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Catholics For Renewal Inc.

www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au



NEWSLETTER, August 2019

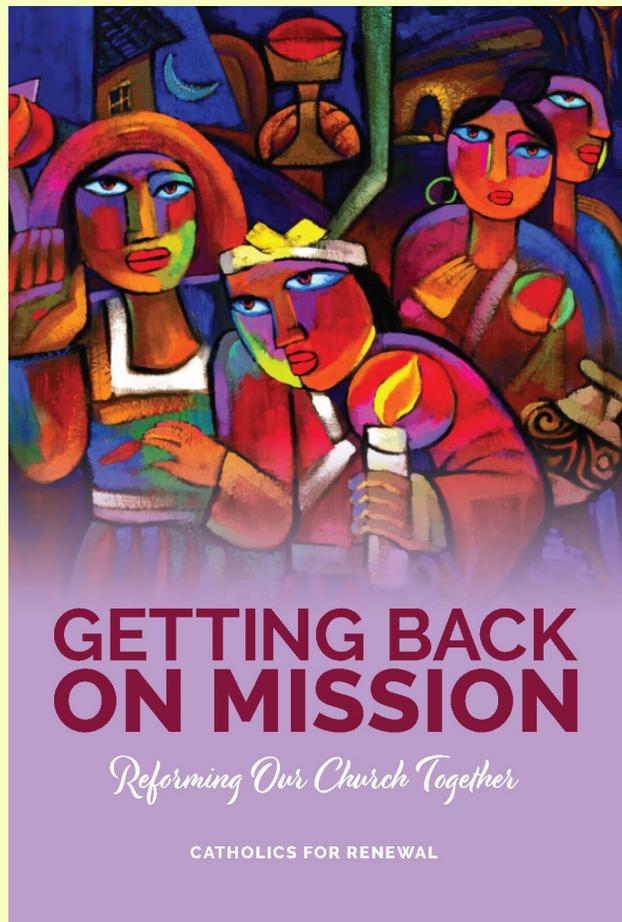
.PDF version [HERE](#)

Getting back on mission - How?

The Catholic Church has gone 'off mission'. The tragedies and scandal of clerical child sexual abuse and the cover-up by bishops is symptomatic of a deeply ailing church.

A new book "Getting Back on Mission" focuses on Jesus' mission for the Church; it exposes dysfunctional governance involving a grave lack of accountability and transparency, and the exclusion of the People of God particularly women.

Characterising the book, He Qi's cover painting *After Resurrection* depicts Jesus' disciples – women and men – empowered by their new faith in the Risen Christ, setting out on God's mission to bring the light of the Gospel to the world. It also suggests



today's disciples searching together for a way to make the Church a true sign of the Kingdom in the 21st century.

This comprehensive book by Catholics For Renewal is one of many contributions to the Australian Catholic Plenary Council 2020/2021. It is equally a user-friendly resource for all Catholics wishing to engage in ongoing reform of our Church. 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 wanting genuine renewal of their Church, this roadmap for change is a must-read and an essential companion book for the Plenary Council.

Getting Back on Mission is forward-looking and founded on trust in the Spirit – it is about hope.

Catholics for Renewal is a group of committed Catholics that has been advocating Church renewal for a decade. A legion of Catholics has supported its work involving surveys, open letters, articles, and public evidence at major government inquiries.

Catholics for Renewal believes that the Church will change only if individual Catholics take up the challenge and drive that change. Many reform groups throughout Australia are doing just that.

The book has been reviewed by several prominent Catholics in Australia and around the world who share its hope for renewal. One of these comments:

"I hope this book helps navigate our Church's sacred pastors to the wisdom and action needed to get us out of this mess."

–Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland

Getting Back on Mission: Reforming our Church Together is available from Garratt Publishing for pre-order through September at the special price of \$25.00 plus postage. Click [here](#) to buy or call Garratt Publishing on 1300



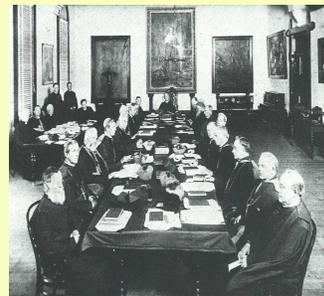
Book launches

Getting Back On Mission is published by and available from **Garratt Publishing** and will be initially launched in Melbourne on September 17 and elsewhere in Australia and internationally later (Warsaw in September).

In Melbourne the book will be launched by Francis Sullivan, former CEO of the Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, in the Oratory Room, Newman College, University of Melbourne, Parkville, from 6:30pm with light refreshments, for 7:00pm launch. Bookings essential via rsvp@garrattpublishing.com.au

Early Australian Councils / Plenaries

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 will be published in two Parts in the 2019 Spring and Summer editions of *The Swag*. These will be followed by two 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*:

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)

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



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.*

New Book "Getting Back on Mission: Reforming our Church Together"

Confession and Mandatory Reporting

Violating sanctity of the confessional would be a betrayal of trust

Adelaide visit comes at a 'liminal moment' in journey

The Melbourne Archbishop said he'd rather go to jail than break confession confidentiality. A new Bill could send him there.

Cardinal Pell to learn his fate next week

No issue matters as much as climate change

Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli said he would rather go to jail than report admissions of child sexual abuse made in confessional.

Priests will maintain confession secrecy

The Fascinating Christian Story.

Plenary Council rocket science a matter of trust

Cardinal Pell: 'Amazon or no Amazon, the Church cannot allow any confusion'

New survey reveals which religions New Zealanders trust most – and least – after Christchurch shootings

A warm welcome helps arriving priests, parishes

'Break open the word' on Plenary Council, bishops urged

Archbishop rejects top woman theologian – business as usual.

Pope Francis writes new letter encouraging priests during the fallout

caused by the abuse crisis

Key Plenary Council topics emerge from final report of the Listening and Dialogue phase

First audit report of Church entity against new National Standards published

Diaspora and the globalization of the Catholic Church

Tasmania's confession laws 'impinge on religious freedoms'

Archbishop Comensoli 'did not revoke' US sister's invitation

Melbourne Archbishop in censorship row involving US feminist nun

Defend inclusiveness at Catholic Plenary Council

Cardinal George Pell. Where have all the fighters gone?

Civility

Defend inclusiveness at Catholic Plenary Council

Cardinal hits back at Pan-Amazon Synod critics

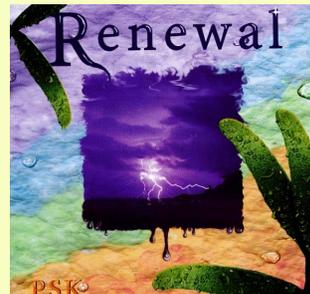
Chittister, Censorship & an adult Church

New guidelines will inform Church's response to abuse

Missing the Catholic Bus

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 book (*here*) will also help.



(thanks to those who have responded)

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