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Catholics For Renewal Inc.

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Newsletter, 28 May 2020

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

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

EDITORIAL

Reform or Retreat?

Read full Editorial [HERE](#)

a limited extract follows:

Reform or Retreat?

A delay can be a blessing when it provides extra time to re-set goals.

Until now we have been rushing towards the opening session of a reforming Plenary Council, but hope is souring to scepticism, and goodwill

to disaffection. In the Listening and Dialogue phase the people of God offered the results of their prayerful reflection enthusiastically. Analysis reveals that their submissions overwhelmingly sought greater inclusion and much more involvement of the laity in church governance.



"Transparency" whydeconstructions.com.au

We listened, prayed and discerned. But sadly good faith has not been

reciprocated. The bishops have decided to withhold from the Australian faithful the historic report on church governance *The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-Responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia*. The ecclesiology that says that the people of God are the church, has once again been set aside.....

Read full editorial [HERE](#)



*Painting: Priest, by Peter Gray.
Artnet-Tumblr*

Summary Document No.6 now available:

"Priesthood, Celibacy and Marriage"

Background:

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found a 'combination of factors' contributed to the occurrence of child sexual abuse and poor institutional responses in Catholic settings. Among them were the culture of clericalism, the organisational structure and governance of the Catholic Church, and mandatory celibacy.

Clericalism was at the centre, interconnected with, and in some instances the root or foundation of the other contributing factors.

The Commission recommended that "the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference should request the Holy See to consider introducing voluntary celibacy for diocesan clergy" (Rec. 16.18).

Recent research by Dr Peter Wilkinson on the 17,547 written submissions made to the Plenary Council by over 220,000 persons, mostly Catholics, found that the # 5 'most prominent and most widely discussed' issue in those submissions was 'Ending compulsory celibacy and allowing priests to marry'. It was widely discussed in 26 of the 28 territorial dioceses, and was the # 1 (15) and # 2 (9) issue discussed in the topic area of 'Sacraments' in 24 of those dioceses.....Summary Document No.6 is available [HERE](#)

Summary Document No. 6 is part of an Incremental set of 2021/2022 Plenary Council issue Summary Documents listed below and 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* [due June 2020]
- 8) *Signs of the times* [due July 2020]

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.)

Religious discrimination bill on the backburner

NSW Churches want same rules as pubs and cafes

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan installed as 9th Archbishop of Adelaide

'Vos Estis' at one year: Some question pope's process for investigating bishops

How Vatican II can help us navigate the politics of a pandemic.

Most prominent issues for the Plenary Council agenda.

Historic Church Governance Report locked by Australian Bishops.

The problem with "viri probati".

Secret report calls for radical revamp of Catholic Church.

Opening salvos in Pope Francis's financial 'Reform 2.0'.

Major shake-up urged for Australian Church.

Plenary Council assemblies set for 2021 and 2022.

The Plenary Council: Where to after Coronavirus?

New Australian report may help church find its way out of abuse crisis.

Historic review of Church governance presented to leaders.

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) wrote Open Communiqué to bishops.

Australian pedophile priest sentenced to more jail time.

Catholic Bishops must embrace transparency and accountability.

Down the barrel of \$158 million gun, Vatican reform is coming ... but what kind?

Archbishop Coleridge re-elected president of Bishops Conference.

Patricia Karvelas Interview with Francis Sullivan.

When will Catholics be able to gather for Mass again?

An Australian bishop speaks about a national church 'fraught with division'

2020 Plenary, Synodality, Getting Back on Mission, Pledge.

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.

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Website: www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au

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