

# Catholics For Renewal Inc.

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## Newsletter 30 July 2020

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

1. Editorial: Signs of the Times - Leading where?
2. Summary Document - the real meaning of 'Signs of the Times'
3. Incremental set of 'Summary Document' resources available
4. Priority Issues for the 5th Australian Plenary Council
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*Stay safe and well, blessings to all, Catholics For Renewal.*

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## EDITORIAL

### Signs of the Times - Leading where?

#### ***Full Editorial Here***

#### ***Limited extract:***

The term 'Signs of the Times' appears self-evident. But in the context of Church evolution it needs to be properly understood to serve its ecclesial intent.



*"Signs of the Times" Saatchi Art*

This is particularly so for the forthcoming 5th Australian Plenary Council, a long overdue opportunity to identify, discern and respond to the signs of the times in our era..... **Read full Editorial [HERE](#)**

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## 'Summary Document' No.8 now available:

### The real meaning of 'Signs of the Times'

#### **Extract:**

When the Pharisees and Sadducees attempted to test Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven, he told them: "You know how to read the face of the sky but you cannot read the signs of the times. It is an evil and unfaithful generation that asks for a sign" (Mt 16:3-4).

When Pope John XXIII convoked Vatican II in 1959, he was almost alone in discerning the signs of a world crisis. He saw humanity "on the edge of a new era, with tasks of immense gravity and amplitude awaiting the Church, as in the most tragic periods of its history". He recognised that the Church had to change direction and bring the modern world - blinded by its technological and scientific advances and being reorganised with the exclusion of God - into contact with the life-giving energies of the Gospel. He believed that with Jesus ever present in the Church (Mt 28:20) and the Spirit ever active, the Council would be able to read the signs of the times and fulfil its mission.....**Full Summary Document available [HERE](#)**

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**A progressive set of 8 terminology and principles 'Summary Documents' relevant to 5th Australian Plenary Council (2021/2021) is listed below and 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)



**Australian Catholics' sensus fidei: Priority Issues for the Plenary Council. Peter Wilkinson, June 2020**

**Extract:**

This report is based on detailed analysis of the 28 Diocesan Reports which analysed both the respondents in each territorial diocese and the content of their submissions in response to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference May 2018 question "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Its aim was "to listen to the voice of God speaking through the voices of the people and to gain a sense of their faith (sensus fidei)".....**Full report [HERE](#)**

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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.)

**Working Document Next Step on Plenary Council Journey**

**New Closing the Gap deal 'to move country in new direction'.**

**Free-thinking French Jesuit theologian dies at age 104.**

**Nuns, priests, bishops protest Duterte government.**

**The church needs women cardinals.**

**AOC the future of the Catholic Church.**

**Poland to quit treaty on violence against women, minister says.**

**A Church That Is Poor?**

**Not worth the paper it's written on.**

**Pope Francis makes bishops accountable for cover-ups.**

**French women challenge Catholic hierarchy to open up male-only ministries.**

**Learn who you are in the eyes of God: Bishop Mark Edwards farewells Melbourne.**

**The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church.**

**Catholic bishops urged to get serious and appoint a woman as co-chair of Plenary summit.**

**Mandatory reporting under canon law: It finally happened, but only just.**

**Leadership Roundtable calls for new financial standards for church.**

The Nonviolent Feminist.

German archdiocese plans to cut parishes from 1,000 to 40.

Knockers or Rockers of the Barque of Peter?

German bishops split over plans to cut number of seminaries.

Bishops and branch stacking: the second oldest profession.

A reformed Roman Curia and a new batch of cardinals.

Formation must also focus on human aspects of priestly life.

Zooming in on Church reform across two countries.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP reappointed to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

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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.

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