the clergy but truly recognized as "co-responsible", for the Church's being and action, thereby fostering the consolidation of a mature and committed laity* (Pope Benedict).

Stewardship

- *Stewardship* is foundational and guides purpose. Stewardship is described as ‘a ministry of service expressed through “care of the tradition, the spirit, the story, the corporate and personal memories of the institution” and just and proper use of material and human resources “through prudent management, wise investment and usage” (CEO Sandhurst 2012).
- Stewardship engages the leader/s in giving of time and talent focused on service to others and ‘infusing life at work with spirit, passion and zest’ (Bolman & Deal, 2011, p. 6).

Culture – what is it?

- “The culture of an entity can be described as the ‘**shared values** and **norms** that **shape behaviours and mindsets**’ within the entity. It has been described as ‘what people do when no-one is watching’ and that description captures what might be called the essentially ‘**internalised**’ or ‘**instinctive**’ application of shared values and norms.”

■ Financial Services Royal Commission, Final Report, Vol 1, p334

Synodality... a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium'

- What does or could Synodality look like and sound like in:
 - ❖ Concerned Catholics Tasmania?
 - ❖ In our local Parish/es
- What are the OPPORTUNITIES?
- What does Synodality invite me to personally?

TABLE CONVERSATIONS



So then...

**HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND
SYNODALITY ?**

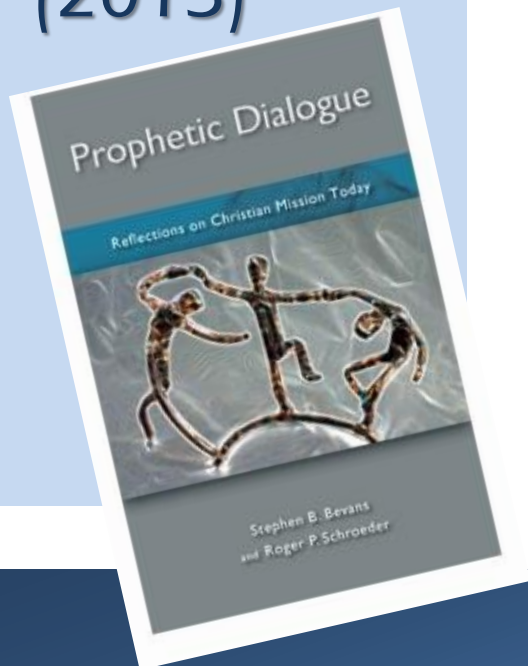
**IS IT JUST A DREAM
or
IS IT A POSSIBILITY?**

Community

We exist to be miracle workers to one another. It is in community that we are called to grow. It is in community that we come to see God in the other. It is in community that we see our own emptiness filled up. It is community that calls me beyond the pinched horizons of my own life, my own country, my own race, and gives me the gifts I do not have within me ... the function of community is to enable us to be about something greater than ourselves.

Joan Chittister OSB

Bishop
Vincent
Long
OFMConv
(2013)



‘we need to read the signs of the times and be open to the Spirit, [and] dismissing the unique challenges we face today with an air of triumphalism and invincibility will not sensitise us to this watershed moment.

*For I believe that we as a Church have entered into **an era of transition** similar to the Babylonian exile of the covenanted people, our pioneers in faith. Far from being a time of fear, paralysis and polarisation, this time of chaos and uncertainty, diminishment and alienation can be a time of Grace.*

As builders of kingdom, we are called to be catalysts for renewal and allow ourselves to be recast and reimagined into ministers of faith, hope and love to our people in this time of transition’.

A ‘pilgrim people likely to be affected by the dust and grime of the journey’

Reflection Song: Baptismal Call

The Call

James Maher msc

You are the one that I love

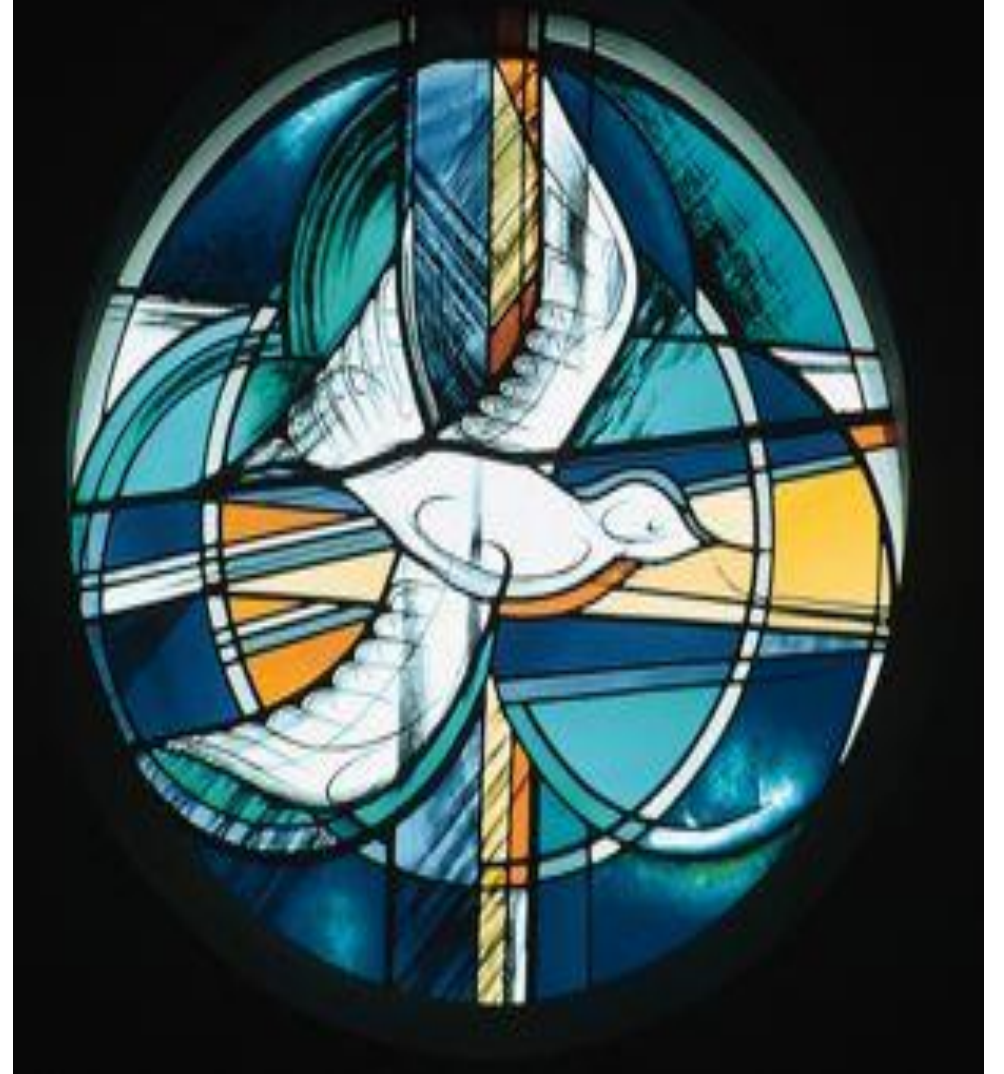
Yours is the hunger I feed

Yours is the life, yours is the living

You are the one that I love.



*You are the one that I love
Yours is the hunger I feed
Yours is the life, yours is the living
You are the one that I love.*



Try to let your fear dissolve

Let my Spirit hold your heart

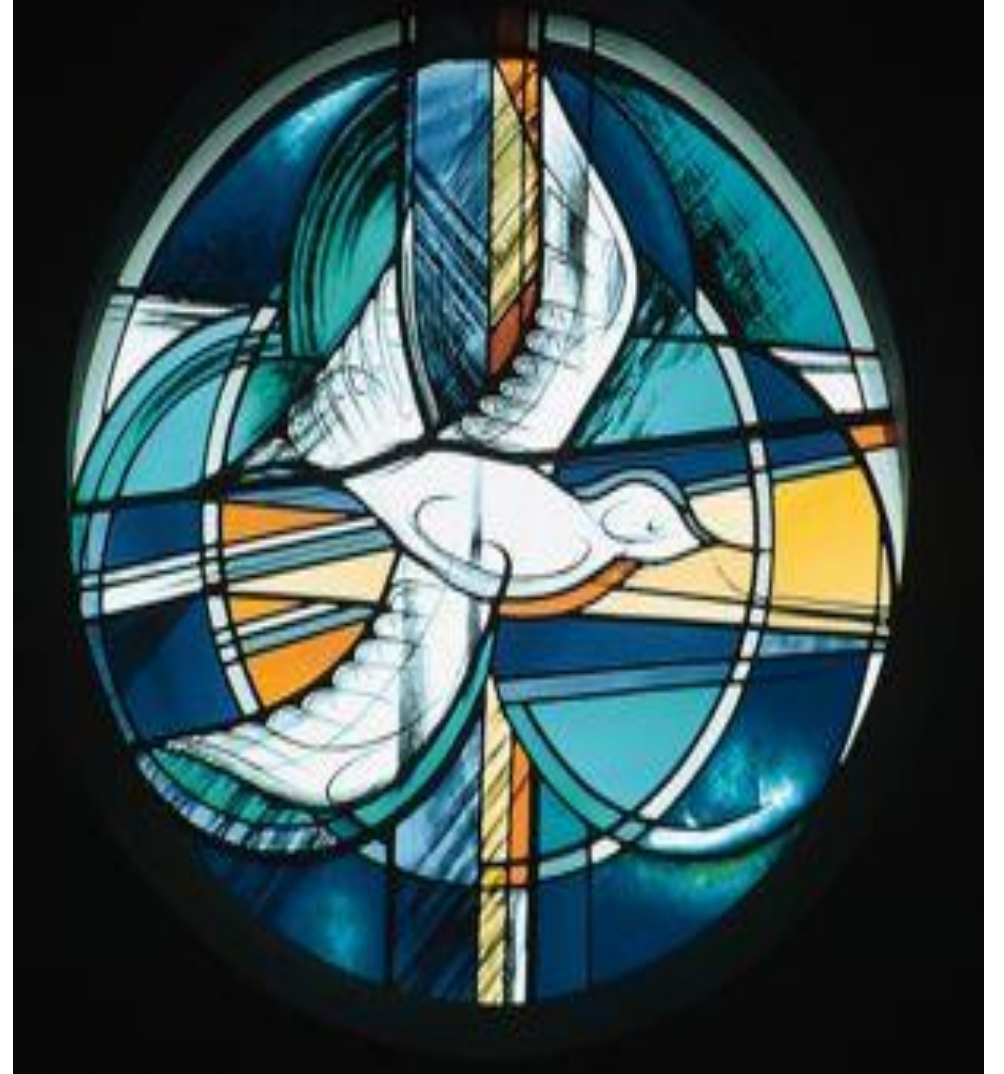
Love your hidden self and let it live

Come to me. Be with me

Feel the ease of trusting me

Together we have bread to break and give

*You are the one that I love
Yours is the hunger I feed
Yours is the life, yours is the living
You are the one that I love.*



Hear the call I've given you
Though at times it pierces you
It will not fade as other voices do
The heart of you remains with you
My choice of you, my claim on you
Embrace your life so others may live too.

*You are the one that I love
Yours is the hunger I feed
Yours is the life, yours is the living
You are the one that I love.*

