
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 25 27 March 2023

From the Chair of CCT

Lent provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on what was, is and is to come. What is coming is our AGM on Saturday 29 April 2023 in Launceston.

At our AGM, Carmel Taylor and Kathy Cuthbertson will step down from the committee. Carmel, from the Meander Valley Parish and Kathy from the Launceston Parish, have been with CCT from its very beginnings, giving generously of their time, energy and fellowship. Their perspectives have shed their special light on CCT's common causes. Kathy and Carmel have been a joy to journey with on our pilgrimage together and we understand that wish to return to the middle of our CCT entourage rather than continuing at the front.

Carmel has relayed to us the painful experiences of her fellow parishioners and the healing in the Meander Valley. Kathy has encouraged us with her valued contributions to our prayer and spiritual growth as well as impressing us by developing our website and attending to its content, from a short standing start. We thank them for their service, wish them well and look forward to their continued involvement in CCT.

New wine in the CCT wineskins is needed.

If you are not willing to nominate yourself, we do ask that you give serious thought and prayer to discern who you might nominate or suggest to us as a potential committee member. In the latter case, we can then approach them to assess their interest. More vacancies than the two mentioned may well occur during the coming year and the Spirit does give us each a way of building up the Body of Christ, plus many hands still make light work! See, Judge and Act out there, please people.

Thank you to those who have paid their subs so promptly.....a Lenten offering? Please all mark the AGM date in your calendar!

Kim Chen

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Pilgrim People and a Synodal Church

The significance of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) is still a *terra incognita* to very many Catholics. More importantly, it has not been internalized by the majority of clergy – the evidence being that they do not recognize what a definite break it marks with the very limited vision of the Church (the *oikoumene*) and of the Catholic Church that became dominant in the 19th century.

The image of “the pilgrim People of God” was intended to be a biblically rich vision to replace the vision of the Church as an “unequal hierarchical society.”

The Second Vatican Council used the image of the Church as the People of God to emphasize that it is all the baptized, as one community, that witnesses, preaches, works, suffers, and prays.

Put another way, the basis of the Church would be centered around baptism, not ordination.... This means that as synodality develops, we have to experience the decay of hierarchy.

Extracts from Thomas O'Loughlin in
Catholic Outlook

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Women and the Church

Dr Trish Hindmarsh

Saturday April 29th 9.30 for 10.00-12.10

Tailrace Launceston

Australia's Plenary Council, on its final day of sitting, passed several motions supporting equal dignity for women and men in the Church. This followed an earlier vote by bishops where similar motions had been voted down, drawing disbelief, frustration and anger from many delegates.

Our speaker, Trish Hindmarsh, being a strong advocate for Church reform, will bring her vast experience within Catholic education, her studies in Feminist Theology and Women's Studies, and her rich personal knowledge of Church and Plenary processes to this issue of the place of women in today's Church.

A short Annual General Meeting will precede the speaker.

Please register by email at donna.mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au or by phoning Donna on 0418 761 922 by Monday 25th April.

Early arrivals can purchase a coffee at the Tailrace Café!

No charge but donations welcomed.

Subscription Renewal Time

Just a reminder to all that Annual Subscriptions are now due. Thank you to those who replied so promptly within the last week. Every time one of your names pops up on our bank statement it is a message of support and encouragement for us.

\$20 (or \$50 for those who can afford it) can be directly deposited to BSB: 807009 (MyState) Account Number: 30130212 Account Name: Concerned Catholics Tasmania (Be sure to include your name in the transfer so we can record your contribution)

or mail a cheque to the Treasurer – Donna McWilliam, 35 Riverview Rd, Riverside. 7250

or give cash to any committee member you may know, and they will deal with it for you.

You should receive a receipt by email within a few days.

Get on and do it...

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ is the only woman in the Vatican to have a vote at the Synod on Synodality. Pope Francis appointed her as Undersecretary of the Synod in 2021. In forums and lectures in the Diocese of Parramatta and other dioceses in Australia, she described a Church where everyone was heard, everyone played a part, and as a result, everyone participated in our Church's Mission.

Sr Nathalie on synodality:

- The spirit of synodality is an attitude of listening to the Holy Spirit. It takes us back to the spirit of the early Church.
- While there is great diversity of people in the Church, the Eucharist brings brothers and sisters together in communion.
- Everybody in a synodal Church has a voice in deciding the direction of the Church.
- Synodality is a process, which is ever evolving and always moving. There is no end date.
- The synodal journey will be different according to who you are and where you come from.
- The Church exists in the current moment. That means the Church is for now, it exists in the current context and needs to be what the people of the current time need.
- The only way to be a synodal Church is to **get on and do it**. It takes practice and "learning by doing."

Adapted from Catholic Outlook

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Tuesday 14th March:

Survey results We were pleased with the prompt and high number of responses to our survey seeking members' views on possible CCT program themes for 2023.

One outcome is the decision to hold two forums in each region this year. This is in response to the high level of interest in the suggestion for "*Time for reflection on who we are as Catholics in Tasmania at this time (a guided discussion on matters affecting us in our church and ways to provide a means of comfort, encouragement and nourishment of the spirit within).*" Attendees at CCT events have said that they value the times to gather together with likeminded people so CCT will provide such opportunities!

Tentative dates are the mornings of Saturday July 15th and October 7th for Hobart and Launceston. Venues and more details later!

Annual General Meeting and Speaker This event is planned for Saturday 29th April in Launceston with Dr Trish Hindmarsh speaking on Women and the Church. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Committee As mentioned in the Chair's report, we have some vacancies. Please consider it for yourself or others!

Voice to Parliament The Chair wrote to Archbishop Julian asking what has been, or is planned, as a "formative message from our Church leadership encouraging the faithful to give serious consideration to supporting the referendum proposal as a matter of justice", particularly considering the Plenary Council's endorsement of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. The response, written by the Director of Chancery Services, Michael McKenna, said that this is not appropriate as "we must be clear on what is being proposed" before any message is appropriate. CCT notes that a number of Catholic and other church leaders have publicly endorsed the concept of the Voice to Parliament. Our correspondence and the response can be found [here](#).

Treatment of LGBTIQ people by the institutional church CCT is in contact with a number of people gathering information on how LGBTIQ people are being supported or discriminated against in our church and Catholic education environments.

Next CCT Committee Meeting: Monday April 17th

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



Membership of CCT?

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

A Theology for the Church's Present Moment

In the Annual Ministry Renewal Day Lecture at Boston College, Australian priest Richard Lennan identifies some resources that we might have in our present moment to address our needs as a Church, as a way to encourage creativity and hope.

In doing so, he draws on Pope Francis' notion of Integral Ecology and constructs a parallel on how we might think of the Church. His presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Like working with Websites?

CCT is keen to find someone who is able and willing to manage our [website](#). Please contact us if you are able to help.

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Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

We continue to be closely involved in the work and initiatives of ACCCR and have a 'front row seat' through Trish Hindmarsh and Kim Chen being our representatives and being a member of a number of the subcommittees established at times by ACCCR, and Trish being on the Executive.

1. Outcome of the Review of ACCCR At the ACCCR Reps meeting on Feb. 23rd the final ACCCR *Call, Principles, Aims and Structure* document, prepared by the Review Group, was adopted as the guide for the spirit and functioning of the Coalition into the future. Thirteen of the seventeen Member Groups voted in favour.

The agreement for an Executive to replace the Co-Convenor structure meant that an election would follow. Nominations were called for and six nominations were received. Since the Executive is not to exceed six members, at the Reps Meeting on March 9th, all six nominees were approved and voted to form the first Executive.

The Executive includes Eleanor Flynn WWHICH (Co-Chair), Kevin Liston SACEC (Co-Chair), Peter Schneiders *For the innocents*, Francis Sullivan CCCG, Christine Reymer *Be the Change Aoteroa NZ*, and Trish Hindmarsh CCT. The first Executive meeting was held on Thursday 16th March. There will be a need to revisit and review our shared modus operandi from time to time.

2. Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) - Invitation to respond to their paper, 'RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS' Dr Michael Leahy spoke to the 23rd February ACCCR Reps meeting outlining the *Catholics for Renewal* (CfR) response to the ALRC paper. CfR argued that Catholic schools should not be allowed to teach the

existing doctrine that same sex relationships are intrinsically disordered. ACCCR has written to ALRC supporting the CfR document, as has CCT.

3. Synod on Synodality 2023/24 ACCCR is committed to keep Member Groups informed of progress towards the Synod session in October. Christina Reymer, Eleanor Flynn, Francis Sullivan and John Warhurst will be liaison persons. All have strong international contacts within the Church reform movement.

The newly formed international online organization, *Spirit Unbounded: Towards a Beatitudinal Church*, is planning to organise a lay-led parallel event, [Reclaiming our Space](#), in Rome, at the time of the October Synod, 13-14th October, and globally via videoconference. Joan Chittister and Mary McAleese will be key speakers. 17 key Church reform organisations worldwide have joined *Spirit Unbounded* so far. CCT is considering membership. See spiritunbounded.org.

A few readings

[The evolution of Pope Francis on women: Some movement, but more needed](#) Kate McElwee in National Catholic Reporter

[On applying the pastoral theology of Pope Francis](#), Cardinal McElroy, San Diego in America, The Jesuit Review

Come to the Quiet

....a contemplative prayer day

Saturday May 20th 10am – 3pm
at St Brendan Shaw College

Presented by John Lee-Archer. Details and registration john.leearcher@gmail.com or 0419 523 867

Cost is a donation.