

# Catholics for Renewal - News Update

## Around the Table with Christ today

News Update No.8, 2016, Tuesday 1 November

(Larger print .PDF version *HERE*)



The Last Supper with Twelve Tribes by [Hyatt Moore](http://www.hyattmoore.com) was painted in British Columbia in the year 2000 to commemorate the inclusion of all peoples under God.

<http://www.hyattmoore.com/thelastsupper/>

## An Australian National Synod in 2020

***"Now is the time for the Australian bishops to decide for a plenary council . . . we can no longer put up a sign saying, Business as usual. The Royal Commission has made that abundantly clear."***

- Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Knox lecture, Melbourne, May 2016

**Abstract of Editorial *BELOW*. Read full Editorial [HERE](#)**

Archbishop Coleridge's announcement is good news indeed for the Catholic Church in Australia and is welcomed by Catholics for Renewal as an opportunity for the Australian Church, Bishops, priests, religious and laity to come together in addressing the Church's desperate need for renewal. Our 2011 Open Letter to Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Bishops of Australia, signed by more than 8,000 Catholics, included a recommendation that diocesan bishops convene synods in their diocese to discuss how the local Church might be a more authentic witness in the 21st century.

Catholics for Renewal will be offering our strong support to the bishops in preparation for the 2020 national synod/plenary council. We would also like to see synods in every Australian diocese in 2018 in preparation for the national synod/plenary council.

See the item linked below to "San Diego Diocese Readies for Synod on Family Life".  
(full Editorial [HERE](#))

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### Selection of Bishops Survey

Comments very helpful to our Church today have been received in relation to the Catholics for Renewal online survey. The survey is about the needs of Dioceses/Archdioceses and the attributes and qualities required of bishops.

Many thanks to those who have completed the survey, which **closes on 14 November**. To further ensure the survey is widely representative other Australian Catholics, lay, religious and clergy, are invited and strongly encouraged to join them by completing the online survey **now** (below).

**Take the  
Survey**

**What would you like in a bishop to meet the needs of your Diocese/Archdiocese at this critical time in Church history?**

**Click the survey button above and have your say now**

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## Forthcoming Paper - Selection of Bishops: Is there a role for lay people?

On October 5 as the second in a series of presentations this year 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 life of the church, right up to the present time in Australia. History speaks powerfully on this issue and reaffirms the Christlike approach of Pope Francis and others. Peter is converting his presentation into a paper which will shortly be available through this Newsletter.

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**"In the Anglican tradition, a synod is not simply a meeting to discuss church business. It is a sacred gathering of God's people, called to listen to the Holy Spirit. The abstract Synod image above was created by Elizabeth Adams for a General Synod in Ontario, July this year."**

(edited extract from André Forget, the Anglican Journal, 7 July 2016)

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## San Diego diocese gets ready for synod on family life

**Extract from Dan Morris-Young, National Catholic Reporter, 27 October 2016**

A "tremendous synergy" has been created by the concerns, insights, hopes and ideas shared by nearly 2,000 participants in parish grassroots listening sessions and follow-up working groups over recent months leading up to this weekend's San Diego diocesan synod on marriage and family life, according to synod coordinator Paulist Fr. John Hurley. Focus of the gathering will be seeking consensus on ways to best address the pastoral challenges laid forth in *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on marriage and family released April 8.....[\*\(more\)\*](#)

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## News and Opinion Pieces

The following 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.

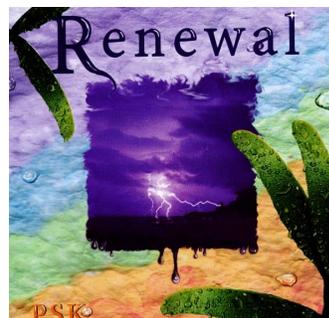
Vatican, China Consider Deal on Selection of Bishops After Decades of Division  
National priest register is up and functioning  
Swiss Christian nursing home forced to allow assisted suicide  
San Diego diocese gets ready for synod on family life  
Cardinal Pell interviewed by Victorian police in Rome  
Reform groups call on Catholic church 'to stand against violence' toward LGBT people  
Final resting place: Vatican releases instruction on burial, cremation  
NY cardinal's new compensation program for victims will keep sex abuse hidden  
U.S. Archbishop Chaput welcomes 'smaller church' of holier Catholics  
Bishop Eugene Hurley: 'The vision of a Synodal Church in the Year of Mercy'  
Cardinals herald church's changing season  
Pope's new cardinal in Papua New Guinea ticks all the boxes  
Comfort level with dialogue a U.S. gift to the universal Church  
Pope Francis rejects 'rightwingers' with US cardinals' appointment  
Portland archbishop points to 'troublesome' misuses of 'Amoris Laetitia'  
Pope Francis reaches out to the 'corners of the Earth' to appoint 17 new cardinals  
Deacons, millennials part of bishops' conversation at women's conference  
Next synod on 'youth' after proposal on married priests rejected  
Pope's advice to his emissary of the streets: 'Sell your desk'  
Pope and Anglican leader say churches share 'certain yet imperfect communion'  
Communion for remarried feasible case by case in Rome  
The Church is a People – not an aristocracy or an audience  
Vatican meets with women theologians over Church roles  
When in Rome: Bishop Long's dinner with Francis  
Amoris Laetitia will inspire 'comprehensive plan for marriage and family life': US bishops  
If we want better bishops we must first look at our seminaries  
Catholic church needs better way to select bishops  
On Communion debate, Pope Francis opts for decentralization  
Sniffing out good bishops emerges as key papal priority

## Comments? Inquiries?

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