

## **Sense of the Faithful website Newsletter No 3 - July 2020**

### **Efforts to publicise the new website**

Our committee has been calling parishes in Melbourne to promote the [Sense of the Faithful](#) website. Please ask your parish to put details of the website in their parish newsletter, as some parishes have done so already.

### **Additions to the website**

The new issues highlighted in the new material posted on the website are related to:

- the Plenary Council 2021,
- proposed changes to how the Church in Australia is governed, and
- overseas developments related to efforts within the Catholic Church to follow a synodal pathway.

### **Plenary Council 2021: where is it heading?**

Plenary Council, now due to take place in its first session between 3 to 10 October in Adelaide

Gerry McKernan and Peter Sheehan [The Plenary Council: Where to after Coronavirus?](#)

One is Rowan Ireland [Lifting the clouds on PC 2021](#)

Peter Sheehan asks [Can PC2020 be truly synodal?](#)

The new output of the PC Stage 2 is the publication of the [Thematic Papers](#) written by the Plenary Council's Writing and Discernment Groups. Each paper includes a range of recommendations that are well worth reading and debating via the Sense of the Faithful website. Here are the links to each of the six papers.

- [1. Missionary and Evangelising?](#)
- [2. Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal?](#)
- [3. Prayerful and Eucharistic?](#)
- [4. Humble, Healing and Merciful?](#)
- [5. A Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community?](#)
- [6. Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform?](#)

### **Reforms needed to how the Church in Australia is managed**

The third theme of the update to the website is an important report produced by lay Catholics with strong expertise and interest in ways to reform the governance and management of Catholic dioceses and parishes in Australia. The report is entitled:

***Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting co-responsible governance in the Catholic Church in Australia.***

A summary of the report focusing in the recommendations is available on the website [here as well as a link to the full report here.](#)

## Other articles recently uploaded to the website

- Vin Underwood [A few thoughts on parish renewal](#)
- The Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform released in April a [Communiqué to the Catholic Bishops and Religious Leaders of Australia](#).
- Geralyn Anderson [A Mothers Love](#)
- Another article will be posted soon on the role of women in the Church

## Relevant happenings from overseas

- Bruce Duncan on [Pope Francis, the Amazon Synod and Australia](#)
- News of Germany and its synodal process. [New leader of German bishops signals no retreat from progressive line](#)

## Call for more debate within the Church

A call for reform of the Church in how it operates has come from a group of 11 prominent lay Catholics in France, led by the former head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 1987 to 2000. According to La Croix ([6 July](#)), the call has come in the form of a 56-page ebook: [Transformer l'Eglise catholique](#). The book is a response to Pope Francis' invitation in 2018 to "change the Catholic Church", made in his [Letter to the People of God](#).

The book makes a strong plea for changes in ecclesial structures. The authors invite all members of the Church, lay and ordained alike, to discuss and resolve the issues of concern. The authors point out that formerly these issues were 'widely debated in the media, that is to say outside the Church and in a manner that is too rapid', because they could not be debated inside the Church. But they note discussions on these topics have now become more a part of ordinary church life, especially since the pope issued his Letter to the People of God.

## New book on Vatican II

Fr Ormond Rush, the head of Saint Paul's theological College in Queensland, has a new book out on Vatican II called *Vision of Vatican II: Its Fundamental Principles*. It is published by [Garratt Publishing](#) in hard cover or as a less expensive ebook on Amazon Kindle. See [here](#) for a short summary, and a longer [review](#). The author has been [interviewed](#) recently on the ABC's Religion and Ethics Programme.