

Catholics for Renewal - News Update

Having a Say in Selecting Our Bishops

Report on results of an Online Survey Conducted by Catholics for Renewal

News Update No.1, 2017, Friday 3 February

(larger print News Update [HERE](#))



Abstract

Most Catholics have few, if any, opportunities to have their say on the current state of their local church and what they are looking for in a new leader for their diocese. Catholics for Renewal has provided this opportunity through an online survey. The questions were simple but sought open-ended replies to give people a chance to express themselves freely. Whilst this was complicated to analyse, it has yielded excellent and detailed feedback. Most respondents took the time and made the effort to spell out their hopes and concerns in depth. The responses showed an acute sense of the need for change, often spelling out in detail the changes they suggested were needed in specific areas. The

responses addressed at length the qualities of the type of bishops they are looking for. Overall, these concerned Catholics showed widespread dissatisfaction with the current state of their local diocese and parishes. Their dissatisfaction referred to current governance arrangements, and the need for a stronger pastoral focus and more effective leadership from their bishop and his willingness to consult widely. The results of the survey indicate strong belief that many bishops do not recognise or understand the realities of 21st Century Catholics. The results also show the strong desire of concerned and informed Catholics to have a greater role in the selection of their bishop and the governance of their diocese and local parish. The feedback includes helpful suggestions on how this can be achieved.

The [Summary](#), Full [Report](#), and [Other Diocese Attachment](#) may be downloaded and are also available from the Catholics Renewal Website. *Image from Montana Roue*

RC 'wrap-up' hearings into the Catholic church's response to clerical child sexual abuse



The Royal Commission will conduct 3 weeks of 'wrap-up' hearings into the Catholic church's response to clerical child sexual abuse starting Monday 6 Feb.

These public hearings can be followed on the Commission's video feed on their [website](#).

Following the submissions of *Catholics for Renewal* - over the last couple of years, Catholics For Renewal President Peter Johnstone has been summoned to give evidence on Wednesday 8 Feb. as part of a panel on 'Structure, governance and culture'. The question that has been constantly addressed by Catholics for Renewal is: "How could the leadership of the Catholic Church effectively facilitate clerical child sexual abuse, whilst espousing Christian values that condemn such behaviour?" We have argued that the Church's global governance is dysfunctional and must be reformed.

Forthcoming report from Catholics for Renewal

Selection of Bishops: Is there a role for lay people?

On 5 October 2016 as the second in a series of presentations then by the Yarra Deanery (the first was by Francis Sullivan on Institutional response to Child Sexual Abuse) Dr Peter Wilkinson gave a comprehensively researched account of the rich history of Bishop Selection by lay people (and priests and religious) across the full history of the church, up to the present time in Australia. Peter is converting his presentation into a paper which be available through this Newsletter when completed.

News and Opinion Pieces

Collectively telling their own story these recent Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items provide a snapshot of some current Church issues and may be accessed [HERE](#)
Note that publication of links to these items does not necessarily indicate editorial support.

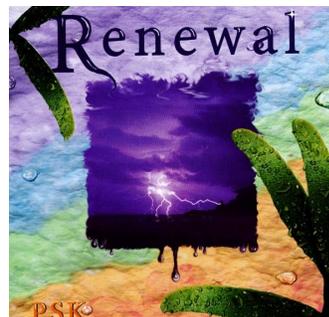
- Why Pope Francis is right to revisit the new Mass translation
- RC 'Wrap-up' hearings into Catholic church's response to clerical CSA
- Pope's World Communication Day message
- Maitland-Newcastle creates child protection advisory council
- Redemptorist Fr. Tony Flannery celebrates Mass after five-year ban
- Role of women a priority for Irish bishops during Vatican talks
- Pope: Never underestimate the courage and wisdom of women
- Knights of Malta leader resigns, pope to name delegate to run order
- French bishops release new stats on child sex abuse in church
- Papal critic Cardinal Burke to headline canon law conference
- As recent guidelines show, 'Amoris' argument is far from over
- Another bishop says chastity key to Communion debate
- Order of Malta chief withdraws cooperation after accusing Vatican inquiry
- Pope Francis' Letter to Young People
- Maltese bishops: Remarried Catholics 'at peace' can receive Communion.
- Young people to set agenda for Synod
- Priest sues diocese alleging persecution for reporting abuse
- A template for real Catholic reform in 2017
- Pope: Jesus amazed because he was humble, helpful, not a hypocrite
- Vatican doctrine czar sees no need for 'fraternal correction' of Pope
- Pope decries 'prophets of doom' wanting only 'the usual fare'
- Mulling the practical pros and cons of married priests
- Royal Commission to challenge the Vatican on Catholic Church law
- Pope Francis could face key choices on bishops in 2017

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