

# Catholics For Renewal Inc.

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## Newsletter 29 October 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 Francis on Women: the need for discernment



*Pope Francis discerning with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The Telegraph UK, Guido Bergman / German Federal 2013*

### Full Editorial [HERE](#)

#### *Limited extract:*

The history of women in the Catholic Church has long been a one of misogyny. Scripture is clear that this sin did not start with Jesus of Nazareth, nor his apostles and early disciples, who were both women and men.

Regrettably, Jesus' relationships with women came to be ignored or misrepresented; why and how is for another day. Right now we have a Jesuit pontiff who, in an October message, calls for engagement in the Ignatian practice of prayerful discernment on the 'proper place of women in the Church'. Such

discernment requires that we become aware of the movements in our hearts, understand where they come from, and either accept or reject them.

First, we need to recognise that prayerful discernment cannot discern God's will for women if it is based on a theologically flawed understanding of women..... **Full Editorial [HERE](#)**



*Road to Emmaus, Daniel Bonnell*

**A new Summary Document.  
'Discernment: It has been decided  
by the Holy Spirit and by  
ourselves.'**

The **Full Summary Document** may be downloaded **at** Doc. No 93/10 **[HERE](#)**

**Limited Extracts:**

**At** the first synod of the infant Christian Movement in Jerusalem some 20 years after the death of Jesus, a critical issue that would decisively determine the direction and shape of its Mission, was debated, amended and finally accepted by all those present, including apostles, Paul's companions, and elders. It concerned whether non-Jews ('gentiles') could be accepted into the Christian community, and on what conditions. This first collective act of discernment and decision-making in the infant Church reconciled two quite polarised positions and the decision, clearly and authoritatively stated in a letter to the Christians at Antioch in Syria, was introduced with these words: "It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves .. (Acts 15: 28).....Just as the first synod in Jerusalem had to discern a solution to a critical issue, the Australian Plenary Council will have to discern solutions to a range of critical issues for the Church in this nation. Diakrisis, pondering together and in prayer on where the Spirit is leading, and arriving at consensus solutions is what the Council must do, so that all members of the Church in Australia can genuinely walk together on the same road and in the same direction. St John Chrysostom was emphatic: synod (syn 'together' + hodos 'road') and Church are synonymous. At the close of the Council, the participants should be able to say, clearly and authoritatively: "It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves ...."

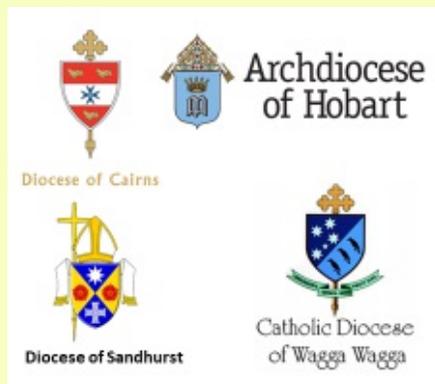
## Launch of 'Know the Dioceses in 2020'

Introduction + the first four diocese profiles [HERE](#)

### *Extract only:*

As foreshadowed in the September Newsletter, Catholics for Renewal today commences publication of a new series of short fact-based profiles of each of the 28 territorial dioceses of the Catholic

Church in Australia. They have been prepared by Dr Peter Wilkinson, who has a well-established reputation for his studies on Church councils and ministry, and are based on a range of authoritative church and government published material, all listed in each profile.



To ensure that the data is accurate and up-to-date, each draft profile has been sent to the diocesan bishop prior to publication with an invitation to correct any errors and to advise of any recent changes made or future plans being contemplated in relation to the recommendations in *The Light from the Southern Cross*. Where responses are received they are noted and corrections and updates incorporated.

The series is intended as a useful resource for the people of each diocese, for Australian Catholics generally, and for those persons who have been called to participate in the Plenary Council particularly. Most will be unfamiliar with the characteristics of dioceses other than their own and what is happening elsewhere, and it is hoped that the information in the profiles will foster greater understanding and communion among the dioceses.

*Introduction + first four profiles for the Dioceses below may be read/downloaded [HERE](#)*

- 1) Archdiocese of Hobart,
- 2) Diocese of Cairns,

- 3) Diocese of Sandhurst &
- 4) The Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Profiles of all Other Australian Catholic dioceses will progressively follow each month.

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### **Sad Loss: Deaths of Maria George and Garry Eastman RIP**

During October Catholics for Renewal suffered a great loss: the deaths of Maria George and Garry Eastman.



#### **Obituary [HERE](#)**

*Extract:*

Maria was a gentle, kind, humble, resolute and courageous faith-filled woman, firm in her commitment to do what she understood to be her mission. Her inner strength and conviction impacted in the most profound way on those around her. In her indefatigable zeal for the reform of the Church she loved, her judgments were characterised by a hard realism that never degenerated into bitterness or resentment. She stood as a shining example to women and men of what it means to be a post-Vatican II Catholic. ***Obituary [HERE](#)***

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#### **Obituary [HERE](#)**

*Extract:*

Garry was not a member of Catholics for Renewal, but a great supporter of our work for the renewal of the Catholic Church in Australia. As the owner and chairman of the Board of Garratt Publishing he reached out to Catholics for Renewal at Easter 2019, after reading our submission to the Plenary Council, asking if we would give our permission for it to be published as a book. We immediately agreed and later that year it was published by Garratt as [Getting Back on Mission: Reforming Our Church Together](#).

Garry was a visionary for Church renewal in Australia. ***Obituary [HERE](#)***

***The following listing of recent Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items provide an overview of leading Church issues and may be accessed [HERE](#)***

*Note that publication of links to these items does not necessarily indicate editorial support.*



Catholics, Jews meet online for interfaith dialogue

"Take fresh courage" a good Plenary Council exhortation

Australian bishops get it right on mental health

Francis Sullivan appointed chair of Catholic Social Services Australia

Will I go back to Mass?

Including women in the Catholic Church.

Spiritual director of Medjugorje visionaries excommunicated.

Pope Francis and the Nation-State: ...Radical Orthodoxy.

Pope Francis names 13 new cardinals.

Blessed Carlo Acutis watched 'Pokémon.' That's my kind of saint.

New era for Catholic education in Melbourne.

Pope Francis declares support for same-sex civil unions.

The parish: to grieve or enter new life.

'Fratelli Tutti': Papal dreams or Vatican diversion?

Appreciating and discovering hope in Pope Francis' 3rd Encyclical.

Columnist deeply wrong on Hiroshima.

Pope Francis's new encyclical On Human Fraternity Social Friendship

Women who 'applied' to be clergy say Vatican envoy 'open-minded'

Let's not return to policing theologians.

Polarization and Public Morality.

The Beginning of the End?

How can we still be universal? Encyclical way out of individualism.

German churches to continue talks on shared Communion

Pope and Warren Buffett see eye to eye on free markets.

Vatican's top diplomat defends China deal.

Coronavirus pandemic puts huge financial strain on Vatican.

Teetering on the Edge.

Five keys to understanding the encyclical "Fratelli tutti".

Pope Francis wants Catholics to dream of a better way of politics.  
Church's defence 'dismantled' after sex abuse pay-off thrown out.  
Grieving for the lost parish.

French Catholics want open talks with bishops in run-up to Synod.

Plenary Council 2021/2022.

Why is Australia's Cardinal Pell returning to Rome?

Trump announces Amy Coney Barrett as US Supreme Court nominee

Putting lower value on older lives unethical

First virtual Nuns on the Bus tour begins.

People leaving Church in 'droves' warns McAleese.

There will be no return to pre-COVID world; it has changed forever.

Suspended Irish priest Tony Flannery calls Vatican inquiry 'unjust'.

Gay children are 'children of God', Pope tells parents.

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

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