

CONCERNED CATHOLICS Canberra-Goulburn

Public Forum

7:30pm Thursday 28 November 2019

The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
15 Blackall Street Barton ACT

In the lead up to the 2020 Plenary Council we are taking a close look at local governance with a view to contributing to archdiocesan discussions and to ongoing Plenary Council processes.

New Wine – New Wine Skins

FRANCIS SULLIVAN

Parish Pastoral Councils – Building Blocks for Governance

PHIL BILLINGTON - Facilitator

JOHN WARHURST AO – Chair

Panellists: Jacinta Carroll, Judy Netting, Mary Dorrian & Mgr John Woods

This forum follows a consultation evening with a number of parish pastoral councils within the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese on issues including governance; review; transparency; collaboration between clergy and laity; accountability and authentic, trained leadership. The evening will focus on table discussions and responses to Archdiocesan & Plenary Council processes.

CONTEXT PAPER

Participants are encouraged to read the context paper available on the CCCG website. www.concernedcatholicscanberra.org

All are welcome. Supper provided.

*Overnight billeting is available for rural and interstate visitors to Canberra
(Contact rod@rodpage.com)*

Contact Mark Metherell 0417 603 697

MEDIA RELEASE

Parish pastoral councils - building blocks of future church

11 October 2019

Parish pastoral councils should be established in every parish, a process which should be central to improving church governance structures.

This and other themes which focused on the future of the church emerged from discussions with a number of parish pastoral councils in the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese last night, hosted by Concerned Catholics and facilitated by Jacinta Carroll from the Bungendore Parish.

Speaking shortly after the forum which was held in the Parish of the Transfiguration in Curtin, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn Chair, Professor John Warhurst AO said the feedback will contribute to a broader public forum to be hosted by Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn on 28 November this year.

Forty delegates attended last night from Batemans Bay, Queanbeyan and Bungendore, Cooma and Yass, and from a number of parishes in Canberra. Attendees included a number of parish priests, members of parish pastoral councils, and members of Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn.

Discussion focused on issues affecting parishes, but broader issues were also heard which impact on the relevance and credibility of the church in the Australian community.

Emerging themes include:

- The need to re-engage with the basic principles of our faith;
- Many Catholics are not practicing their faith because of increasing conservatism in the Church and a focus on exclusion, rules and regulations;
- The diminishing number of priests and the consequent lack of pastoral care;
- All roles should be open to women including as priests and deacons;
- Former priests who left the church to marry should be welcomed back;
- Lay people should be able to host the liturgy in the absence of an available priest;
- Parish pastoral councils should be structured to enable cross-parish engagement;
- Parishes can initiate significant change without waiting for the Plenary Council

A full report of the evening's proceedings is available and has been sent to the parishes which participated. A context paper is being prepared and will be available ahead of the general public forum to be held in Canberra on Thursday 28 November.

Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn Submission to the Plenary Council is available [here](#).