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Australia's 5th Plenary Council - Are our bishops listening?

Also: Publication of the 2nd summary document "Synodal governance for a pastoral church" as part of our previously announced incremental set of 2020/2021 Plenary Council key issue resources

Newsletter 30 January 2020

Larger text .PDF version of Newsletter [HERE](#).

'**Synodal** governance for a pastoral church' summary document [HERE](#) (see details below).

EDITORIAL

Are our bishops listening?

Extract, January 2020

Catholics for Renewal is closely monitoring preparations for the 5th Australian Plenary Council. With the First Session to be held in Adelaide on 5-11 October 2020, just a little over 8 months away, important matters still to be finalised include the selection of lay delegates to the Council and preparation and



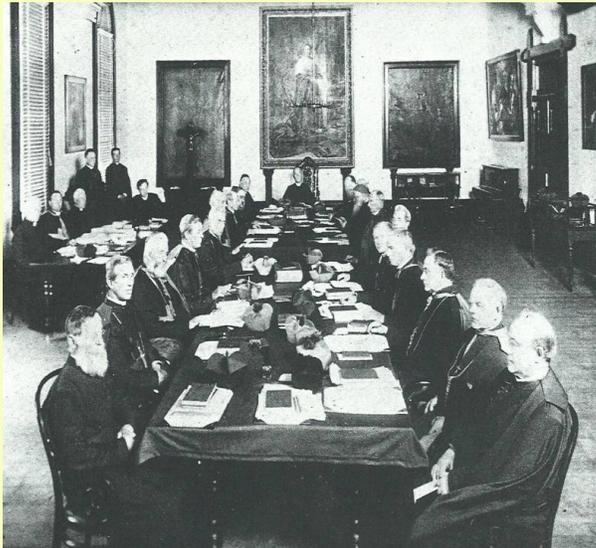
Abstract Image: Madrid. 'Representative Delegates'

setting of the Council agenda. We have concerns with these matters and with commitment to contribution of the Faithful to the Plenary Council.....*Our concerns and suggestions are described in the full editorial [HERE](#)*

Incremental set of 2020/2021 Plenary issue summary documents

The first two summary documents of those listed below are now published under 'Document 93' on our website Documents page [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: Accountability, Transparency and Inclusion [Feb. 2020]
- 4) Women and Ministry [March 2020]
- 5) Clericalism [April 2020]
- 6) Priests and celibacy [May 2020]
- 7) Subsidiarity [June 2020]
- 8) Signs of the times [July 2020]



1895 2nd Australian Plenary Council, published with kind permission of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission

Papers in the series Early Australian Councils / Plenaries available below

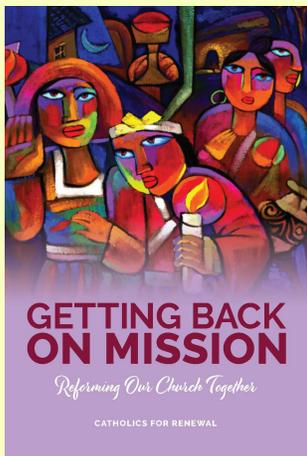
Australia's 5th Plenary Council will soon be upon us. Providing historical context and adding to his earlier articles in the series on the 'particular' (plenary and provincial) councils held in Australia since 1844 and progressively published in The Swag, Peter Wilkinson

has now completed a further article on the 1905 3rd Australian Plenary

Council which were published in two Parts in the 2019 Spring and Summer editions of The Swag. These are to be followed by further articles on the 1907 1st Melbourne Provincial Council and the 1937 4th Australasian Plenary Council to complete the series.

Articles in the series already published in The Swag as listed below, and with kind permission from The Swag are republished as Document 78 on the Documents page of the Catholics For Renewal website [HERE](#)

1. 1844: First Australian Provincial Council, held 10-12 September in Sydney (Vol. 25, No. 4, Summer 2017)
 2. 1862: Non-recognised Australian Provincial Council held in Sydney (Vol. 25, N. 4, Summer 2017)
 3. 1869: Second Australian Provincial Council held 18-25 April in Melbourne (Vol. 26, No.1, Autumn 2018)
 4. 1885: First Australasian Plenary Council held 14-29 November in Sydney (Parts 1 and 2) (Vol. 26, Nos 2 & 3, Winter & Spring 2018)
 5. 1895: Second Australian Plenary Council held 17 November-1 December in Sydney (Vol. 27, No. 1, Autumn 2019)
 6. 1905: Third Australian Plenary Council Part 1
 7. 1905: Third Australian Plenary Council Part 2
- Further papers in this series will be added later.



Getting Back On Mission

If they haven't already parishioners throughout Australia should be advised shortly of the availability of our book Getting Back on Mission. All PPs were recently informed of the book's availability by Garratt Publishing in the context of the Plenary Council 2020/21 as ". . . our 2019 Book of the Year, Getting Back on Mission: Reforming Our Church Together . . . explor(ing) the sensus fidei fidelium, the sense of faith of the faithful, in a context of hope; convinced that the Church in Australia can be renewed."

We hope that many PPs have or might take the opportunity to include a notice on this resource in parish bulletins, along the following lines:

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)

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; it addresses dysfunctional governance involving a lack of accountability and transparency, and the exclusion of the People of God – particularly women. This is a contribution to the Australian Plenary Council 2020/21. Its purpose is twofold: to get the Church back 'on mission'; and to show how that can be achieved 'together'. The reforms proposed are based on sound evidence and analysis. For Catholics concerned for their Church, this roadmap for change is a must-read.

The book is available for \$29.95 (early bird \$25) from Garratt Publishing - Free Call: 1300 650 878 or online [HERE](#)

The following 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.*



Synodal Governance for a pastoral Church

About the National Themes for Discernment - What happens Next

Australian bishops have a transparency problem

'the world has changed and so must the Church'

Germany's 'synodal assembly' a step to rebuilding Church's credibility

2020 could see major Vatican shakeups

Francis finishes work on Amazon Synod text

Committee to recommend Australian bishops give laity certain controls

Francis appoints first woman to managerial role at Vatican's Secretariat of State

Plenary Council 2020-2021. Nomination as CAM Delegate

Pope Benedict XVI breaks silence to reaffirm priest celibacy
Meeting of Church heavy-hitters calls for 'adjustments' to priestly formation
Pope Francis begins the most important year of his pontificate
Expressions of interest for Parramatta Diocesan Plenary Council 2020 delegates
Catholics For Renewal Submission to Plenary Council Phase 2 Working Groups



Donations, Comments, Inquiries;

DONATIONS [HERE](#). 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.

(thanks to those who have responded)

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