
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

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From the Chair of CCT

Mark 8: 35 "Anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

For me, often I feel like chunks of my life and time have been "lost" due to the call of the Gospel. I hasten to add, it has not all been penance.

Nevertheless, all over Australia much energy is being absorbed in Plenary preparation. It is a wonder to behold the energy and extent of effort being expended by many members of the Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) and its affiliated bodies readying themselves and others for 3 October and beyond. I cannot recall any other time when Catholic lay people were more engaged in looking to our Church's future.

Here, in our diocese, our Laudato Si sessions were well attended and supported. We were blessed to have Trish Hindmarsh lead an able team which included Fr Krish Mathavan MSC (Moonah/Lutana Parish) and Tony Smith (Lilydale).

And now the "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" will solemnly open on the 9 and 10 October 2021 in Rome and on the following 17 October in each diocese. See <http://www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html>

CCT is still waiting to hear from our Archbishop about the intentions for synod consultation plans but he seems to have sucked the air out of the room with his recent foray into the media regarding conscientious objection to vaccination. Our response and intended action have been emailed to members and supporters and can be found on our website at <https://www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org/statement-re-vaccination-conscientious-objection>

Please keep an eye on our website for links to Plenary activities and commentary. "Lose" a little of your life!

Kim Chen

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



From Pope Francis...on a Church in 'crisis'

"Let us remember that the Church always has difficulties, always is in crisis, because she's alive. Living things go through crises. Only the dead don't have crises."

"We can only renew the Church by discerning God's will in our daily life and embarking on a transformation guided by the Holy Spirit. Our own reform as persons is that transformation. Allowing the Holy Spirit, the gift of God, in our hearts reminds us what Jesus taught and helps us put it into practice."

"Let us begin reforming the Church with a reform of ourselves, without prefabricated ideas, without ideological prejudices, without rigidity, but rather by moving forward based on spiritual experience — an experience of prayer, an experience of charity, an experience of service."

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
August 2021

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Regional *Laudato Si'* Seminars, August 2021

"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion." (Laudato Si', 217)

During August 2021, CCT facilitated three seminars across Tasmania to open up Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical (2015) and the *Laudato Si'* Implementation Platform (2021-2027).

We acknowledged the call of the most recent Popes: St John Paul II, Benedict and Francis, to 'ecological conversion', as a fundamental aspect of our Baptismal commitment. We also recognised that ecological devastation of planet Earth is the most pressing contemporary 'sign of the times', and that the encyclical calls us to discern how to both understand and sincerely respond to that crisis, linking the 'Cry of the Earth' with the 'Cry of the Poor'.

The facilitators were Dr Trish Hindmarsh, Fr Krish Mathavan MSC, and Mr Tony Smith (UTAS).

Trish introduced the encyclical and its six chapters and the *Laudato Si'* Implementation Platform.

Krish introduced 'Integral Ecology' (Chapter 4) and shared how this is expressed in Moonah Parish through (a) Establishing a *Laudato Si'* Action Group in the parish. (b) Focusing on the "Season of Creation" (September 1 to October 4th) with different speakers addressing aspects of the document over the four weeks. (c) The school's ecological awareness, and production of a 'St Francis' play (e) Establishing a school vegetable garden and installing solar panels on the roof.

Tony spoke of how our response flows from Faith, Hope and Love. Connectivity can result in more powerful results. While the big solutions lie with business and government, he is part of the SERINA project in which engineers worldwide draw ideas and support from each other as to how ethical engineering can mitigate against the effects of climate change.

To see the outcomes from the energetic shared discussion after each speaker, <https://www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org/laudato-si-report-aug-2021>

To summarise, we went away energised and heartened by the commitment our Church has expressed in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* and wanting to continue conversation and initiate action in our beautiful Tasmania through our Archdiocese!

For a New Beginning

John O'Donoghue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart, where your thoughts never think to wander, this beginning has been quietly forming, waiting till you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire, feeling the emptiness growing inside you, noticing how you willed yourself on, still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

I watched you play with the seduction of safety, and the grey promises that sameness whispered, heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent, wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled, and out you stepped onto new ground, your eyes young again with energy and dream, a place of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear, you can trust the promise of the opening; unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning, that is one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure; hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk; soon you will home in a new rhythm, for your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 6th September:

Laudato Si' Events We were pleased to note that over 110 people attended these events and are grateful for being given this opportunity to consider this remarkable document. The committee is very grateful to Trish Hindmarsh for her organization and presentation, and to Fr Krish Mathavan and Tony Smith for their valuable input. Outcomes will be communicated to Archbishop Julian and are shown on the page 2.



Campaign for Refugees. The *150 Days Action for Refugees* will end with a shared online *Ritual of Lamentation* on 26th September, *Migrant and Refugee Sunday*. See page 4 for details.

Response from TCEC regarding Climate Protest. The Committee has received a reply from the Commission Chair and is considering the next step to take.

ACCCR related matters. See page 4 of this newsletter.

Committee Reflection. The Committee reflected on the successful spirituality day facilitated for Committee members by Sr Jill Dance SSJ on 24th July.

Parish Matters The Committee is keen to find ways in which the voice of laity can be heard effectively at the parish level in a true spirit of 'communio', aware that the experience of parishioners across the Archdiocese differs markedly.

Synod on Synodality The Committee is hoping that details of the plans for seeking input will be available as soon as information on processes is received from the Vatican. (Our understanding is that this has been received by the Archdiocese since our meeting)

Next Meeting – your input? The next meeting of the committee is on Monday 18th October. 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.

Vaccination and aged care visits by clergy This issue arose following the meeting. Comment, including a link to our response to the issue, is in the Chair's report.

Membership of CCT?

Please consider supporting the mission of CCT by becoming a member. Membership and mailing lists are confidential.

Covid further affects Plenary

Further to a recent Bishop's Conference decision for the Council to be conducted through state hubs and national electronic conferencing, they have now decided to abandon the hubs because of lockdowns in some states. Most Pastoral Council members will now participate individually from their homes and offices. Some may participate in smaller diocesan groups but that will be optional. Details are at <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/technology-in-place-for-first-plenary-council-assembly/>

This is disappointing for all, especially the organisers. We pray that our delegates will still experience the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as they engage remotely to help our Church reimagine ways and structures to carry out its God given mission.

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

Convocation 2, 26th August 7.30pm: Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann's Welcome and Reflection opened the meeting. Dr Jessie Rogers (Ireland) provided an important conceptual and international context for synodality; Debra Zanella (WA) spoke on women and the church; Robert Fitzgerald (NSW) addressed Church governance. Feedback has been extremely positive. Following the event, a ACCCR Media Release, "Catholic Reform Movement Gathers Momentum", appeared quickly and was released widely.

Numbers held up well, 3,000 plus people registered with 1200 devices on the night. The support of Vinnies for ACCCR is extremely valued with Mark Gaetani present at the Convocation and Claire Victory to co-launch the ACCCR booklet. Thanks to Garratt Publishing for huge support.

The Chat function, although well received, proved distracting at times. This will be reviewed. Communication and Advertising at local parish level may be an area for growth. Our reach could expand, as many parish priests and bishops are not involved. (It was noted that *Plenary Post* failed to advertise the Convocation as requested).

The ACCCR booklet *A Church for All*: This was published by ACCCR as a resource for the Plenary Council, and launched on 9th September. CCT has ordered 200 copies for distribution to our CCT Members. ACCCR will distribute copies to all Bishops and Plenary Council Members.

Convocation 3: This is being planned as a response to the Plenary Council, to be held in November. More information to follow.

Reporting during the Plenary Council (Oct. 3rd to 10th): CCGG and John Warhurst (a Plenary Council Member) are planning to offer an open nightly online meeting to share and deliberate about the events of each day's Plenary Council proceedings so the People of God can be kept involved and informed. Details will be sent out when they come to hand.

The 150 Days Action for Refugees will end with a shared online *Ritual of Lamentation* on 26th September, *Migrant and Refugee Sunday*



On the 26th of September at 7pm individuals, families, parishes and groups are invited to join together on zoom for a Ritual of Lamentation.

We will begin with a welcome to country, followed by a sung call to prayer. We will ask everyone to turn out their lights and light a candle in the dark as we listen to a story of suffering and torture in detention. We will hold our candles as we read out the names of all the people who have died in Australia's detention camps over the last twenty years. We will conclude with a prayer of lamentation and commitment as well as a call to all our elected representatives to respond to the three demands made of government as expressed in the 150 Days Petition which many of you have signed. A video of the ceremony will be sent to every Federal Senator and MP.

When the zoom link is available it will be sent by email to CCT members to distribute to parishes and networks.

We hope you can join us in solidarity with all those who live in fear and the uncertainty of Australia's temporary visa system. We are especially conscious of those who have been forced to flee their homeland Afghanistan as refugees seeking peace and safety.

(With thanks to the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Sisters of St Joseph and Sydney Archdiocese, Justice and Peace Office)