

## **Sense of the Faithful website Newsletter One**

After the distractions of the lockdown, we can now announce the official launch of the Sense of the Faithful website at: [www.senseofthefaithful.org.au](http://www.senseofthefaithful.org.au). The website hopefully explains our purpose and invites your contribution in whatever way you can.

Please pass this email onto others you think may be interested.

Please also give us your feedback about the website and subscribe to receive newsletters through the email account we have set up at [senseofthefaithful@gmail.com](mailto:senseofthefaithful@gmail.com) (also on the website).

We look forward in these dark days to hearing from you and others you can connect us to about the longer term issues we want the Plenary Council 2020 to address.

We hope to post an article soon on what the coronavirus means for the PC 2020.

Many thanks

## **Sense of the Faithful website Newsletter No 2**

The sense of the faithful website has been [updated](#). We have added new themes we are hoping readers will respond to. Under [urgent current issues](#), we now have five topics open for discussion:

1. How can we advance the role of women in the Church?
2. Can the Plenary Council (PC) become truly representative?
3. How should the PC response to the environmental crisis?
4. The Church and the Plenary Council after coronavirus
5. What is happening in Australian Catholic parishes?

Under the first theme, Jacinta Bright has written about [Pastoral Associates under Threat](#). Mary Cameron discusses her experience over thirty five years as a Pastoral Associate in her article [The Voice of Women in the Church](#).

Peter Sheehan asks whether the [Plenary Council can be truly synodal](#), as the lead into the second theme.

The third theme is discussed by Bruce Duncan under the title [Pope Francis, the Amazon Synod and Australia](#). Pat Long has written about Earth, [Our Common Home: a call to cherish and preserve the only home we have](#).

For the fourth theme, Gerry McKernan and Peter Sheehan have provided important insights on the question: [The Plenary Council: Where to after Coronavirus?](#)

The final theme is What is happening in Australian Catholic parishes? The two contributions here to start a discussion are Richard Curtain's [How is the parish faring within the Australian Church?](#) and John Davies' [What Makes St Joseph's a Special Parish](#).

We hope that this report will stimulate a discussion of what is happening in your parish. It may also serve as a model for other reports which we can post on the website.

We have also added other reference documents the website. We have added a recent joint statement by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahamad al-Tayyib entitled '[Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#)'. The statement was a product of the Pope's visit to the United Arab Emirates, 3-5 February 2019.

Another new inclusion is a [statement](#) dated 7 April 2020 by the leaders of Australian Catholics service agencies, Religious Orders and Bishops about the need for more and better social protection for marginalised groups in the community who are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.

We have also added [A Communiqué to the Catholic Bishops and Religious Leaders of Australia](#) by the Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, April 2020.

[Support asylum seekers and refugees in face of COVID-19.](#) Media release from the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia Inc. April 2020

[It's time to get Australia's offshore detainees to safety.](#) Media release from The Office for Social Justice, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Dec 2019.

We look forward to hearing from you.