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# Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics  
Tasmania

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No 10 June 2021

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## From the Chair of CCT

### Humility and Gift

A great joy for me is reading what Andrew Hamilton SJ writes in *Eureka Street*, a free online publication of the Australian Jesuits. Here is an example from 8 April 2021:

*(In the) world, differences between human beings based on education social status, nobility of birth and intelligence, human activity in it, and achievement are all gifts available for the shaping of a just world.*

*That view came under pressure with the separation of faith from public life and the emphasis on the individual rather than the communal. It then became easier to see one's gifts and the skills that went into financial success as achievements, not gifts. In this world competitive success entitled people to reward. It demonstrated merit. Those who lost out in competition had no merit. They were the undeserving poor, the losers, whose misery and exclusion from society gilded the merits of the successful winners. The canopy over the world was economic competition with all its divisions, and not gift with its bindings together.*

So, let's pray that we focus on the reality that all that comes our way is gift. Humility rests in knowing that all is gift bestowed not merit. And our response? To worship. The words from a prayer capture that:

*All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to You. Take and sanctify these gifts for Your honour, Lord.*

**Kim Chen**

**The next CCT gatherings .... our place as co-inhabitants of creation and the need for our prophetic Catholic response.....see overpage...**



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## A time of Grace.....

'We need to read the signs of the times and be open to the Spirit, 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'.

Vincent Long, Bishop of  
Parramatta, 2013

**CCT presents:**

## **Caring for the Earth 'Our Common Home'**

**in conversation with Pope Francis**

An opportunity to explore together the Pope's environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si*, its implications for our world, and the call to respond through action.

Facilitators: *Dr Trish Hindmarsh (Stowport)*  
*Fr Krish Mathavan MSC (Moonah/Lutana)*  
*Tony Smith (Lilydale)*

**Hobart August 7<sup>th</sup>; Launceston August 14<sup>th</sup>; Burnie August 28<sup>th</sup>**

**See flyer accompanying this newsletter for details!**

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### **A Synodal Church: Dream or Possibility?**

Our interstate facilitator, Phil Billington, led those in attendance at our recent statewide gathering and AGM in a lively look at, and discussion on, synodality and its potential. People felt engaged and fully in participation. She summarised the responses of those present to the question: What would synodality mean for CCT?

Openness to being heard without fear  
Listening and being aware of the deep spirituality of the young – keep engaging and inviting them into the Church  
Courage for mission and for change  
Feeling encouraged by the rising call to be a Synodal Church, the way of the future, the call to being a renewal movement  
Being prepared to accept responsibility and insisting on being heard; keep being positive  
Being involved with faith formation so that the next generation is encouraged to faith in action and gathering together at Mass  
It must be built on charity, acceptance and compassion  
Synodality's foundation is HOPE  
Outreach to those who have been hurt for speaking out  
Listening starting with me - Deep Listening  
Addressing fear ... within ourselves and others

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### **ACCCR first Convocation with Joan Chittister a great success....**

"the Catholic Church must grow up", Sr Joan said, "beyond the parochial to the global, beyond one system and one tradition, to a broader way of looking at life and its moral, spiritual, ethical frameworks".

She called for lay Catholics to be treated "as equals, as seekers, as spiritual adults. Old styles of worship, old criteria of piety, old ways of relating to the world . . . good as all of them may once have been . . . cannot build for us a new Jerusalem in this place in this time when the forces of history face us with new challenges.."

Sr Joan observed, "The old church with its parochial provincialism, is long dead". Nonetheless, her concluding message was one of hope: "My hope has never been higher. We must be mountain-climbing people." People will lead and leaders will follow. She urged all present to be the "carriers of the new age" and hoped for an "open, honest and heavenly Plenary Council".

**[Register to see the video of the first Convocation here.](#)** An email will be sent with the link to the video once you are registered. (Link is only available until June 30<sup>th</sup>)

## Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June:

**AGM and Synodality Discussion.** It was agreed that this was a successful morning, with Phil Billington's input and facilitation generating animated and engaging discussion.

**Pre-Plenary Diocesan Assemblies.** We were grateful that these events had been organised and pleased to see so many CCT aligned attendees. The emphasis on delivery meant that there was inadequate time for discussion, leading to very short feedback. CCT has written to the Church Office to seek the discussion outcomes.

**Schools Strike 4 Climate.** There was considerable support for our stance and media release from members and others. We were disappointed in the response from the Executive Director of Catholic Education Tasmania, particularly in light of the Pope's strong messages of the need for action on climate. The Chair will be writing to the Chair of the Catholic Education Commission of Tasmania regarding the Executive Director's response.

**Laudato Si events.** Planning is well underway for this chance for CCT members and others to engage in a guided presentation and discussion on this inspiring document from Pope Francis. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

**ACCCR related matters.** See page 4 of this newsletter.

**Committee Reflection.** The Committee, whilst engaging in prayer at each meeting, feels the need for more time for this dimension of our lives. A day facilitated by Sr Jill Dance SSJ is planned for July.

**200 Years of Catholic Education.** Those in attendance at this celebratory Mass were dismayed at the low numbers present. CCT is also hearing of concerns about the increasing level of centralised control and diminishing subsidiarity (a key Catholic principle) within Catholic Education Tasmania.

**Plenary.** CCT will endeavour to keep contact with Archdiocesan delegates to help them hear the voices of the faithful they will be representing at the Plenary. The Plenary Council organizing group has provided information and resources for parishes to publish in the lead-up to the Plenary Council. The question was asked "How well prepared is Tasmania to participate in the Plenary Council?".



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## Membership of CCT?

Please consider supporting the mission of CCT by becoming a member. This also benefits us by payment of a nominal fee.

**Membership and mailing lists of CCT are confidential.**

## Some readings....

Andrew Hamilton SJ comments on the meaning of synods:

[Synods on synods \(eurekastreet.com.au\)](https://eurekastreet.com.au)

JA Dick on how history has wrongly shaped our Church:

[History clarifies and history challenges for the Catholic Church - Pearls and Irritations \(johnmenadue.com\)](http://johnmenadue.com)

Pope Francis on the climate crisis: [Pope on climate crisis: Time is running out, decisive action needed - Vatican News](#)

On Synodality:

People may wish to purchase the book mentioned by Phil Billington: *Leadership in a Synodal Church* by Anne Benjamin and Charles Burford.

Contact the Secretary [sueehyslop@gmail.com](mailto:sueehyslop@gmail.com). \$30.

## A synodal approach to Synodality!

The Vatican announced recently that the Synod of Bishops on synodality has been postponed to 2023, with a two-year consultative preparatory phase involving Catholic dioceses worldwide. The synod on synodality will officially open with a "diocesan phase" in October 2021 and conclude with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023.

Cardinal Mario Grech, the general secretary for the Synod of Bishops, said that the synod has been transformed "from an event into a process." "The Second Vatican Council teaches that the People of God participate in the prophetic office of Christ. Therefore, we must listen to the People of God, and this means going out to the local churches," Grech said.

***During the diocesan phase, each bishop is asked to undertake a consultation process with the local Church from Oct. 17, 2021, until April 2022.***

CCT is seeking advice from our Archbishop on how consultations will occur and offering assistance in planning and organisation.

## Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

**Light from the Southern Cross** Anyone interested is invited to attend a free initiative of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA), a webinar to "provide an opportunity for the People of God to ponder the themes in *The Light from the Southern Cross Report*" on Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> July, 9.00am to 2.00pm. **Speakers:** Richard Lennan; John Warhurst; and Melissa Dwyer FDCC. Registrations at the [CRA](#) website.

**For Information: Plenary Council Members at 28 May 2021** Delegates were interested to receive this data, provided by researcher, Peter Wilkinson, Catholics for Renewal, on attendees at the Plenary:

Male Members include:

Bishops/Ordinaries	46
Diocesan Priests	76
Religious Priests	3
Permanent Deacons	1
Lay Religious Brothers	3
Lay Men	37
<b>Total Men:</b>	<b>186</b>

Female Members include:

Lay Religious Women	25
Lay Women	66
<b>Total Women:</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Total Members:</b>	<b>277</b>

**Synodality - Proposal to re-structure Melbourne Archdiocesan parish system.** A paper has been prepared in consultation with some Melbourne ACCCR affiliate members and other lay people and priests and is circulating widely. Priests and parishioners are concerned that a planned re-structure of the Melbourne Archdiocese by the Archbishop is currently being carried out without due consultation and without due attention to the possible implications for the Faithful. The paper recommends that the Archbishop wait for the Plenary Council outcomes, which hopefully will be in support of a more synodal approach and the establishment of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as a means to engage in discernment with the Catholic community before decisions such as this are made.

**ACCCR 2021 Convocations** The next Convocation (Following the very successful first one featuring Sr Joan Chittister) will be held on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.** It will address the Plenary Council and how hopes and expectations for that are developing. There are plans to have a panel of speakers followed by 'Chat Room' discussions.