

A SELECTION OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE LAUNCH MEETING

Before:

Thank you to all on the exec of CCT for the incredibly hard and important work you are doing on behalf of all Tasmanian Catholics! Wishing you all the very best for Saturday's launch!

In yesterday's and today's newspapers and on the 7News last evening there has been information about the Launch of Concerned Catholics Tasmania which is to take place in Launceston on Saturday (10th). This is not meant to be an anti-Church group but a gathering of people who believe passionately in the Church and wish for a great participation by laity as well as clergy in the decision making processes of the Church. I'm sure there will be more information available next week.
A Tasmanian Parish Bulletin 7/10/2020

I'm really excited about Saturday - it can only be good

Finally! A positive move towards reclaiming our Church

I am very pleased that this initiative has been taken by you and the other members of the committee and offer my full support. I am hopeful these voices and those of many others in the pews will not fall on deaf ears. I won't be able to be at the launch but send best wishes and every blessing for what lies ahead. Please keep me in the loop and I'll be happy to promote your vision among parishioners here. (From a Tasmanian Parish Priest)

I have just finished reading the article about Concerned Catholics Tasmania in The Examiner and would like to register for the meeting on 10 October.

The problem is we all grew up with Vatican II and an Archbishop and priests who shared that with us and gave us hope and a vision for the Church in the modern world... (A Tasmanian sister).

My husband and I would like to register for the Launch. We both work professionally as chaplains. We are not currently church attendees as we often find it rather soul destroying.

Great to know we are moving forward with discussion and opportunity to listen and learn from each other.

Please accept my apology that I cannot come. We will be away.
I hope it will go brilliantly!!!
Look forward to all good feedback

Wish I could be there too but ... I'm sure it will be a huge success and the start of something great in the Church which will empower people to become more involved

After:

Gratitude was expressed by many -
"Thank you for doing this - for providing this opportunity"

A sense of solidarity, of mutual purpose:

"It's so good to be with other Catholics who feel the same as I do"

Desire for CCT to continue representing them, being their voice:

"We couldn't form a group like this in our Parish, thank you for providing us with an avenue for expressing our concerns"

Everybody I spoke to expressed relief, that something was being done, that they were not alone, that they felt glad to be a Catholic again for the first time in a long time.

CCT is providing an anchor, a foundation to build on:

Many spoke of feeling adrift, lost and alone. So disillusioned with the Institutional Church, not wanting to remain under its "rule", but also not wanting to lose their community and the sacraments, particularly Eucharist. Not knowing where to turn, to find new direction. CCT, with its broadening membership, is helping to provide direction and purpose, and a sense of community again.

The energy in the room and the alignment with our thrust was remarkable - so many personal stories shared also. I was acutely aware of the presence of our clergy amongst us and feel empowered by their pain. In many ways it must be so much more difficult for them when they are so close to it all.

It was absolutely inspirational.

Today the CCT has given birth to hope.

I am leaving with a spring in my step and a song in my heart...

Father spoke very positively of the CCT's agenda in his homily this morning. Terrific really, weaving today's theme 'we are all welcome at the wedding' with the aims and goals of the CCT.

I support whole heartedly all I read and am heartened by the efforts being made to address the issues of the local Church. The situation must be like the Early Church trying to find its feet, while our struggle is to keep our feet on the right path. Our great hope is Pope Francis. Most Catholics warm to his vision of Church – like a field hospital for the bruised and injured – and shepherds who had the smell of the sheep. Obviously I support what you are doing and encourage you to push ahead. *A Tasmanian priest who was unable to be present*

Thank you and the committee so much for a wonderful Saturday morning

For the first time in years I feel there is some hope for the Church in Tasmania

After listening to Francis I feel reassured there will be better times ahead for Catholics who have felt isolated, disillusioned and helpless for years

So thank you to all involved and very best wishes as you strive to make the Church in Tasmania a Church for all God's people not a dictatorship for the hierarchy

Thank you again for the wonderful event on Saturday.

It was an uplifting meeting, and a shared enterprise - always a good sign. The wide range of people involved, with recognised and proven talents, integrity and credibility in our Tasmanian Catholic community was heart warming and conferred authority on the proceedings. Important too to emphasise mutual respect where the Archbishop is concerned,

as many are hurt, frustrated and angry. Francis Sullivan's address was inspiring. His exhortation to be adults in living our faith was well placed. A mutually encouraging, spiritually-alive day. I dare to hope again.

The best thing that has happened here (in the Tasmanian Catholic Church) over the last 5-6 years! *From a priest in attendance*

I heard at last what I have been needing to hear for a long time.

I cannot believe how fortunate we are to have you good people at the helm. I came away from the Tailrace feeling hopeful - an emotion I have not felt about the Church for a long time Bless you all and can't wait for the next gathering