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# Catholics For Renewal Inc.

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## Newsletter 27 August 2020

A larger text .PDF version of this Newsletter is available [HERE](#)

1. Editorial: No time to delay in implementing governance report
2. Summary Document - 'Stewardship'
3. Full set of Plenary terminology/principles summary documents
4. Full set of papers on early Australian Plenaries/Provincial Councils
5. Growing voices displace Indifference
6. News and Opinion Updates

*Stay safe and well, blessings to all, Catholics For Renewal.*

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## EDITORIAL

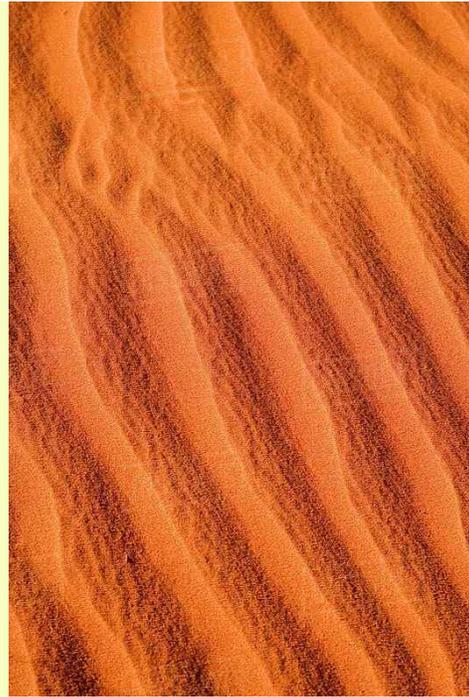
### No time to delay in local implementation of Church Governance report

#### Full Editorial [Here](#)

#### **Limited extracts:**

After The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-Responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia (LSC), the groundbreaking report on Catholic Church governance, was leaked in May 2020, an 'official' version (with some corrections and clarifications) has now been published

by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). This early release came as the result of a concerted campaign by Australian reform groups, including Catholics for Renewal.....But the LSC is not just a document for the collective consensus and legislative action of the Plenary Council. There is need for urgent local discernment, consensus and action which cannot and must not be delayed. Many of LSC's recommendations can be acted on immediately by individual diocesan bishops. Two clear examples are the establishment of diocesan pastoral councils (most dioceses do not have one) and annual diocesan reports (including financial statements). These and many others can be implemented by local diocesan bishops immediately.....



"Governance in nature" Uluru

**Full Editorial [HERE](#)**



**Summary Document No.9 now available:**

**'Stewardship'**

***Limited Extract:***

Stewardship is a term and concept which should be central to the forthcoming Plenary Council.

A steward is someone who administers anything as the agent of another. Stewardship refers to fulfilling responsibilities to another and on behalf of that other, acting in the place of that person. All of the Church's authority is exercised on behalf of God and therefore requires the steward to strive to act in accordance with God's will. Authority within the Church can only be properly exercised in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.

The origin of stewardship is recorded in the Book of Genesis where God

tells the man and woman to “have dominion” over the earth and to “cultivate and take care of it” (Gen 1:28; 2:15).

The Acts of the Apostles also speaks of stewardship in the early Church, highlighting the key characteristics of Christian community life: devotion to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, care of the needy, and prayer. All Christian communities, including parishes and dioceses, have been built on the same foundations which have given them their vision and the impulse for mission.....

.....**Full 'Stewardship' Summary Document available [HERE](#)**

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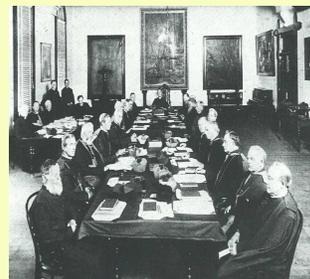
**A full set of 9 'terminology & principles' summary document resources relevant to the 5th Australian Plenary Council (2021/2022) is now available at Document 93 [HERE](#)**

- 1) Sensus fidelium (sense of faith of Christ's faithful) [Dec. 2019]
- 2) Synodal governance for a pastoral church [Jan. 2020]
- 3) Co-responsibility: sharing in church governance [Feb. 2020]
- 4) Clericalism [March 2020]
- 5) Women and Ministry [April 2020]
- 6) Priests, Celibacy & Marriage [May 2020]
- 7) Subsidiarity (June 2020), and
- 8) Signs of the times (July 2020)
- 9) Stewardship (August 2020)

**Complete set of papers on Australian early Plenaries/Provincial Councils**

Peter Wilkinson's papers on each of the early Australian Plenary/Provincial Councils have now been published as a invaluable complete set and are available at Document 78 on the Catholics For

Renewal website Document page [HERE](#). The papers were previously published progressively in SWAG and are republished here as a set with kind permission.



## **Growing voices displace Indifference**

Pope Francis echoes similar thoughts expressed throughout history when in 2015 he said "....The challenge of reality also requires the capacity for dialogue, to build bridges instead of walls."

Regular Mass attendance by Catholics has declined from 74% of all Australian Catholics in 1954 to 11.8% in 2016. However more than 200,000 responded to the invitation by bishops to make submissions to the Australian Plenary Council process. In the same context a number of parishes are currently exploring means for collective renewal-dialogue across parishes via discussions and Newsletters, also shared through a common website which has been established *Sense of the Faithful*. Adding to voices there are currently 19 members of the *Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform* - ACCCR.

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***The following listing of recent Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items provide a snapshot of current Church issues and may be accessed [HERE](#)***

(Note that publication of links to these items does not necessarily indicate editorial support.)



**Growing Voices Displace Indifference**

**Archbishops, vaccines and COVID-19**

**German bishops Rome talks on parish document must include laity**

**Australia appoints new ambassador to the Holy See**

**Looking to future governance of our Church.**

**Pope Francis has questions: Most popes have answers.**

**Consumatum est: is the Australian Catholic church finished?**

**Church Governance ACBC Media Release 22 August 2020.**

**Scripture and papal leadership inspire retreat for creation.**

**Pope Francis has promised to pray for a nun and the transgender women the nun is helping.**

**Ireland, More new bishops than priests to be ordained this year amid vocations crisis**

**New Zealand women support Anne Soupa's petition to become Archbishop of Lyon.**

**Vatican finances must run with integrity, says new council member.**

**German-speaking bishops criticise Vatican parish instruction.**

**Sr. Elise García, bridge for sisters, younger and older, assumes LCWR presidency.**

**Endemic secrecy in the Catholic Church.**

**Paedophile priest Vincent Gerard Ryan has priestly faculties removed.**

**Submission to SC on legislation of WA parliament into the children and community services amendment bill 2019.**

**Hiroshima atomic bomb memories still fresh for Japanese war bride of WWII digger.**

**Pope sends special message to the people of Japan.**

**Catholics for Renewal endorses Columban Call for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.**

**A breach of faith with many thousands of Catholic.**

**Pope Francis appoints 6 women (and a U.S. cardinal) to Vatican economic council.**

**Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn urge bishops to release essential document.**

**Pope Francis appoints new Bishop of Port Pirie.**

**Reflections on sixty years as a priest - Eric Hodgens.**

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## **Getting Back On Mission**

Getting Back on Mission is forward-looking and founded on trust in the Spirit – it is about hope. The book focuses on Jesus' mission for the Church;

Getting Back on Mission: Reforming Our Church Together - "... a realistic, hopeful and authentically Catholic roadmap for the forthcoming Australian Plenary Council....." (Frank Brennan SJ, AO)

*This book is available from Garratt Publishing at A\$29.95*

*Free Call: 1300 650 878 or online [HERE](#)*



## Donations, Comments, Inquiries;

DONATIONS [HERE](#).

*(thanks to those who have responded)*

Our work is a labour of love - much labour and much love for our Christ-given Church. Please help support our intensive voluntary and mostly self-funded ongoing work. Purchasing a copy of *Get Back on Mission* ([here](#)) will also help.

**eMail:** [info@catholicsforrenewal.org.au](mailto:info@catholicsforrenewal.org.au)

**Website:** [www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au](http://www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au)

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