



Catholics for Renewal - News Update

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Spotlight on our Church

Newsletter No.1 2016, February 13

Read full Editorial [HERE](#)

Brief editorial extracts:

The film 'Spotlight' has just been released, named after the team of award-winning investigative journalists at The Boston Globe that exposed extensive clerical child sexual abuse in Boston - a 'must-see' for all who care about the dysfunctional governance of our Church.



The spotlight on child abuse is not the only spotlight being shone on the Church in 2016, looming as a very significant year for Church renewal.

Catholics for Renewal discerned at an early stage that the Church cannot be renewed without major change to its dysfunctional governance, a patriarchy and indeed an exclusive aristocracy of aged celibate men, without accountability for their autocratic decisions and mostly out of touch with many of the people of God - an institution bearing little resemblance to the Church envisaged by Christ. Clericalism, a culture that inappropriately exalts and excuses the ordained, is central to the problem. There are signs however that the renewal process is beginning. There are also signs of continuing pressures against renewal ... We hope that Archbishop Coleridge's brother bishops will share his view of the "whirlpool" when they consider our proposals in 2016 for greater engagement with the laity and greater involvement of the laity in the selection of bishops, not to mention more fundamental reform to the institutional Church's governance and culture, particularly the inclusion of women in the magisterium..... [Read full Editorial HERE](#)



The Age of Entitlement is over

David Timbs

Read paper [HERE](#)

Abstract:

It is becoming more and more obvious that one of the most significant obstacles to the systemic reform of the culture and legal system of the Catholic Church is clericalism. The leadership of the Church has become increasingly more estranged from the prophetic roots of its mission to animate and to serve. As the Church became more institutionalised, its bishops became increasingly socialised into a patriarchal and autocratic mentality and praxis with little transparency and no provision for accountability, the essential safeguards of good governance. Ultimately a massive social, psychological and spiritual chasm was created which lead to dangerous disconnection between bishops and their people.

It is quite likely that the majority of the bishops in this country would not have been appointed if its priests and people had a meaningful role in the appointment process. It is now time for a fundamental rearrangement of the structures of pastoral care, consultation and institutional governance in the Catholic Church. To facilitate this, the clergy and people need to reappropriate confidently the rights to participation in the selection and election of bishops, a right and duty they had exercised for twelve hundred years.

The popular reception and affirmation of bishops will more certainly lead to the maintenance of a genuinely consultative, listening community. Catholics for Renewal have made both of these top advocacy priorities for 2016. The article linked here represents an attempt to open up these issues for further thought, reflection and action. **Read paper** [HERE](#)

Review of the film "Spotlight"

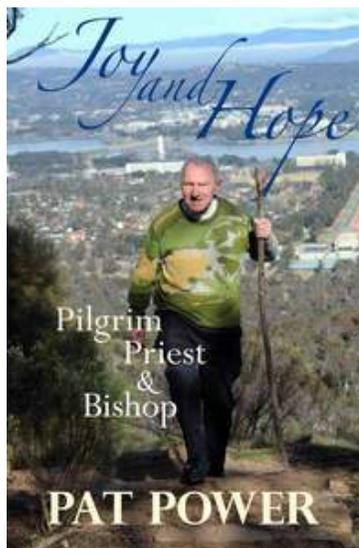
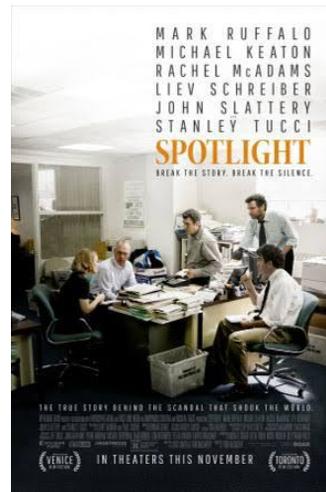
by Rev Dr Richard Leonard SJ

(Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.)

READ REVIEW [HERE](#)

Brief extracts from Review:

This is one of the angriest films you will ever see. In the Bible we hear about righteous anger, where God or humanity realises something is so wrong and sinful that 'holy anger' is the first and right response. At its best in the scriptures this anger leads to justice, making things right. **Spotlight** is an occasion for holy, righteous anger and every adult Catholic should see it. Not because it is easy watching, but because it is necessary watching. The time to look away has gone. The first meaning of this film's title refers to the team of award-winning investigative journalists at The Boston Globe. In the late 1990s they become aware of a number of Catholic priests who have been accused of child sexual abuse. In the early days of their investigation they unearth evidence that the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston has gone to extraordinary lengths to cover up the activities of these paedophile priests, and silence victims through payoffs, legal threats and personal intimidation..... In 2011 Boston's Cardinal O'Malley made public the full list of offending clergy: 159.....**Why go and see this very tough and demanding film?** Because victims and their families deserve it.....**May it make us as "mad as hell"** and not "take this anymore" and enable that holy, righteous anger to demand complete openness, transparency and honesty from our own community. That might just be the start of bringing God's justice and healing to survivors.....**Whether we like it or not, now we are all in the spotlight** – and there is nowhere to hide. **READ REVIEW [HERE](#)**



BOOK REVIEW

Joy and Hope, Pat Power

Reviewed by Rose Marie Crowe (READ REVIEW [HERE](#))

Brief extract from Review:

Bishop Pat Power is the de facto voice of the Catholic Church in Australia. For over thirty years as bishop, he has articulated the position of the church from a profound commitment to the principles of Vatican II, applied to every sector of society. The media recognise in him a credible source and readily appeal to him to speak to social justice issues as they arise. His viewpoint, offered in simple but direct language, is often received with relief as a beacon of commonsense and hope. **Joy and Hope: Pilgrim, Priest and Bishop**, a compilation of Pat Power's speeches, articles,

letters and autobiographical reminiscences, is published on his retirement at the age of 70. It is difficult to believe that Pat has reached this venerable age, because he projects a youthful exuberance, a love of life, of all people, and of his church. It is this inherent joy that impels him to speak out in defence of marginalised people in every conceivable form of deprivation. A lifetime of outreach is chronicled in these pages. (READ REVIEW [HERE](#))

Regina lane - The Parish Church and the People

Spirituality In The Pub. Presented by Catalyst For Renewal

8pm Wednesday 2 March 2016, Pumphouse Hotel 128 Nicholson Street Fitzroy

The PUMPHOUSE HOTEL provides a spacious and comfortable atmosphere. Meals available from 6.00pm –7.30pm.

Street parking available. Full Details [HERE](#)



News and Opinion Pieces

The following Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items may be read [HERE](#)

- TJH Council: Bishops morally obliged to report sexual abuse
- Archbishop cancels MP's lecture over same-sex marriage views
- Parents pull kids out of Mass in second protest against priest
- Catholic bishops not obliged to report clerical child abuse, Vatican says
- Abuse commission member responds to Saunders controversy
- Pope invites divorced, remarried to Vatican audience
- The Catholic Church supports Premier Andrews' offer
- Woman to lead theological-pastoral aspect of Vatican communications
- Francis: Confessors should never judge; 'club of judgment' won't bring sheep back
- Royal Commission: Cardinal George Pell to give evidence by video link
- What new Catholic bishops are, and aren't, being told on sex abuse
- It's Nothing Personal - The History of Papal Infallibility
- Australian bishops encourage Catholics to watch Oscar-nominated film on sex abuse
- Review of the film "Spotlight"
- Synod document to be released in March
- Conservatives resist pressure to include women in foot-washing
- Archbishop backs Catholic school for letting girl bring same sex partner to prom
- Irish American Cardinal Raymond Burke blames women for church's problems
- Pope to celebrate service for Protestant Reformation in home of Lutheran communion



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donations invited

(we thank those who have already contributed towards costs associated with our voluntary work.
we are very careful and transparent in the expenditure of donated funds.)

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