
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

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From the Chair of CCT

John Alonso Dick, an historical theologian, recently wrote *"Truly authentic Christian belief, of course, can never be simply the expression of one's individual and subjective experience. We are a community of believers – a faith community. We need each other."*

So, let me start by thanking all who journeyed to the Don Bosco Theatre on the Glenorchy campus of Guilford Young College on 10 September 2022 for our Post Plenary Gathering. What Professor John Warhurst, Dr Nimmi Candappa and Daniel de la Motte contributed can still be viewed by accessing the recording on our [website](#). The success of that gathering demonstrates your and our acknowledgment of our need for both a faith community and each other.

These words from J A Dick resonated for me, *"When a religion speaks more in the name of authority than with the voice of compassion, it becomes meaningless."*

We can trudge up hill and down dale bemoaning the state of the archdiocese to no purpose. Alternatively, Dick proposes this:

We need meditation times. We need a truly contemporary spirituality. Animated by the life, message, and spirit of Jesus, we can then move ahead in our life journeys and accompany others in their own life journeys.

Our gathering on 10 September began with time for prayer and reflection and the Committee's gathering a week later in Launceston was mostly that. Those practices are the harbinger of an encounter with God for us and hearing what His will might be.

Kim Chen

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Pope Francis and the 'Economy of Francesco'

On the weekend of September 22, Pope Francis met in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs, students, workers and changemakers from every part of the world to discern about the future global economy. They reflected on St Francis' spirit of the Gospels promoting justice and love for all our sisters and brothers and for Mother Earth on whom we all depend. Those present signed 'The Pact for the Economy' which they had worked on collaboratively for three years.

"We young people, aware of the responsibility that rests on our generation, commit ourselves today, individually and collectively, to spending our lives so that the economy of today and tomorrow becomes an economy of the Gospel, and therefore:

*an economy of peace and
not of war,*

*an economy that opposes
the proliferation of arms,
(cont.)*

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Recent developments in CCT

The Plenary - past history? Or the promising early stages of an engaging journey?

CCT organised an opportunity on Saturday 10th September to hear and discuss reflections on the recent Plenary Council that concluded in July. Three members of the Council, Emeritus Professor John Warhurst, Dr Nimmi Candappa and Archdiocesan delegate Daniel De la Motte, were with us to share their personal reflections about the experience and implications for our present and future church. Opportunity was also provided to discuss and listen to the comments of fellow participants and ask some questions of Nimmi, John and Daniel.



Over 50 were in attendance at Guilford Young College, with a similar number viewing a livestream of the event. Since that day, the recording, accessible [here](#), has been viewed over 300 times. Nimmi's powerpoint presentation, which included key outcomes from the Plenary, is also available [here](#).

Committee Report

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 3rd October.

Committee Retreat A Committee Retreat recently held, led by Maureen O'Halloran, breathed new life into the Beatitudes, providing the group with a very spiritual and refreshing experience. The value of committee retreats was endorsed as an important opportunity to balance business with spiritual enrichment and sharing.

2023 Plans CCT is considering issues for 2023, including a continuing focus on the Synod on Synodality, the treatment of LGBTQIA+ people by the institutional Church, progress on an indigenous voice to parliament, continuing the story of *Laudato Si'*, and the rightful place of the laity in our Archdiocese.

Campaign for Refugees CCT has [written](#) to Tasmanian Senator Anne Urquhart, asking her to encourage her party to support initiatives of the Refugee Council of Australia to assist refugees and asylum seekers.



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especially the most destructive,

an economy that cares for creation and does not misuse it.

an economy at the service of the human person, the family and life, respectful of every woman, man, and child, the elderly, and especially those most frail and vulnerable,

an economy where care replaces rejection and indifference,

an economy that leaves no one behind, in order to build a society in which the stones rejected by the dominant mentality become cornerstones,

an economy that recognizes and protects secure and dignified work for everyone,

an economy where finance is a friend and ally of the real economy and of labour, not against them,

an economy guided by an ethics of the human person and open to transcendence,

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Nuncio Visit CCT is seeking an opportunity to meet with the recently appointed Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Balvo, during his visit to Tasmania in early December.

ACCCR Report The Committee heard of recent developments relating to the Plenary, ACCR structures, *The International Survey of Catholic Women* and a proposed *Catholic Church Constitution*. Details are below.

Next Meeting – your input? The next meeting is on 21st November. Ideas to hello@concernedcatholicstasmania.org.au.

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) Report

There has been a time of ‘fallow’ for ACCCR following the close of the Plenary Council in July and with the pending resignation of Peter Johnstone as Co-Convenor and the extended absence overseas of Eleanor Flynn (Co-Convenor) in the middle of the year.

Through ACCCR we have been informed of two very significant pieces of work that have been completed in the interests of Church renewal. These are:

The International Survey of Catholic Women (Initiated by *Catholic Women Speak*), authored by Professor Tina Beattie, University of Roehampton, London; Dr Tracy McEwan, University of Newcastle, and WATAC Vice-President; and Dr Kathleen McPhillips, University of Newcastle. Significant findings included:

- even when women have considerable struggles with Catholic institutions and structures, their Catholic identity is very important to them;
- most Catholic women welcome reform in the Church;
- respondents identified the sexual, physical, and emotional abuse of women, children, and other vulnerable people as a dominant issue. A substantial majority was concerned about the prevalence of abuse, racism, and sexism in church contexts; and,
- women are deeply concerned about transparency and accountability in church leadership and governance.

Find the International Survey Report at: [Catholic Women Speak – A forum for dialogue and theological exploration](#)



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an economy that values and safeguards the cultures and traditions of peoples, all living things and the natural resources of the Earth,

an economy that fights poverty in all its forms, reduces inequality and knows how to say with Jesus and Francis, “Blessed are the poor”

an economy that creates wealth for all, that engenders joy and not just riches, because happiness that is not shared is incomplete.

We believe in this economy. It is not a utopia, because we are already building it. And some of us, on particularly bright mornings, have already glimpsed the beginning of the promised land.”

Signed at Assisi, 24 September 2022

60th Anniversary of Vatican II

Pope Francis pleads for the Church to “overcome all polarization and preserve our communion.” Read of his October 11th homily [here](#).

Proposed Catholic Church Constitution The Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research has initiated the drafting of a 'Constitution' for the Catholic Church as a way to address governance reforms and inclusion of all. Specialist Catholic scholars from around the world have contributed to the work and it has been personally delivered to Rome and encouragingly received by the Synod Dicastery. Its Key Features and Proposals are:

Universal right for all Catholics to participate in church governance both by their fundamental human rights (UDHR Art. 21) and by their Baptismal rights.

Non-discrimination. The selection of candidates for any church office, including sacramental ministry, must be done without discrimination based on race, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, and economic or social condition.

Subsidiarity and decentralisation in decision-making and action taking.

Leaders must be elected and representative of their constituents.

Consent. Official church laws and doctrines passed by church representatives must reflect the consent of the churches to which they apply.

Separation of powers. The power of governance shall be divided between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Leaders to take into account specialist knowledge in decision-making: eg. in biblical studies, theology, canon law, medicine, psychology, economics, sociology, etc.

Leaders must be accountable through a limited term of office, and annual reporting.

There must be full freedom to join and leave the Church exercising freedom of conscience.

The full Draft can be found at: [A Constitution for the Catholic Church](#).

Prof. Mary McAleese, with PhDs in Law and in Canon Law, former President of Ireland, is one of its endorsers and writes: *"The proposed Constitution is the best idea the Catholic Church has had in centuries. It gives due respect to the God-given dignity of every member, puts Christ front and centre, loosens the strangling, controlling grip of imperialism and clericalism and lets the Church breathe again, love again, include again. We need this Constitution. It is our bridge to the future."*

A few extra bits of news....

The **Laudato Si' Movement, Catholics for Our Common Home**, recently released **The Letter**, starring Pope Francis telling the story of Laudato Si'. Follow the [link](#) for the full film or an overview.

The **Tasmanian Group of Highways and Byways** recently held the John Wallis Memorial Lecture with theologian Dr Elissa Roper speaking on *Baptismal Responsibility – a Spirit-led Church for Today's World*. A recording may be accessed at <https://youtu.be/JeUZg2wVjPk>. The lecture proper starts at about the 32 minute mark. Elissa has spoken at a number of ACCCR events.

The **New Zealand Catholic Bishops** have released a statement [Aroha and Diversity in Catholic Schools](#) in response to NZ Catholic school principal requests for pastoral guidance in caring for LGBTIQ+ students. It arises from broad consultation, including with young people, and gives guidelines for a pastoral response so that young people "feel safe, welcomed and loved."