



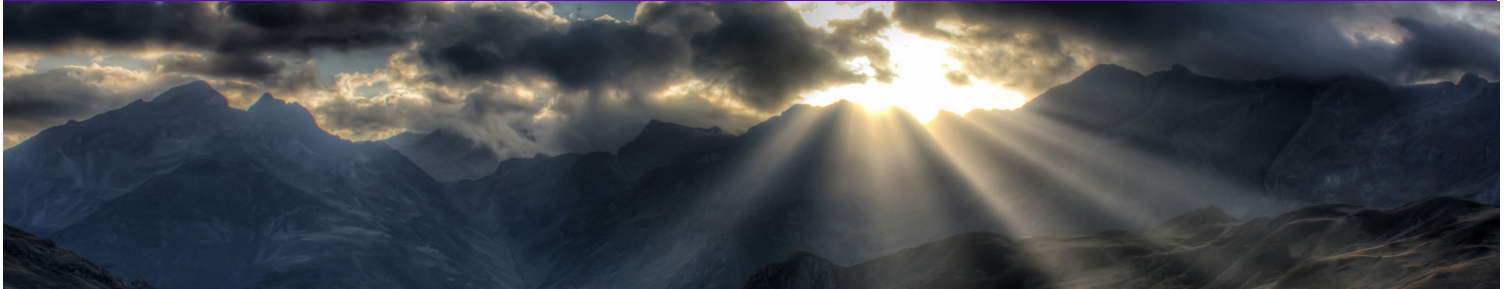
Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore

Serving the communities of

St Leonard's Naremburn, St Philip Neri Northbridge, St Thomas' Willoughby
Twinned with the Parish of Letefoho, Timor Leste

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Cammeraygal and the Wallumedegal peoples, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this Country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Second Sunday of Lent Year B – 28 February 2021



TRANSFIGURED BODYSOULS

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

CALLING VOLUNTEERS FOR AN EASTER LETTERBOX DROP

Easter is a time of togetherness and this Easter the Parish has created a bookmark designed to bring our local community together. The bookmark includes a special Easter message and mass details for Easter.

We are looking for volunteers to help distribute the bookmarks to households in our local area. Distribution to households will be at the end of March and if you are interested in volunteering please email your contact details to PMC@lms.org.au to register. There will also be a volunteer sign up sheet at the back of the church.

This can be a family activity, using the time together to reflect on Easter.

For any questions please contact the Parish office.



"Next weekend, 6-7 March, LETS will be holding the first collection for 2021. We are continuing to raise funds for the current ongoing projects for Letefoho. These include the completion of the Boys Boarding House – for Year 12 students and other students who live more than a 2 hours walk from school. Secondly, we are endeavouring to build-up the Tertiary Education Scholarship Fund to support students who achieve tertiary institution admission, but who do not have individual sponsors. Thirdly, our general support is given to specifically identified Letefoho Parish needs, for example, last year we purchased a photocopier for the school and one for the Parish. Thank you all, for your continued wonderful support of the people of Letefoho. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated! Lao ho Maromak."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Recently Deceased: Bishop Bede Heather (1st Bishop of Parramatta) & Giovanni Silvio.

Anniversaries: Norman Thomas Behm, Joon Barling, Noreen Brooks & Yanto Theodorus.

Deceased: Fr Basil Rosen & Donko Donjerkovic.

Sick: Donato Manapat, Dale Davidson & Giulietta Cangelli.





PROJECT COMPASSION

Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf

students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

PROJECT COMPASSION VIRTUAL IMMERSIONS

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff.

Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to lent.caritas.org.au.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING We would all be well aware of the stringent measures imposed by the Government to combat the spread of Covid19 and protect the lives of people especially the elderly. It would seem inconceivable that the Government could at the same time consider legislation directed at ending the lives of the feeble elderly or terminally ill. Yet this is what is being proposed by advocates of euthanasia. There have been recent announcements by at least one member of NSW Parliament about an intention to draft fresh legislation this year concerning "Voluntary Assisted Dying" laws. This is the same process that led to the horrendous abortion law passed in 2020. Petition against Euthanasia available at the back of the church. To read the entire article please go the online version of the Parish bulletin www.bbcatholic.org.au/Ins

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Brian Moloney PP

Assistant Priest

Rev Fr Biju Mathew

Rev Fr Chima Ofor

RNSH Chaplain

Rev Fr Peter Dowd

Deacon

Rev Dr. Anthony Gooley

Seminarian Appointed

Rosan Mathew

Parish Missionary Council

Chair: Bev Jones

pmc@Ins.org.au

Parish Office

182 High St, Willoughby

P: 9958 8846

E: office@Ins.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/Ins

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Parish Secretaries

Caitlin Douglas

Katrina Chemello

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Jessica Bousimon

Director of Liturgical Music

Lisa Lewis

Catechist Co-ordinator

Aida Moore

St Leonard's Church

Cnr Donnelly & Willoughby Rds

Naremburn

St Philip Neri Church

224 Sailors Bay Rd

Northbridge

St Thomas' Church

Cnr Horsley Ave & High St

Willoughby

St Philip Neri Primary School

67 Baringa Rd, Northbridge

Principal: Fiona Bylsma

9958 7136

St Thomas' Primary School

2 Horsley Ave, Willoughby

Principal: Jenny McKeown

9958 7308

Payroll Giving | Charitable Works Fund

Easy, pre-tax giving to your favourite causes.

Contributions to the Diocese of Broken Bay Charitable Works Fund are now available through **Payroll Giving**.

Payroll Giving as a very simple and effective way to donate. It's a secure way for employees to make regular or one-off donations via their salary. Those who donate in this way instantly receive their tax-deduction.

Many employers also offer generous **donation matching** eg: a gift of \$30 per month is matched by the employer and your donation becomes \$60.

Many well-known companies offer the scheme – such as Westpac, NAB, Australia Post, PwC, St George, NRMA, Toyota, Sydney Water, Citibank, Macquarie Bank – and many others. Details of such matching schemes will be available from your employer.

One of the first Diocese of Broken Bay parishioners to use the scheme made a generous donation of \$2,400 that was matched into \$4,800 for CWF.

Setting up Payroll Giving is easy.

The first step is to contact your employer's HR or Payroll team who can set it up. CWF is registered with www.good2give.ngo who facilitate Payroll giving scheme.

If you have any questions on Payroll Giving to CWF, please contact David Armstrong, David.armstrong@bbcatholic.org.au, 02 8379 1664 who can assist.

Webinar: Engaging Seekers - Reaching the Unchurched

Wednesday, 3 March – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

In the current pandemic, people are spiritually curious. Many are asking who is in control of their lives, and what the purpose of life is. People are seeking to find the truth and many churches are in prime positions to offer them a place to search and provide answers to their deepest longings. Join Kevin Bailey and Donna Brennan (Alpha in a Catholic context co-ordinator for Alpha Australia) as we explore and discuss innovative ways to reach people and bring them to a beautiful experience with Jesus.

[Register here](#) or visit divinerenovation.org

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis
The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

BARTELS FAMILY GROUP

Dinner Sunday 14 March 6pm
Attimo Italian Restaurant
Sailors Bay Rd BYO Reply by
11 March Kerrie 9958 8837

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 115:10, 15-19, R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
(R.)

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Baptism this Weekend

Nicholas Hong & Sebastian Hill



Welcome!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us for Stations of the cross each week during Lent.

Tuesday 7pm St Leonards

Fridays 9:15am St Philip Neri

Fridays 7pm St Thomas'

All Welcome!

WEEK DAY READINGS

MON Dan 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

TUES Is 1: 10, 16-20; Mt 23: 1-12

WED Jer 18: 18-20; Mt 20: 17-28

THUR Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16: 19-31

FRI Gen 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28;

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

SAT Micah 7:14-15, 18-20;

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

WEEKEND MASSES	CHURCH	CLERGY 6 & 7 March
Sat 5:00pm	St Philip Neri	Fr Brian
Sat 6:00pm	St Thomas'	Fr Chima
Sun 8:00am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 9:00am	St Philip Neri	Fr Biju
Sun 9:30am	St Thomas'	Fr Brian
Sun 10:30am	St Leonard's	Fr Biju
Sun 6:00pm	St Leonard's	Fr Chima
Sun 4:00pm	RNSH	Fr Peter

RECONCILIATION

St Leonard's Church

Sat: 9:30am - 9:45am

St Thomas' Church

Sat: 5:15pm - 5:45pm

St Philip Neri Church

Sat: 4:45pm

- Please remember to sanitise hands on your way into Mass.
- Sit 1.5m away from others.
- Follow the distance stickers on pews and for communion.

WEEKDAY	CHURCH
Mon 9:00am	St Thomas'
Mon 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Tue 9:00am	St Thomas'
Tue 9:00am	St Leonard's
Wed 9:00am	St Thomas'
Wed 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Thu 9:00am	St Leonard's
Thu 9:00am	St Thomas'
Thu 1:00pm	RNSH
Fri 9:00am	St Thomas'
Fri 9:15am	St Philip Neri
Fri 1:00pm	RNSH
Sat 9:00am	St Thomas'
Sat 9:00am	St Leonard's

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Takes place 2nd Tuesday of each month 11am & 3rd Tuesday at 7pm Parish Office. Forms are available from the back of each Church, or our website.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH

If you would like to purchase a memorial plaque for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM

St Leonard's Church: 12:00noon

4th Sunday of the month

St Philip Neri Church: 12:00noon

2nd Sunday of the month

St Thomas' Church: 10:45am

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

ADORATION

Tuesdays after 9:00am Mass at St Thomas' Willoughby concluding with Benediction at 10:30am.

School Term Only

Nicholas Maurer J.P.
0417 202 645
office@maurerfunerals.com.au



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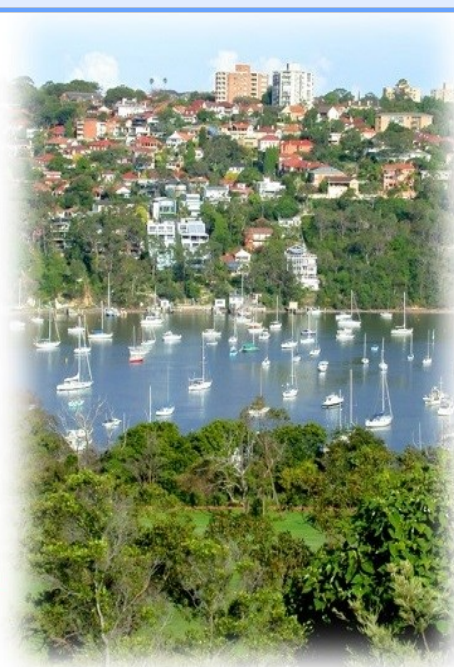
Tuesday to Sunday

Dinner on Friday night.

The Harbourview @ Northbridge Golf Club - 296c Sailors Bay Rd Northbridge

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Website: Harbourviewdining.com.au



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Covid19 and the Protection of life

We would all be well aware of the stringent measures imposed by the Government to combat the spread of Covid19 and protect the lives of people especially the elderly. It would seem inconceivable that the Government could at the same time consider legislation directed at ending the lives of the feeble elderly or terminally ill. Yet this is what is being proposed by advocates of euthanasia. There have been recent announcements by at least one member of NSW Parliament about an intention to draft fresh legislation this year concerning "Voluntary Assisted Dying" laws. This is the same process that led to the horrendous abortion law passed in 2020.

We believe it is not the role of Government to determine which lives are worth living and which are not. While Governments have the power to make laws they do not have moral authority to say which lives are expendable and which lives should be protected.

History gives us many examples of instances of certain sections of the population being regarded as sub-human and dispensable. Instances of this include human sacrifice, slavery, the holocaust, ethnic cleansing and genocide all of which we would rightly regard as repulsive and utterly evil. Yet our contemporary society has already seen fit to enshrine in law the right to terminate the lives of unborn babies, being one of the most vulnerable sections of our population - why doesn't this place our contemporary society in a comparable situation to those mentioned above?

Catholics recognize the human person as being made in the "image and likeness of God", a body/soul composite endowed by God with enormous dignity and destined for eternal union with Him. This applies to all human beings from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and allows for no exception based on development, physical or mental capacity, race or gender. For Catholics a death as a result of the coronavirus is a tragedy but certainly no more a tragedy than the death of an unborn baby through abortion or the loss of any human life through so-called "Voluntary Assisted Dying" laws that have already been enacted in other parts of Australia.

In the case of euthanasia, some people will argue for a further exception from the prohibition against the taking of human life on the basis that it provides an escape from illness and suffering. However given that suffering is experienced at all stages of life these arguments by proponents of euthanasia in effect regard *life* itself as the problem. Hence they have no solution other than terminating a life. The consequences of this position carried to its natural end have been seen in countries where euthanasia has been extended even to children.

Those advocating for euthanasia fail to address what happens after death because they may not recognize God and His dominion over life both earthly and eternal of which the latter must be of paramount concern to Christians. Nevertheless we can certainly help them understand that whilst Christians possess no means of eradicating suffering we will always extend love, compassion and care to the suffering and dying person and will continue to advocate for Government and charitable support for palliative care rather than any "quick fix" of euthanasia which far from recognizing the dignity of the human person completely undermines it.

Additionally, and most importantly, Christians are able to accommodate themselves to suffering by associating it with the salvific suffering and death of Jesus Christ.



** For a full treatment of the issue of Euthanasia and Voluntary Assisted Dying - see Reflections by Rev Dr David Ranson, Parish Priest of Chatswood, (Reflection 3) - [Reflections by Rev Dr David Ranson | St Agatha's Catholic Church Pennant Hills](#)

Please ensure you sign the Petition [in the foyer of the church.](#)

Parish Secretary, Pymble Catholic Parish – Part Time

Pymble Catholic Parish is seeking to recruit a part time Parish Secretary (32 hours per week). This key role provides support in general administration, parish financial and bookkeeping processes, visitor and telephone reception, communications, records and archives maintenance, meeting and event organisation, and compliance requirements. The ideal candidate will have excellent people and office administration skills; excellent Microsoft Office and MYOB skills, and database experience. You'll also have a good understanding of, and commitment to, Catholic values and teachings. Previous experience in a similar position would be essential.

For the full position description, see the [Parish website](#).

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send a current CV and cover letter outlining your previous experience and suitability for the role to info@pymblecatholicparish.org.au. Applications close: Tuesday, 9 March 2021.

The successful applicant must have the right to work in Australia and will be required to undertake a National Police History Check and Working With Children Check.

Parish Secretary, Frenchs Forest Catholic Parish – Full Time

Frenchs Forest Catholic Parish is seeking to recruit a full time Parish Secretary. This key role provides support in visitor and telephone reception, communications, records and archives maintenance, general administration, financial processes, meeting and event organisation, and compliance requirements.

The ideal candidate will have excellent people and office administration skills; excellent Microsoft Office skills and database experience. You'll also have a good understanding of, and commitment to, Catholic values and teachings. Previous experience in a similar position would be well regarded.

For further details, see the Diocesan website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant Applications close: Monday, 8 March.

The successful applicant must have the right to work in Australia and will be required to undertake a National Police History Check and Working With Children Check.

Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage.

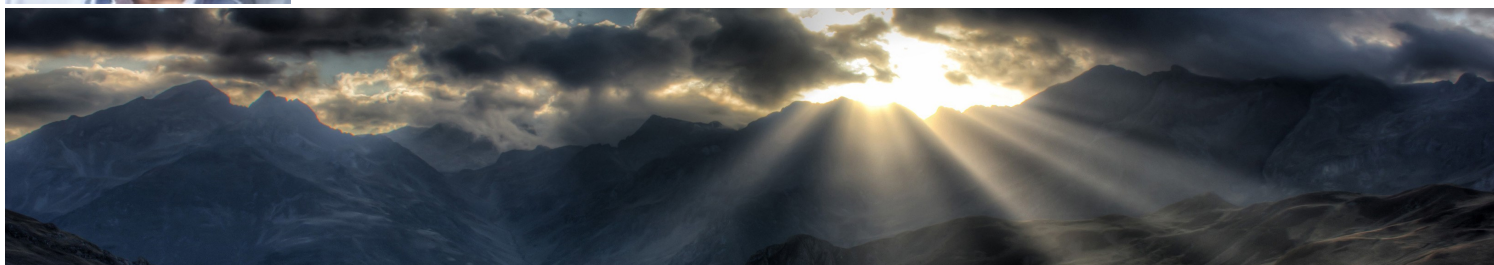
The Broken Bay Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information, please phone the Tribunal Office on **9307 8309** or email tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au



This gospel of the Transfiguration is the one the Church always places for our consideration on the second Sunday of Lent. Why? So that we are comforted at the prospect of what God wants us to enjoy, so that we find God's own vitality and grace filled presence renews and refreshes us and so that our hope is renewed. To listen to the entire reflection, go to

<https://ucanews.simplecast.com/episodes>



Welcome to Plenary Post

There are just 219 days until the opening of the first assembly of the Plenary Council. And while there is a sense of déjà vu about that, with significant preparations taking place early last year before the assemblies were delayed by 12 months, there's also renewed energy -- some of which is captured in the stories below.

As you will read, another milestone has been reached, with today's release of *Continuing the Journey*, the working document -- or *instrumentum laboris* -- for the Plenary Council. The document draws from the richness of the voices of the People of God, captured during the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases, as well as papal writings, bishops' statements and key documents from within and beyond Church to inform the Plenary Council journey.

In addition to the document itself, a new podcast series featuring interviews with those on the writing team for *Continuing the Journey* and a reflection guide might be helpful. The reflection guide, which is a continuation of the guides at other stages of this journey, invites people to pray and discern with the document individually or in small groups. Our journey is national, but the local reflection has proven to be a source of great fruit.

There's much more to read about below. Keep an eye out for future editions of PlenaryPost on the last Thursday of each month through 2021. Send suggestions on local content that can be included to plenary.council@catholic.org.au

REFORMING THE CHURCH AND AUSTRALIA'S PLENARY COUNCIL A LONGTIME PRIEST IN MELBOURNE SAYS NEXT AUTUMN'S PLENARY COUNCIL MUST ADDRESS FOUR KEY AREAS IF IT WANTS TO RENEW AND ENLIVEN THE CHURCH.

By Terry Kean | The Catholic Church in Australia had hoped to commence a Plenary Council last October. Unfortunately, it was postponed for at least another year because of COVID-19. But the issues the Council will have as its focus have probably only become more urgent. As to how we will regather as a Church, not only in Australia, but across the world, is a question that all of us will find very challenging.

I recently wrote to the committee that is preparing the *Instrumentum Laboris -- or working paper* -- for the Council. And the following is, more or less, what I shared with them. I am a diocesan priest nearing retirement after 50 years of parish ministry in Melbourne Archdiocese.

I have loved the journey and I am very grateful for the Catholic Church of Melbourne. However, a deep sadness has grown within me as I see the diminishment of the Church and the increasing numbers of parishioners who do not come to Eucharist. Or if they come, it is more for special occasions.

I have lamented the terrible actions of priests and religious who have abused young people. And I have also lamented what I see as a growing clericalism with our Church. So many of my priest colleagues lead with power and authority, rather than with empowering and authorizing.

Confident that the Spirit of God will lead the Church to a new story

In thinking about the Plenary Council, I have to say that I am not confident there will be the great change that I think is necessary for the Church of the future.

I fear that our bishops will look to manage rather than imagine a Church of the future. It seems to me that we will not change much and for that reason I think the Catholic Church --- not only here in Australia, but around the world -- will shatter and from the pieces a new story will begin.

Who knows what that will look like, but I am confident that the Spirit of God will lead the new story wherever it takes us. And I imagine it will be a very different story from what we have experienced in our lifetime. It is more than likely that the Catholic Church will have a major schism. In some ways this is already happening as more and more people find other ways of expressing their spirituality.

If the institutional Church seeks to control, legislate and manage a difficult situation as it tries to negotiate the views of so-called conservative and liberal Catholics, then I believe the Plenary Council will not achieve much, if anything.

As it stands, the vote rests primarily in the hands of the bishops and there is a serious question as to a governance that so limits the voice of the faithful. But if the institutional Church seeks to empower the voice of the faithful, and encourages small communities of people to come together, largely making their own way, then the needed reforms may arise.

The necessary reforms to empower a priesthood of the people and a more creative and compassionate Church might then be born. This would allow for a vision of seminary training focused on personal and pastoral development and within an apprentice-style context. Somehow it seems to me, that the new story of Church will grow out of the ashes of the old Church and begin like it once began, with the coming together of small communities.

I do not advocate the end of the Church as institution, for we need an institution that leads, enables and authorizes the way to be Church today. And we have Pope Francis who is such an inspiration in leading our Church.

But, in my view, we are being called by the Spirit to step into an even more uncertain time and allow the creativity and energy of the faithful to lead us into the future, even if there is schism and shattering.

Having said this by way of preamble, let me put forward some of the issues that I think our Plenary Council must address if we can find a way to renew and enliven the Australian Church.

There are four areas I would particularly like to address: Outreach to the Poor and Marginalized, Clericalism and Governance, Climate Change and Eucharist. Outreach to the poor and marginalized.

First and foremost, if the Catholic Church is to be credible, we have to look outwards. We already have a resource to that. It is Catholic social teaching, often regarded as the Church's best kept secret.

The first principle of this teaching insists on the "dignity of every single person, created in the image and likeness of God". Pope Francis in his recent encyclical *Fratelli tutti* has very clearly insisted on this principle, in a section titled "A Universal Love that Promotes Persons" (FT, 106-111). With the Gospel as our mandate and Catholic Social Teaching as our guide, our reaching out to the poor and marginalized of our world must be at the heart of our purpose.

The more I pray the Gospel, the more I see Jesus as engaged with the poor, the sick and the broken -- the marginalized. If we as a Church proclaim to be the story of Jesus in our world today, this is where we must be.

Unfortunately, I see our institutional Church as far too uninvolved and silent in speaking up for the poorest in our world. Here in Australia, I think especially of asylum seekers.

I do acknowledge that there are wonderful Catholic organizations and communities who really make a difference to the poorest among us, but as a Church collective, we have so much more to do.

There will be some critics who say that everyone must do this, whether they are a Church person or not. And they will point out that there are many other organizations and charities who do this as well, if not better than us.

True enough. But if we take our inspiration and energy from our belief in the Risen Jesus among us, I think we will have something to offer in partnership with these organizations and charities.

We are not separate people from our world; rather, we are called to engage with it.

Clericalism and Governance

My second point focuses on what I perceive as the growing clericalism in a Church, where the separation between priests and lay people seems only to widen. There are far too many horror stories of priest "ruling the roost", so to speak, and of leading parishes without consulting with people.

In addition, it is very obvious that priesthood, as we know it in Australia, is dying. More and more parishes are partnering and or amalgamating because of the priest shortage and the ageing of priests.

Also, fewer and fewer people are coming to Eucharist. It seems to me it's because the Catholic Church has an abuse story that has scandalized its members. It's also because its leadership "male top heavy" and does not give women their rightful place in governance and in presiding over liturgy. We must find ways to heal, to be more inclusive and relevant. Otherwise, we will become fewer and fewer, older and older. And we will find ourselves more and more irrelevant.

Climate change

My third point concerns climate change and the care of the earth. There are still so many people, including Catholics, who have their head in the sand and cannot see the diminishment of the earth's resources and how the human race contributes to this situation.

Pope Francis has given us a wonderful document in *Laudato si'* that calls us to reflection and engagement. In the parish where I still work full time as priest, I remember a woman named Barbara once rang me. She was from the Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group and asked, "Is the pope's document for Catholics only or is there any way where we can all come together as Montmorency communities?"

Without detailing what happened, let me just say that for two years we gathered as various communities and organizations around Montmorency to discuss *Laudato si'* and as a result some excellent initiatives have evolved. If we don't take climate change to heart and do something that is substantial in response, we will continue to lose credibility, especially with young people. We will also be contributing to the destruction of our planet.

If, on the other hand, we partner with others, especially the young, no matter their religious affiliation, we may well find a new engagement with our faith communities.

Eucharist

My fourth point concerns the celebration of Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council stated that Eucharist is the "source and summit (fons et culmen) of the whole Christian life" (*Lumen gentium*, 11). I truly believe this. And for all my 50 years, the Eucharist has always been the center of my Catholic expression of prayer and action.

However, Eucharist is not the source and summit for many -- perhaps even most -- Catholics. There may well be occasions when these people come to Eucharist, but it is no longer an obligation for them and so many of them find it irrelevant and uninspiring. I don't want to wish a return to insisting on obligation, but it seems to me that we have to think differently and offer a variety of prayer experiences that allow increased participation for those who come.

I cannot see the ordination of women and their presiding over Eucharist as a likely scenario for some time to come. But maybe a step in the right direction is to have women -- and non-ordained men -- preside over non-Eucharist gatherings.

Of course, this is already permissible. But our insistence as Catholics on the Eucharist and the presence of the priest, has meant we have not encouraged other expressions of liturgy as well as we could have encouraged them.

Such other liturgies can be more creative and less tied to rules and regulations as in our Eucharists. And thank goodness, we will be able to avoid the awful "new texts" that, in my opinion, have distanced the Eucharist from the lives of people

here are many other points I could write about, like our engagement as Church in social media, but I will leave that to others who are better informed.

Finally, let me just say that, in my view, the institution will not be the one to reform the Catholic Church. It will be up to the Spirit of God to lead Church members to a new story.

Terry Kean has been a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for nearly 50 years. This article was originally published in *The Swag*, the magazine of the National Council of Priests for Australia (NCP).

Read more at: <https://international.la-croix.com/news/religion/reforming-the-church-and-australias-plenary-council/13838>

...and for a giggle...

Church Ladies with Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank G-d for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually (supposedly) appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' the sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.