
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

No 26 15 June 2023

From the Chair of CCT

As the new Chair of Concerned Catholics Tasmania, I am still feeling somewhat surprised to find myself in the role. Having the former Chair in close proximity will help no doubt, and I would like to thank Kim on behalf of CCT for his tireless work over the last 3 years.

The first week as the Chair has been a baptism of fire. Two letters, which had their genesis in concerns raised at the AGM, were delivered to the Archbishop's office. They included requests for a meeting with the Archbishop. Our letters raised issues including the leadership of the Executive Director of Catholic Education, low morale and a toxic workplace culture in the TCEO, and a lack of consultation with key stakeholders on important issues, such as the proposed Year 11 and Year 12 RE curriculum. This curriculum will place significant additional workloads on teachers and students, if introduced.

The letters have not been shown to the media. Our initial approach is always to seek a meeting with the Archbishop to discuss our concerns, which by the way are far broader than any aired in the media in recent days and reflect concerns of many credible sources. A meeting appointment has not, as yet, been secured.

The Annual General Meeting in April was indeed an inspiring occasion, both because of Dr Trish Hindmarsh's presentation *Women in the Church* and the active participation of the 60 members who attended. It is heartening to know that there is a great deal of support out there, especially given that approximately 30 apologies were received.

A special welcome to Brother Peter Flint and Ann Brereton who joined the committee at the AGM. The members of the new committee, showing the office bearers elected at the first meeting, are shown on Page 2. Their willingness to serve is indicative of the teamwork and camaraderie we share.

We really appreciate hearing from you and please know that we continue to work for a synodal church highlighted by communion, participation and mission.

Susan Chen

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



A compelling vision....

"Laudato Si' charted a compelling vision of the Church and her mission in a way that reflected the Council's lofty goals: a Church who listens to Christ despite the cost, a Church whose mission knows no bounds, a Church able to offer some alternative to the nihilism of modern technocratic anthropocentrism, and a Church whose primary purpose is the glorification of God. Given that it serves as another key reception of Vatican II, I hope that the Synod on Synodality challenges in these similar ways. Holiness, after all, is pre-eminently participatory; it is a call to cruciform transformation for all. Whether it is on the seventh or sixtieth anniversary of the Synod's conclusion, I hope we will be discussing how the Synod, like *Laudato Si'*, invited the Church to orient herself towards an all-encompassing, Christ-centered holiness and thus advanced the challenging legacy of the council.

Lucas Briola
*The Battle Over Vatican II: Navigating
Modernity, Synodality and the Liturgy
Wars in Church Life Journal, University of
Notre Dame*

[See more](#)

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The Winter Doldrums of our Church

Saturday July 15th 9.45 for 10.00-12.10

South, North and North West (venues tba)

CCT appreciated the many responses to our March survey and have used this data to guide our sessions. It is intended to provide time for reflection on who we are as Catholics in Tasmania at this time. There will be guided discussion, prayer and listening to the Spirit present among and within each of us on matters affecting us in our church. It will be a time of comfort, encouragement and nourishment as we build relationship with each other and our God.

If you have not done so already, please claim this date and more details will be forthcoming closer to the gatherings. We look forward to being with many of you again. Your presence and support are mutually sustaining at these times. Bookings by Wednesday 12th July to:

North: Donna: donna.mcwilliam@yahoo.com.au 0418 761 922

South: Judy: judy.mcliver@gmail.com 0448 824 085

North-West: Kim: kimball286@gmail.com 0438 316 714

No charge but donations welcomed.

Your CCT Committee

The CCT Committee has elected office bearers for the coming year from the committee members elected at the Annual General Meeting:

Susan Chen (Chair and ACCCR Rep), Chris Smith (Deputy Chair and Newsletter), Sue Hyslop (Member Secretary), Donna McWilliam (Treasurer), Br Peter Flint (Minute Secretary), Judy Mclver (Website), Kim Chen (Membership and Public Officer), Trish Hindmarsh (ACCCR Rep), Carey Mclver, Ann Brereton, Cathy Sullivan and Vin Hindmarsh.

We congratulate Sue on her election as Chair. Unfortunately, due to pressures put on time by the CET related issues referred to, Sue's name appeared in the media and in correspondence before this official notification to members. Hopefully you understand!

Jesus came to bring joy....

In an [audience](#) with Jesuits in Ireland in 2018, Pope Francis spoke of the place of humour....,

"The provincial told me that I am making the faith joyful. Really? As long as it is not a circus! [Here the Pope and everyone laughed out loud]. No, this is the joy of Gospel, its freshness moving you forward, not losing peace. We need to work so that the freshness of the Gospel and its joy are understood. Jesus came to bring joy, not moral casuistry. To bring openness, mercy. Jesus loved sinners. But now I am preaching ... I didn't intend to! Jesus loved sinners ... he loved them! He had a strong dislike of the corrupt! Matthew 23 is an example of what Jesus says to the corrupt.

"But how do you manage to keep your heart happy with all that is happening to you?"

The Pope replies: "It is a grace. Every morning for 40 years, after morning prayer, I recite the prayer of St. Thomas More, asking for a sense of humour. It seems the Lord has given it to me!This is a grace to ask for. I don't know if the one I have is the right one, perhaps it is only foolishness ... [and here all laugh]. Having a sense of humour is a fruit of the consolation of the Spirit. I insist on something that helps me: a Jesuit must always seek consolation; he must always seek to be consoled. Consolation is the balm of the Spirit. The minimum of consolation is interior peace. We have to live with this peace."

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on 17th April, 8th May and 6th June.

AGM The AGM received very positive comments from attendees. Participants were enthusiastic in their acknowledgement and gratitude for the work of CCT over the past three years.

The presentation by Trish Hindmarsh, entitled "Women in the Church" was enthusiastically received. It stimulated lively debate and support for the full equality of women within the Church.

The annual report by outgoing President, Kim Chen, was also well received, with comments including "engaging", "interesting" and"unlike other Presidents' reports"! Topics brought up by participants included Catholic Education in Tasmania (including the proposed Senior Secondary Religious Education Curriculum, for which CCT has set up a subcommittee to consider) and the selection process for our next Archbishop.

The Committee noted a suggestion that some form of car pooling be coordinated where possible for the next AGM.

Regional Gatherings The Committee finalised the structure of the regional gatherings planned for July 15th. Details are on Page 2. Whilst this one will have a winter theme, the second, planned for October 7th, will be held within a season of spring – very appropriate as that will be the time of the planned Synod. New life beckons!

Spirit Unbounded *Spirit Unbounded: Towards a Beatitudinal Church*, is an international body with a vision to "create a global network of Catholic reform and other Christian and Ecumenical groups that actively embraces diversity and actively works to include groups marginalised by the hierarchical Church." See [Spirit Unbounded](#). CCT has joined.

Meeting with Papal Nuncio The Chair met with Archbishop Balvo in Canberra. Discussions included the process for succession of bishops. Kim also met with friends and supporters of CCT, Francis Sullivan and John Warhurst.

Retiring Committee Members The Committee reluctantly accepted the resignations of founding committee members Carmel Taylor and Kathy Cuthbertson, and thanked them for all they had done in these important early years of CCT.

Next CCT Committee Meeting: Monday July 24th



Membership of CCT?

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

From the AGM Chair Report of Kim Chen

"There is little evidence of any endeavour to unite the faithful and the hierarchy with a common purpose and mission.....The faithful have been left waiting in the wings.

Despite CCT having made strenuous efforts to engage with and assist our Archbishop, he has been unwilling to harness the talents, gifts and energy which have been on offer through CCT. I am left with the strong impression that we are served by an Archbishop who has no enthusiasm for the Plenary Council process, an initiative of the ACBC endorsed by Pope Francis. Similarly, our Archbishop has done little to support Pope Francis' initiative of the Synod on Synodality."

See [full text](#)

Synod News

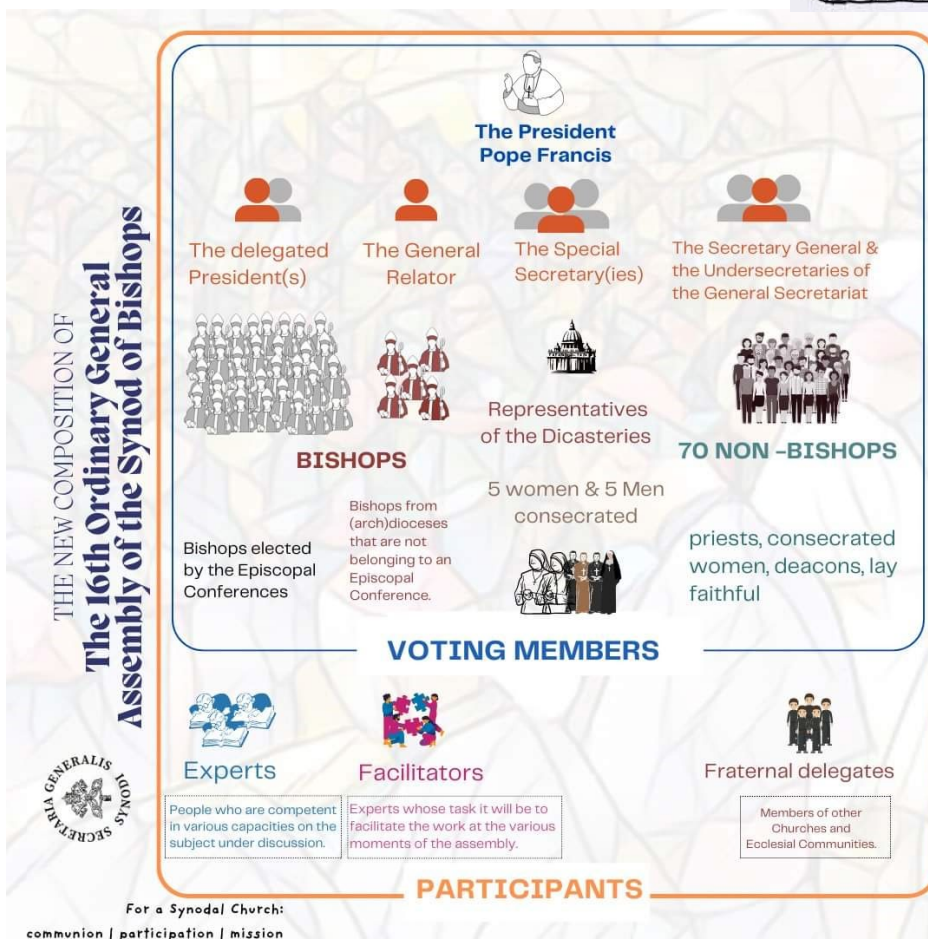
On 26 April it was announced that Pope Francis had approved changes to the membership of the Synod to allow women and lay people to be among the voting members for the first time.

There will be five religious women and five religious men to represent the religious orders. Seventy non-bishop voting members will represent "various groupings of the faithful of the People of God", including priests, religious, deacons and lay members. Regional bishops' conferences and assemblies of the Eastern Churches are being asked to submit 140 candidates for the Pope to choose from, and half of these must be women. The Synod office has also asked that young people be included.

In addition to the 70, Pope Francis can nominate non-bishop members, including lay women and men, of his own. What a refreshing development!

Pearls from our AGM speaker, Trish Hindmarsh

"Contemporary scriptural and theological scholarship no longer supports the exclusion of



women that has characterised so much of Catholic history.... The People of God have submitted that an end to patriarchal and clerical domination of our Church is urgent.... However, as long as females are still not recognised by Church authority as eligible to act 'in persona Christi' as males are, whether at the altar or in positions of ultimate authority, the Catholic Church remains incomplete. It is 'flapping awkwardly on one wing when God gave it two' Mary McAleese expressed it.... This failure to recognise the God-given identity of half of humanity perpetuates a sexist Church, despite the constant teaching that 'In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free', because we are all 'One in Christ Jesus'. [See full text](#)