

# Catholics For Renewal Inc.

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



## NEWSLETTER, 16 November 2019

.PDF version of Newsletter [Here](#)

Sydneysiders and others are invited to a **21st November Garratt Publishing book launch by Chris Geraghty of "Getting Back On Mission - reforming our church together"**. 6:30pm at the Ron Dyer Centre, 42 Ridge Street North Sydney. Full details, booking and Flyer below. For catering purpose please RSVP below or [here](#).

---

## NZ Royal Commission - Invited Australian Input

Two Australian experts were invited to provide testimony to the New Zealand Commission Of Inquiry Into Historical Abuse In State Care And In The Care Of Faith-based Institutions, which began initial Hearings in February 2019. It is NZ's biggest public inquiry ever, has a budget of



NZ\$79 million and is expected to run for 4 years. It is examining what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults in State and faith-based care in Aotearoa New Zealand between the years 1950-99. It may also listen to survivor experiences before and after these dates.

In relation to State Care the Inquiry is specifically investigating why people were taken into care, what abuse happened and why, and the effects of the abuse. It is specifically focusing on Māori, Pasefika and disabled people

because of the disproportionate number of people from these communities in care.

There are four important elements of this inquiry. Following establishment of **guidelines**, the Commission then moved into an **information** and **evidence gathering** phase. Based on the evidence gathered, two **reports** will be produced with recommendations for addressing future responsibility - one at the end of 2020 and the second in 2023.

### **Contextual Hearing**

The Contextual Hearing was the first public hearing of the Inquiry and was conducted between 29 October and 8 November 2019. It heard from witnesses on topics providing rich context for the wide ranging Inquiry over the next few years.

Emeritus Professor Desmond Cahill (RMIT University) and Dr Peter Wilkinson (immediate Past President Catholics For Renewal) who are highly qualified, experienced and recognised researchers, church historians and policy experts in this field were invited to summarise on Friday 8th November key recommendations of the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and similar inquiries in other parts of the world. Their comprehensive testimony summarised their formal submission and followed powerful testimony at the start of this session by abuse survivor Mike Ledingham. The sensitivity and respect shown to this survivor by the Commission was strongly evident and itself part of a healing process in keeping with the very spirit of the NZ Royal Commission. This is built on on the Waitangi principles of "partnership, protection and participation" which is central to the work of the Inquiry and a core focus of its Māori Partnerships team.

### **User-friendly**

In a user-friendly way deliberations were live video-streamed across New Zealand and the world to survivors, family members and supporters, academics, representatives of interested organisations, and members of the public who watched the hearing directly from the public gallery.

Mostly a factual summary of Australian Royal Commission findings and those from major related major international inquiries, testimony from Des & Peter also highlighted key common conclusions around the world. Far

from being Australians suggesting what NZ ought to do the presentations objectively reported deliberations on child sexual abuse, emphasising those considered likely to be of particular relevance and interest to ongoing NZ RC deliberations. They also responded comprehensively to a number of specific questions inviting personal opinions, based on their expertise, past experience, relevant research and personal backgrounds. Amongst issues raised there was particular interest in the means of engaging the Holy See, Holy See responses to ACBC representations on RC Recommendations, and the issue of the seal of confession.

### **Process**

The openness of the NZ Royal Commission process is further illustrated by 12 powerful short videos (around 3 minutes each) from abuse survivor-advocates on the NZ RC website. Friday's hearing incorporated testimony from an abuse survivor and was followed by testimony from Des and Peter effectively showcasing the well managed and user-friendly NZ RC Inquiry process itself. Friday concluded the Contextual Hearing which will be followed by Public Hearings. The First Report to Government is due in Dec 2020, and the Final Report in January 2023. Friday was also the final day of the inaugural Inquiry Chair Sir Anand Satyanand who chose not to continue in that role when the RC scope was widely extended beyond victims of State Care to also cover victims of all Institutions including the Catholic Church.

On 14 November the Commission of Inquiry welcomed Judge Coral Shaw as its new Chairperson to lead it through the delivery phase of the Inquiry.

### **Video-streaming**

As observed via video-streaming, the testimony provided by Des and Peter was exceptionally well prepared and presented. It clearly, authoritatively and very accessibly summarised major issues likely to be relevant to the NZ Royal Commission. Their extraordinary amount of work in carefully preparing comprehensive evidence, then presenting it clearly to the Commissioners and public last Friday was acknowledged, and as expressed by one Counsel "lays an enormously valuable foundation for the NZ Royal Commission to begin its faith-based investigation."

### **Access**

The formal submission from Des and Peter is available [HERE](#). The Friday Contextual Hearing may be viewed [HERE](#)

The Royal Commission site can be accessed [HERE](#)



## Invitation to Sydney Book launch of "Getting Back on Mission" on 21 November

**Getting Back On Mission** is published by and available from [Garratt Publishing](#). It was first launched in Melbourne by Francis Sullivan at Newman College on September 17, then on September 26 at the conclusion of the International Church Reform Network meeting near Warsaw. Next it will be launched in SYDNEY on 21 November by Chris Geraghty, well known author, judge & theologian.

Details: Thursday 21 November @ 6:30pm  
Ron Dyer Centre, 42 Ridge St, North Sydney  
Bookings essential for catering [HERE](#)  
Flyer [HERE](#)

---

*Getting Back on Mission: Reforming our Church Together is available from Garratt Publishing. order at the special launch price of \$25.00 plus postage. Click [here](#) to buy or call Garratt Publishing on 1300 650 878.*

---

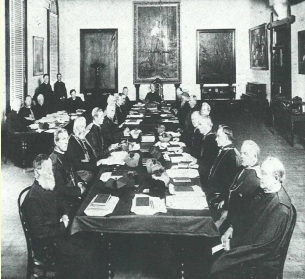
## International Church Reform Network

**Extract from Report on ICRN Meeting Warsaw, David Timbs, 15 November 2019**



The fifth meeting of the International Church Reform Network was held September 23-27, 2019 in the town of Biało-brzegi, 35 km from the centre of Warsaw. Significantly, this was the

second gathering to have taken place in Eastern Europe in successive years. In 2018, the ICRN met in Pezinok, near the Slovakian capital, Bratislava....(Full report [HERE](#)). Photo:L-R Helmut Schüller, Deborah Rose-Milavec, David Timbs, Ian McGinnity.



## 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)

Further papers in this series will be added.

*(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.*



News and  
Opinions

---

**Brisbane** students tell Plenary Council planners what they want for the Church

**High Court** to hear Cardinal George Pell's case

The beginning of the end of our “European” Church?

**U.S.** bishops elect L.A.’s Archbishop José Gomez as president

**New Zealand** Public Hearings Highlight Dark History of Child Abuse

**Abuse and Cover-Up**; Gerald Arbuckle’s challenging new book

**LatAm** activists aim to press beyond ‘cosmetic actions’ on sex abuse crisis

**French** church sex abuse commission

**UK** Cardinal acknowledges Church failed to support abuse victims

Exposing the Spirits

Reflection in the German Church will be done in stages

Plenary Council – Faith and Hope in Abundance

Sister Mary Kathleen Kuenstler PHJC, JCD

What the Synod of Bishops means for Vatican II... and 'Vatican III'

Vatican archives will no longer be 'secret'

Ireland faces shortage of priests

Technocrats No Longer?

The Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture 2019

The cry of the poor is the hope of the church, Pope Francis says, closing Amazon Synod

Synod votes to ordain married men, and to protect Amazon’s indigenous peoples and rainforests

Synod told not to fear Amazonian rite

**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)*

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

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

**You can link this Newsletter to your Social Media site(s) via the icons above. Share it with friends similarly, or simply forward it to them -** using the **FORWARD** button below. You or they may **Subscribe** to or **Unsubscribe** from our email list at any time using the **PREFERENCES** or **UNSUBSCRIBE** button below, or by direct email request.

©2019 Catholics For Renewal | Doncaster Heights LPO, PO Box 178, Doncaster Heights, Victoria 3109  
Australia

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)  
A GoDaddy® company