
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 11 21 July 2021

From the Chair of CCT

Last month, CCT wrote to Archbishop Julian asking about progress in the collation of contributions made at the Launceston and Hobart Plenary gatherings, as it was our understanding these would be distributed.

The Archbishop responded that he had asked for a record of *"the key points...in oral reports...for myself and the other Plenary Council delegates.... for our own preparations for the first session of the Plenary Council. There was no plan to make these materials available to a wider audience."*

This lack of transparent process is disconcerting. How can we be confident that the concerns and proposals in our submissions, and expressed at the gatherings, will be faithfully conveyed to the PC? As each gathering was different, and the two lay members did not attend both sessions, the sharing of our ideas is an issue. Further, due to time pressure, most southern groups were unable to respond orally to the key question regarding ideas for change.

In response to the other issue raised in our letter, preparation for the Synod on Synodality and the two-year consultative preparatory phase, due to commence in October 2021 and end in April 2022, Julian wrote *"I am yet to receive any formal advice from the ACBC's Secretariat as to what process dioceses will be required to follow. Once I have received this advice, properly reviewed it and consulted with my advisors, both clerical and lay, a formal plan will be developed for this process and presented to the Catholic community in Tasmania."*

In contrast, Pope Francis has instructed every diocesan bishop to listen to *"all the baptised... beginning with the smallest parish, the smallest diocesan institution"*. Sadly, in our Tasmanian situation, advice on process will be sought from those who may not feel able to give frank feedback, and who may not have a diverse enough view to appreciate the issues to be discerned.

I look forward to seeing those able to attend our Laudato Si discussions coming up shortly.

Kim Chen



From Pope Francis...

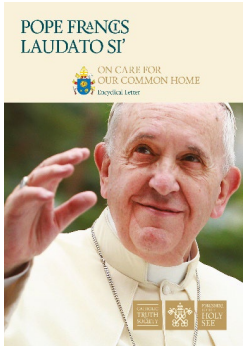
"The bishop must always foster this missionary communion in his diocesan Church, following the ideal of the first Christian communities, in which the believers were of one heart and one soul (cf. Acts 4:32). To do so, he will sometimes go before his people, pointing the way and keeping their hope vibrant. At other times, he will simply be in their midst with his unassuming and merciful presence. At yet other times, he will have to walk after them, helping those who lag behind and – above all – allowing the flock to strike out on new paths. In his mission of fostering a dynamic, open and missionary communion, he will have to encourage and develop the means of participation proposed in the Code of Canon Law, and other forms of pastoral dialogue, out of a desire to listen to everyone and not simply to those who would tell him what he would like to hear. Yet the principal aim of these participatory processes should not be ecclesiastical organization but rather the missionary aspiration of reaching everyone.

Pope Francis
2013 *Evangelii Gaudium* n.33

CCT presents:

Concerned Catholics Tasmania invites you to explore with us the Pope's beautiful, challenging and hope filled environmental encyclical:

Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home.



Inspired by Pope Francis, we ask: *'What is happening to our beautiful planet? How should we respond, as Catholics and as citizens of the world?'*

His call is to a change of practice.....and a change of heart!

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

August 7th (Bellerive Parish Hall)
August 14th (St Patrick's College, Launceston)
August 28th (Marist Regional College Burnie)

9.45 for 10.00-12.30pm

Register at:

Launceston: donna_mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au or 0418761922

Hobart: cdsmith18@bigpond.com or 0407231426

Burnie: Susan Chen susanc286@gmail.com or 0409316718

John Menadue on restructure in Melbourne Archdiocese – ignoring the Plenary... <https://johnmenadue.com/renewing-the-archdiocese-of-melbourne/>

Bishop Vincent Long: *My Hope for the Plenary Council*
<https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-my-hope-for-the-plenary-council/>

Robert Mickens: *Church Implosion Right on Schedule*
<https://international.la-croix.com/news/letter-from-rome/church-implosion-right-on-schedule/14500>

Dialogue is the answer..

Key to understanding Pope Francis' idea of dialogue is that it does not involve a mere exchange of opinions or voicing of concerns. It is rather a process—a *journey* that is meant to proceed slowly and serenely. It may not produce immediate results, but can bear fruit over time, making new things possible. At the same time, it is not something that can or should occur only among friends and during placid times. Instead, it is when progress seems impossible that dialogue is most needed. It is not mere "talk" to distract from the grave issues at hand, but the most direct and daring approach we can take when trapped in a painful rhetorical stalemate.

Pope Francis puts forth the following elements of dialogue in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*:

"Approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, coming to know one another, and to find common ground: all these things are summed up in the one word "dialogue". If we want to encounter and help one another, we have to dialogue.... unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine." (n. 198)

D.W. Lafferty and Mike Lewis 2021

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 12th July:

Responses to our letters. The response from the Archbishop to a recent letter from CCT was discussed, Details are in the Chair's Report. We have not received a response to our letter regarding the *Schools Strike 4 Climate* event addressed to the Chair of the Catholic Education Commission Tasmania.



Campaign for Refugees. The Committee agreed to in-principle support for the 150 day national campaign to bring attention to the plight of refugees in this Year of St Joseph. Information and details on the petition are on page 4.

Canon Law Changes The Committee was alerted to recent changes in Canon 1379 regarding penalties for the ordination of women and a petition by the Women's Ordination Conference.

Laudato Si events. The Committee discussed arrangements for the upcoming mornings engaging with *Laudato Si'*. Notices were arranged for parish bulletins. (CCT would appreciate hearing of parishes where our information appeared in the bulletin!)

ACCCR related matters. See page 4 of this newsletter.

Committee Reflection. The Committee will share in a spirituality day facilitated by Sr Jill Dance SSJ on 24th July.

Media. The committee noted that there has been media interest in the situation in the Huon Parish where a group of parishioners is objecting to what they see as a return to traditional teachings and practice, and a developing split in the parish.

Plenary. CCT continues to be concerned that the delegates of the Tasmanian people to the Plenary are not being sufficiently informed of the breadth and depth of feeling on different issues. It is important that they see their role is as delegates of the faithful, not as agents of the Archbishop.

Next Meeting – your input? The next meeting of the committee is on Monday 6th September. Should you wish to alert the Committee to any issue please do so by speaking to a committee member or via hello@concernedcatholicstasmania.org.au.



Membership of CCT?

Please consider supporting the mission of CCT by becoming a member.

Membership and mailing lists of CCT are confidential.

Latin Mass restricted...

In recent days Pope Francis has issued a *motu proprio* banning the celebration of Latin Masses in 'ordinary' parishes and confining Latin Mass celebration to one Mass centre per diocese. Official permission for this must be granted by both the Bishop and the Vatican. The 1970 Rite of Mass in the vernacular, promulgated by St Pope Paul VI, is affirmed as the 'official' rite for the Catholic Church. For a clear explanation see the article by James Martin SJ *Making Sense of Pope Francis' New Restrictions on the Latin Mass* in the Jesuit Magazine, *America*:

www.americamagazine.org/

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

- 1. Communication with the Bishops:** A letter has been sent from Australian Reforming Catholics (ARC), and supported by ACCCR, to ten Bishops inviting them to answer three questions regarding the measures of pastoral care that they might introduce within their diocese to support the recent exhortations of Pope Francis for greater inclusion towards some members of our church community.
- 2. Pre-Plenary Preparations:** A draft document *THE PLENARY COUNCIL: An Agenda for Reform?* was prepared by ACCCR. CCT has contributed some practical strategies for the Plenary Council Members to consider in relation to the six topics that focus the open questions planned as the Council Agenda. These Council questions can be seen at [Plenary-Council-Agenda.pdf \(catholic.org.au\)](#)
- 3. Plenary Booklet:** ACCCR is publishing a booklet that will be made available to all Plenary Council Members and other interested Catholics. It will include Joan Chittister's paper from April 2, 2021, papers by John Warhurst and speakers at the second ACCCR Convocation, and the document cited above in 2.
- 4. Second ACCCR Convocation:** Date: Thursday 26th August, 7.30-9.00pm. Convocation Speakers: (i) Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, Aboriginal elder and Senior Australian of the Year. (ii) Debra Zanella, CEO of RUAH Community Services, WA. *Inclusion, Women in the Church, Voices of the People.* (iii) Jessie Rogers, South African Theologian, Dean of Theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland. *International perspective.* (iv) Rosie Joyce, Brigidine Sister lecturing in Canon Law at University of Divinity. *Relevant Principles of Canon Law.* (v) Robert Fitzgerald, former commissioner, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. *Governance.* Registration details will be circulated when we are advised.
- 5. Draft Belief Statement for ACCCR:** This has not been formalised as it is felt that more dialogue is needed to reach a consensus, and that the Plenary Council needs to be the current priority area for energy and focus.

Refugee Campaign: 150 Days of action for people seeking refuge in our land

Pope Francis has declared 2021 The Year of St Joseph, who was a refugee, "the special Patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty."

The following invitation comes from the Sisters of St Joseph, the office for Catholic Justice and Peace in the Archdiocese of Sydney, and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

We wish to work with people of good will and together advocate to change our country's policy and attitudes towards those seeking protection in Australia. Our response needs to reflect the Gospel more, as it too often represents refugees and people seeking asylum as those seeking to manipulate our charity.

As part of the campaign and in the name of St. Joseph the Refugee, we strongly exhort the Federal Government:

- 1. To provide income support and a financial safety net for all people seeking asylum in Australia**
- 2. To end temporary protection visas and create a clear pathway to permanent residency**
- 3. To ensure access to family reunion for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia.**

The more people who sign this, the more momentum we can build. Can you help us by adding your name? Just click the link below or paste it into your browser. Once you have signed, please share the petition with others by forwarding this message. Please sign before September 26th!

https://me.getup.org.au/petitions/launch-of-150-days-of-action-for-people-seeking-refuge-in-our-land?share=7c7b63a8-21a0-434e-92c2-4075e7f6e7e7&source=email-share-button&utm_medium=&utm_source=email#signature-form