

## CathFR supports

### The Australian Catholic Coalition Call for Church Renewal

**“Jesus inspired his disciples to form a community to proclaim and live the Good News of love, justice, equality, self-giving and hope. The institutional Church has failed to listen to its people thus alienating many through an emphasis on power, hierarchy and discrimination, with a lack of transparency and accountability. Australian Catholics have a responsibility to act now in ways that reflect the values of the Gospel, the vision of Vatican II and the best values of Australian society.”**

*Our Call as disciples is to be a Catholic church:*

- that reflects Jesus’ message of love, justice, equality, peace and forgiveness
- in which all people are directed by their informed conscience and assume their responsibility for the mission of the Church
- which inspires its people to recapture an experience of the mystical and the spiritual
- where God-given authority is used wisely and justly to propagate the teachings of Christ, and respects the role of the People of God
- where all people, men and women, single and married minister in a spirit of co-responsibility for the Church
- that influences Australian society to be ever more just, compassionate and egalitarian

*ACCCR Statement used with permission.*

## Catholics For Renewal Incorporated

Postal Address  
209 High Street  
Templestowe Lower,  
Victoria 3107

Contact  
President: Dr Peter Wilkinson  
0467 014 077  
Secretary: Dr Rose-Marie Prosser  
0408 657 829

### Support

Details on supporting Catholics For Renewal can be found on the website. Meetings are held regularly and are open to those interested in the work of

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

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

## Catholics For Renewal



*“Christ’s faithful have the right, indeed at times the duty, in keeping with their knowledge, competence and position, to manifest to the sacred pastors their views on matters which concern the good of the church.”*

(Canon 212 par 3)

*“...Let there be unity in what is necessary, freedom in what is doubtful, and charity in everything...”*

(Gaudium et Spes 92)

## Catholics for Renewal stands for:

Renewal of the Church  
in the likeness of Christ

Authentic collegiality and subsidiarity  
in Church governance

A just and compassionate response  
to victims of clerical sexual abuse

Reforming the governance structures of the  
Church that permitted the abuse of children

Inclusion of women  
in the full life of the Church

Listening to and trusting the *sensus fidelium*  
by engaging every level of the Church in  
decisions affecting its life and governance

Co-responsibility  
in every facet of mission and ministry

A compassionate and tangible response to the  
rights of the oppressed and disadvantaged

Commitment to justice and peace

Commitment to ecumenism  
and interfaith dialogue

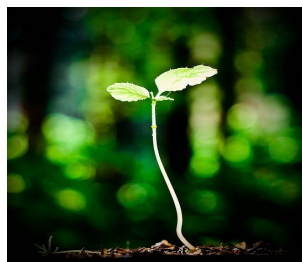
Rejection of every form of discrimination

## Background

Catholics for Renewal began in Melbourne  
in April 2011, as a small gathering of people  
committed to the Church we love,  
but which we recognized as falling short  
of the spirit and mandate of Vatican II.

Vatican II set forth a vision  
for a truly collegial Church.

But 50 years on, it still appears  
to be an institution dependent on  
centralism, legalism and control  
– with few structures  
for listening and dialogue,  
and often more concerned  
about its corporate image and self-interest  
than with the spirit of Christ.



CathFR seeks renewal  
of the governance,  
teachings and practices  
of the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ,  
which is called to bring forth  
God's loving reign of justice, peace,  
and good news for all people.

**Catholics for Renewal has acted to  
address the growing disconnect  
between the magisterium & the  
faithful in matters of ministry,  
authority & the following  
of Christ's teachings, including by:**

Issuing an Open Letter and Petition to  
Pope Benedict XVI and the Bishops of the  
Australian Church at the time of their 2011  
ad limina visit, calling for reform of the Church.  
The Petition was signed by some  
10,000 Australian Catholics

Proposing a national synod/plenary council  
for the Australian Church in 2015

Making a submission to the Victorian  
Parliamentary Inquiry into the handling  
of child abuse by religious and other  
non-government organizations, and providing  
evidence to that Inquiry in January, 2013

Developing a Call for Church Renewal  
with other groups committed to renewal  
and reform of the Australian Church

Issuing a statement of our purpose, the  
outcomes we are seeking from Church renewal  
and the values which guide our work.

Making submissions to the  
Royal Commission on Child Sexual Abuse.

Collaborating with other members of the  
Australian Catholic Coalition for Church  
Renewal, (*Statement printed on this brochure*)  
and Catholic Church Reform International,  
& much more, including submission to the  
5th Australian Plenary Council