
Around the Well

The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics
Tasmania

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From the Chair of CCT

Show me your wounds!

At the Thanksgiving Mass Jesse Banez presided over, and we celebrated in Burnie on Anzac Day, Jesse mentioned that Christ will be looking for our wounds. Crucifixes are a reminder that Christ was wounded, suffered and died for us that we might have life to the full. St Thomas's doubts remind us that in His resurrection Christ still bore those wounds.

Like Christ, our loving, and the vulnerability that brings, can lead to our wounding. As Paul Simon put it "Love will do you in and love will wash you out and needless to say you won't stand a chance, and you won't stand a chance".

But then who would want to live without it!

Perhaps we should accept being wounded and content, that loving is not simple or easy as it calls us to put others before self. Our faith calls us to "gospel love", with the marginalised at its centre. Joan Chittister OSB on Sunday challenged us to listen with the ears of our hearts and to a spirituality of sacrifice. Joan called us to be a prophetic presence in our Church.

See you on 22nd May to hear the inspiring Phil Billington!

Kim Chen

Two important upcoming gatherings

.....see following page for details:

Statewide CCT gathering May 22nd

Plenary Consultation - Southern Gathering May 8th
(note changed date due to election on May 1st, venue is now Guilford Young College, Hobart Campus)

www.concernedcatholicstasmania.org



A synodal Church.....

A synodal church is a listening church, knowing that listening "is more than feeling." It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. Faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: we are one in listening to others; and all are listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:17)

(Pope Francis, Commemorative Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops, Oct 2015)

Oh, to be listened to....

The desert monastics tell the story of Abba Arsenius, a scholarly man, who is seen asking a peasant for advice. "Why would you, who are so learned, ask this peasant for advice?" And Arsenius answered them, "Yes, I know a great deal about Latin and Greek yet I have not learned even the alphabet of this peasant."

The modern church needs a listening Abba Arsenius badly.

Joan Chittister OSB

Page 1

CCT Statewide Gathering May 22nd

9.40 for 10am to 12.30pm

A Synodal Church: Dream or Possibility?

We offer this process of consultation to explore Pope Francis' dream for a 'synodal' Church. The morning will begin with a short AGM for Concerned Catholics Tasmania.

Facilitator: An experienced adult faith educator based in Canberra, Phil Billington will open up this topic with us, and invite us into discussion and dialogue. As Pope Francis tells us, a 'synodal' Church is the way for the 21st Century! Phil will assist us in exploring the implications for us and our Church.

Register by email at hello@concernedcatholicstasmania.org.au or by phoning 0418 761 922 (Donna McWilliam) by Monday 17th May. Suggested Pre-Reading is on our website.

Pope Francis: Address to Synod of Bishops - Theme of Synodality:

Cardinal Grech (Malta): Address to Irish Bishops -Towards a Synodal Irish Church: February 2021

Archdiocesan Plenary Preparation Day May 8th

Archbishop Julian has distributed to parishes information about gatherings the diocese is promoting to discuss *Instrumentum Laboris* – the latest working paper for the Plenary. Whilst we have not had input to content or process, it is important that we support this important event in our Archdiocese. The southern venue has limited capacity so CCT members and supporters should register as soon as possible so that we can listen to others and so that our voices can be heard as part of this important consultation.

Information and registration is

at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/preparation-day-for-the-plenary-council-tickets-146532210787> or by

typing [plenarypreparation.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/preparation-day-for-the-plenary-council-tickets-146532210787) into your browser.

The free events include keynote speakers, small discussion groups and a provided lunch. Registration is essential.

Venue Guilford Young College Hobart Campus

Each session will run from 10am to 2.30pm

ACCCR puts the question about DPCs...

"At a meeting with Archbishop Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Archbishop Costelloe, President of the Plenary Council, both expressed the view that there was no resistance to diocesan pastoral councils amongst the Australian Bishops. Yet very few Australian dioceses have a diocesan pastoral council, despite the fact that Canon law (c.511) actually prescribes that: "*In each diocese, in so far as pastoral circumstances suggest, a pastoral council is to be established . . .*" The bishops did not suggest any pastoral circumstances that preclude such a council but alluded to vague 'unsatisfactory' experiences in the distant past with diocesan pastoral councils.

ACCCR representatives suggested that perhaps any difficulties could relate to the lack of experience with inclusion amongst our bishops, an issue that needs to be addressed in formation and selection. One wonders at the power that vague 'unsatisfactory' experiences have over the bishops. Would that the Australian Bishops had responded with such concern when reports of 'unsatisfactory' clergy conduct appeared on their desks over the years."

Due to government COVID guidelines, each person wishing to attend the Plenary Preparation Day must register before attending. Please bring your ticket with you to the event.

Recent developments in CCT

The Committee of CCT met by Zoom on Monday 19th April. Matters discussed included:

Pre-Plenary Diocesan Assemblies. These assemblies were seen as an opportunity to be heard in the small group discussions. It is hoped that the matter of a Diocesan Pastoral council will be addressed.

2021 Program. At this stage, the Committee is planning the following events for members and guests for the remainder of 2021:

May 22nd 10am Statewide Meeting with a guest speaker, Dr Philomena Billington: *A Synodal Catholic Church: Dream or Possibility?* The Committee has received approval from the College Principal to use a St Patrick's College venue. Please arrive by 9.40am. There will be a short CCT AGM.

August *Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home*
Dr Trish Hindmarsh et al
Regional Gatherings. Saturdays tba

Oct/Nov Plenary Council Review ACCCR
Zoom – regional

More details on these and any other initiatives will be circulated as they become available – stay tuned!

Consultation for Women Two committee members attended a Zoom consultation run by the Commission for Evangelisation of the Laity, part of the Bishops' Conference. They expressed frustration that this was a most un-synodal experience with little scope for open discussion or questions central to the interest of attendees.

ACCCR Statement of Beliefs The Committee considered a draft Statement of Beliefs circulated for comment by ACCCR.



Membership of CCT?

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

There is a hard working committee in place, so nothing extra is asked of you as a member, unless you offer!

Membership and mailing lists of CCT are confidential.

A vine of many branches...

“Like any branch, like any vine, we will be judged by our fruits. As ever, the one who does the real value-added work is our Father, the vinedresser, who delights in diversity, able to produce the finest range of wines.”

Theme from homily by Frank Brennan SJ, in part of which he affirms the right of Bishop Vincent Long, a great supporter of Church reform, to argue against proposed NSW gender legislation, even if it sets him against the views of many of his colleagues. See <https://catholicoutlook.org/fr-franks-homily-2-may-2021/>

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

Diocesan Pastoral Councils Despite a general reluctance by many Bishops to facilitate the establishment of Diocesan Pastoral Councils, guest speakers at an ACCCR event engendered hope and possibility. They illustrated that the Church is in a different landscape now - much of what has served us well in the past is no longer relevant.

First Convocation: Sr Joan Chittister OSB was the keynote speaker at the first Convocation of Catholics on Sunday, 2 May 2021 (by Zoom). One participant's feedback was that it was a "truly magnificent morning that will reverberate for years I imagine!"

Archbishop Coleridge, Chair of the ACBC, was invited by ACCCR to speak at the opening of the Convocation. He expressed the hope that the Holy Spirit will guide the Church of Australia in becoming the 'Church Christ wants it to be'.

Joan chose to use the metaphor of the 'mountain', recurring throughout the scriptures, as a framework for her talk. The 'purpose' of our life is to construct the future, because every age is a new age, with its own character and challenges. Recognising the character of our own time, we draw on scripture to find guidance. Jesus' words, 'Do this in memory of me', means now. We need to ascend the mountain to see clearly a view of what is required of us as Church, heralding a new age.

Joan explored eight 'mountain' settings used as metaphors in the scriptures, drawing insight from each and making dynamic, practical connections, for the renewal of our Church.

Sinai, where Moses encountered God, symbolises commitment to the call of God.

Gilboa, where Saul died, and David was called to be the new king replacing him, symbolises leaving the past behind and ushering in a new age.

Olivet, where Jesus suffered in the Garden, stands for solidarity with the poor and those who suffer.

Moriah, where Abraham obeyed the call of God to offer his son Isaac, symbolises a preparedness to sacrifice ourselves for others.

Carmel, where Elijah challenged the people to choose between the things of God and the trappings of life, symbolises choice.

Hermon, where the Transfiguration happened and Jesus chose to be in the company of prophets (Moses and Elijah) rather than kings, stands for the prophetic way.

Gerizim, where Jesus chose the Samaritan woman to announce the Gospel, stands for female equality.

The Beatitudes mount, where Jesus championed the gentle, the poor and the lowly, stands for inclusion.

In summary, we need as Church to discard the 'old temple' ways and be 'carriers of the new age'.

For those unable to be on the webinar: an audio version will be available for listening. Information about this will be made available through CCT as soon as we have that to hand. Copyright has to be respected so there will be a limited time in which to access this.

Other Convocations This convocation was the first of three proposed as a contribution to the success of the Australian Plenary Council. The others are scheduled for 26 August and 4 November.