

NEW BOOK 'GETTING BACK ON MISSION'

Reforming Our Church Together "a realistic, hopeful and authentically Catholic roadmap for the forthcoming Australian Plenary Council"-Frank Brennan SJ, AO

Getting Back on Mission: Reforming Our Church Together, is authored by a committed group of Catholics seeking renewal of their Church – **Catholics for Renewal**. They are one of the many grassroots groups that have formed across Australia in response to the Catholic Church's need for reform.

Getting Back on Mission builds on Catholics for Renewal's submission to the Catholic Plenary Council 2020. The Church has declined to make Plenary Council 2020 submissions publicly available.

The many Catholics who are wanting genuine reform of their Church, are looking to the Plenary Council 2020 with great interest. Getting Back on Mission, not only makes public Catholics for Renewal's own submission and includes their supporting arguments based in theological text, but also details the Plenary Council process and procedures.

Cardinal George Pell loses appeal of sex abuse conviction

By Ed Condon and JD Flynn

The conviction of Cardinal George Pell has been upheld by the Court of Appeals in Victoria. After an appellate panel announced its decision at a court proceeding Aug. 21, the cardinal was returned to prison.

"By majority (2 to 1), the Court of Appeals has dismissed Cardinal George Pell's appeal against his conviction for the commission of sexual offences. He will continue to serve his sentence of 6 years' imprisonment. He will remain eligible to apply for parole after he has served 3 years 8 months of his sentence," Chief Justice Anne Ferguson said in her opening remarks in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

"The offences in respect of which Cardinal Pell was found guilty by a County Court jury were one charge of sexual penetration of a child under 16, and four charges of indecent act with a child under 16. The trial lasted for five weeks. The jury deliberated for several days. The jury's verdict was unanimous," Ferguson noted.

Pell stood stoic in the prisoner's dock while the decision was explained. His hands were not cuffed, but he was flanked by four security guards. He was dressed in clerical garb, rather than the prison uniform which he is now likely to wear for at least the next three years.

He faced the bench as the judges explained their decision, with his hands at his side. In a break from his usual custom, Pell did not take notes as his conviction was upheld.

In a statement released hours after the decision was announced, Pell's spokesperson, Katrina Lee, wrote that "Cardinal Pell is obviously disappointed with the decision today."

"However his legal team will thoroughly examine the judgement in order to determine a special leave application to the High Court," Lee added. "While noting the 2-1 split decision, Cardinal Pell maintains his innocence." "We thank his many supporters." For her part, Judge Ferguson noted that: "Cardinal Pell's conviction and this appeal have attracted widespread attention, both in Australia and beyond. He is a senior figure in the Catholic Church and is internationally well known." "As the trial judge, Chief Judge Kidd, commented when sentencing Cardinal Pell, there has been vigorous and sometimes emotional criticism of the cardinal and he has been publicly vilified in some sections of the community." "There has also been strong public support for the Cardinal by others. Indeed, it is fair to say that his case has divided the community."

The cardinal was convicted Dec. 11, 2018, on five charges that he sexually abused two altar servers after Sunday Mass while he was Archbishop of Melbourne in 1996 and 1997. CNA reported last year that his initial trial, bound by a gag order, ended in a mistrial; this fact was confirmed by Ferguson in the Aug. 21 proceeding.

The cardinal, who remains an archbishop and a member of the College of Cardinals, was returned to prison immediately after court adjourned. He has been held in solitary confinement for 176 days. Pell is not permitted to celebrate Mass in prison.

He may now be transferred from the intake and evaluation facility at which he is currently being held to a different prison in Victoria. Pell's appeal was dismissed on all three grounds the defense presented.

Judges were divided on Pell's first ground of appeal, regarding the question of whether the evidence presented against Pell was unreasonable and impossible.

At particular issue was the question of whether Pell's liturgical vestments could have been moved or lifted in the way described by the complainant, who alleged that Pell exposed himself and forced two boys to commit sex acts while he was fully vested in his Mass garb. While the defense argued that such an action would have been physically impossible, two of the appellate judges decided that was matter legitimately decided by the jury.

The judges were unanimous in dismissing two other grounds, regarding procedural matters: one that alleged Pell's arraignment did not follow protocol, and the other raising a complaint that an animation of the cathedral where Pell was alleged to have sexually abused to choir boys was not permitted to be shown during closing arguments.

Ferguson, Justice Chris Maxwell, and Justice Mark Weinberg, delivered their verdict in a packed Courtroom 15 at the Victoria Supreme Court. Twenty-six accredited journalists and some 60 members of the public heard the judges' decision announced Wednesday morning. Pell's brother David, the cardinal's former communications director, Katrina Lee, and the chancellor of the archdiocese of Sydney, Chris Meaney were all among the crowd.

Ferguson said the judges had reached the decision after each of them had watched a video of the evidence given by 12 of the 24 witnesses who appeared in the trial.

"Each of the judges has read [the trial] transcript, some parts of it multiple times," Ferguson added, referring to the more than 2,000 pages of documents related to the trial.

The session opened with Justice Wienberg registering his dissent from the majority opinion, saying that while he agreed with the other judges in rejecting the second and third grounds of appeal, which were technical and procedural complaints, he did not agree that the jury's finding of guilt could have been beyond reasonable doubt on the evidence presented. Ferguson and Maxwell concluded otherwise.

"Where the unreasonableness ground is relied upon, the task for the appeal court is to decide whether, on the whole of the evidence, it was open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the accused was guilty," Ferguson explained. "Having reviewed the whole of the evidence, two of the judges... decided that it was open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt," Ferguson said.

"In other words, those judges decided that there was nothing about the complainant's evidence, or about the opportunity evidence, which meant that the jury 'must have had a doubt.'" Ferguson said that Weinberg's dissenting opinion found that the evidence of the single accuser "contained discrepancies, displayed inadequacies, and otherwise lacked probative value so as to cause him to have a doubt as to [Pell's] guilt," and called the accuser's account of the second incident of abuse "entirely implausible and quite unconvincing."

"In Justice Weinberg's view there was a significant body of cogent and, in some cases, impressive evidence suggesting that the complainant's account was, in a realistic sense, 'impossible' to accept."

"Nevertheless," Ferguson concluded, "the appeal on the unreasonableness ground was dismissed because the other two judges took a different view of the facts."

Since Pell was first accused of sexually abusing minors, the cardinal has maintained his innocence.

Pell has one further avenue open in petitioning the Australian High Court in Canberra. Such an effort is expected by legal experts to offer very slim chance of success, given the appeal court result. Pell's lawyers have said that he will not petition for a shorter sentence. The cardinal, 78, is expected now to face a Vatican proceeding regarding the possibility that he has committed canonical crimes.

The Bishops realise that this has been and remains a most difficult time for survivors of child sexual abuse and those who support them. We acknowledge the pain that those abused by clergy have experienced through the long process of the trials and appeal of Cardinal Pell. We also acknowledge that this judgement will be distressing to many people.

We remain committed to doing everything we can to bring healing to those who have suffered greatly and to ensuring that Catholic settings are the safest possible places for all people, but especially for children and vulnerable adults.

PRAYERS OF BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

The Mission of My Life God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him,

in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends.

He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me.

Still, He knows what He is about.

Prayer 2

May the Lord support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Jesus Prayer Dear Jesus

Help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,
that my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me

that every soul I come in contact with

may feel Your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus!

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,

so to shine as to be a light to others;

The light, O Jesus will be all from You;

none of it will be mine;

It will be you shining on others through me.

GOOD SAMS ON SCIENCE-RELIGION DIALOGUE

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan have entered into an agreement with the Faith Ecology Network to support the continued mission of strengthening interfaith dialogue between science and religion. In a time where many consider science and religion to be on opposite ends of the spectrum, FEN offers a forum for the two disciplines to learn from the other and engage in respectful dialogue.

The Faith Ecology Network started in 2003, when the Columban Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice organised an event, themed around "wonder" and the "will to care". A number of faith traditions attended and engaged in the inaugural seminar and since that time, FEN's vision of multiple faith traditions sharing their insights in response to scientific dialogue has continued.

Anne Lanyon, Coordinator of the FEN says.

"The model that FEN has always used when getting people together is to have scientific input, Each of our events has followed the model of an ecological scientist introducing a topic, followed by responses from different faith perspectives "

FEN is an Australian hub, which serves to connect people, including Catholic, Baha'i, Anglican, Uniting Church, Salvation Army, Baptist, Hindu, Jewish, Brahma Kumaris, Muslims, Aboriginal, scientists, climate scientist, ecologists, and others.

"It is very much about bringing them all together and learning from each other."

SELF-INTEREST & HYPOCRISY DESTROY CHURCH

Pope Francis decried hypocrisy and self-interest, saying that Christian community should always be characterized by generosity and solidarity. "A life set only on profiting and taking advantage of situations at the expense of others inevitably causes interior death," Pope Francis said. "And how many people say they are close to the Church, friends of priests, bishops, while they are only looking for their own interest. These are the hypocrisies that destroy the Church," he added in a departure from his prepared remarks.

Pope Francis said he asks the Lord to "pour over us His Spirit of tenderness, which overcomes all hypocrisy and puts into circulation that truth which nourishes Christian solidarity." Solidarity is "the inalienable expression of the nature of the Church," which he called the "tender mother of all, especially the poorest. Being members of the body of Christ makes believers co-responsible for each other. Being believers in Jesus makes us all co-responsible for each other," he said.

"Among Christians we cannot say: 'Poor person, he has a problem at home, he is going through this family difficulty'. But, I must pray. I carry it with me. I am not to be indifferent. This is being a Christian," Francis explained.

Throughout the audience, a young girl who appeared to have a mental disability, danced across the stage clapping her hands in front of the pope. "We have all seen this beautiful girl - she is beautiful ... victim of an illness and does not know what she is doing," he said. Pope Francis asked the audience if they had prayed for this young girl and her family. "Whenever we see someone suffering we must pray," he said.

The pope stressed the importance of concrete acts of generosity in the life of a Christian, particularly with one's time and money. "The sign that your heart has converted is when conversion reaches your pockets. There is where we see if one is generous with others, if one helps the weakest, the poorest."

In the life of the Church, there have always been Christians who stripped themselves of unnecessary things to give them to those who needed them, Pope Francis said.

He pointed to the example of the early Christians described in the Acts of the Apostles. "A concrete example of sharing and communion of goods comes to us from the testimony of Barnabas: he owns a field and sells it to deliver the proceeds to the Apostles," Francis said. "The Christian community is born from the overabundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit and grows thanks to the leaven of sharing between brothers and sisters in Christ. There is a dynamism of solidarity that builds the Church as the family of God," he said.

Pope Francis also pointed out that there were negative examples of hypocrisy and selfishness among this same community. He described the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphira described in chapter 5 of the Acts of the Apostles.

Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property to give the proceeds to the apostles, but retained for themselves a portion of the purchase price (Go to p4)



SACRED HEART PARISH

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)
25/8/2019

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil 6pm Moruya;
Sunday at 'The Pines', Tuross 8am; Moruya 10am
Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9.15am;
Weekday Masses: Tues 5.30pm, Wed (+ Banksia Village/
Lodge, Broulee), Thurs & Fri 9.15am.
-Rosary after Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 10—10.30am
Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings & Funerals by appointment.

For the sick: Peter Morris, Debbie Morris, Gail Moss, Kay Morton, Lauri-Anne Foran, and John Bolton.

Moruya, Moruya Heads, Mossy Point, Broulee,
Tuross Head, Congo, Bodalla.
36 Queen Street (PO Box 23), Moruya, NSW, 2537.
Phone: (02) 4474 2024; Fr Steve: 047 807 3995
Emails: Moruya@cg.org.au; stephen.astill@cg.org.au
Website: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
Parish Administrator Fr Stephen Astill SJ;
Deacon Emeritus Rev. Paul Rummery;
Youth Minister: Juliette Pierre 0424 257 102
Cleaner: Mrs Sue Fawcett
Tuross Caring Group: 0497 315 534
Moruya Caring Group: 0431 354 993
PARISH SCHOOLS: **St Mary's Parish Primary School**
Principal: Mrs Noelene O'Neill
Carroll College Principal: Mrs Jacqui Heffernan

First Eucharist

Commitment Mass!

We welcome to our Vigil Mass the children who are preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time, at the 10am Mass on Sunday, September 15. All Year 3 students will be having a retreat day at Carroll College; they will be directed by the Year 10 Youth Ministry students.

ABSENCE: I will go to Canberra on Thursday to attend a two day program for parish priests, Principals and RE Coordinators For this reason, there will be no Masses on Thursday or Friday this week.

NEW MASS FYI: On Wednesday, we had the first of our new Masses at Banksia! It was a fine occasion, thanks to Frank Levi. A lively discussion occurred among the members present. Due to further clarification from the management, I can now change my previous statement about who may attend the Mass. All comers are welcome at 2pm each Wednesday from now on till the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. No Masses after that anywhere: We'll all be in heaven!

BODALLA CEREMONY APPROVED

As mentioned recently, and now definitely, we are going to celebrate, with Anglican support, the re-opening and re-dedication of our beloved and historic St Edmund's Catholic Church, Bodalla. Part of the planning has been that on **October 13**, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed John Henry Newman as a saint; the announcement has brought delight to the Anglicans and to the Catholics from the different times in his life.

The basic plan for October 13 is now both clear and approved:
3pm Gathering & Intro re Mort Family, John Henry Newman, us today. Hymn (TBA)
3.05pm Liturgy of the Word. Reflections by Fr Mick Kelly SJ
3.30pm Hymn (TBA)

Transition to All Saints' Church
Prayer & Readings of Scripture & Newman
Hymn (TBA) Sign of Peace
Benediction (Anglican)

(All musicians and singers and people join in with a gathering song, (TBA). Something like 'Day is done', or Seekers, etc?)

Afternoon tea & Conclusion

It is going to be a very inclusive event for the local and neighbouring communities. Our St Edmund's Church is the only Catholic Church in Australia to be dedicate to one soldier, Robert Coveny. All kinds of involvements are possible. So, parishioners of Bodalla, Tuross Head, Moruya Heads and Moruya,

Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?'
He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.
Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"
'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

warned of getting lost in the pettiness of life, chasing after things of little importance: "prejudices, grudges, rivalries, envy, and superfluous material goods". Mary, on the other hand, invites us to "look upward at the 'great things' the Lord has accomplished in her".

The Gate to Heaven "Mary, who is a human creature, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul", said Pope Francis. This is why we invoke her as the "Gate of Heaven". "There she awaits us, just as a mother waits for her children to come home". The Pope said we are like pilgrims on our way home to Heaven. Seeing that "in paradise, together with Christ, the New Adam, there is also her, Mary, the new Eve, gives us comfort and hope in our pilgrimage down here".

Heaven is open For those who are afflicted with doubts and sadness, "and live with their eyes turned downwards", the Feast of the Assumption is a call to "look upwards" and see that "Heaven is open", continued Pope Francis. It is no longer distant, and we need no longer be afraid: "because on the threshold of Heaven there is a Mother waiting for us". Mary constantly reminds us that we are precious in the eyes of God, and that we are made for the great joys of Heaven. "Every time we take the Rosary in our hands and pray to her", he said, "we take a step forward towards our life's great goal".
The greatness of Heaven "Let us be attracted by true beauty", said the Pope, "let us not be drawn in by the petty things in life, but let us choose the greatness of Heaven".

Pope Francis concluded by praying that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Gate of Heaven, may help us daily to fix our gaze with confidence and joy "on the place where our true home lies".

"Heaven is open!"

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 66:18-21

The Lord says this:

I am coming to gather the nations of every language.

They shall come to witness my glory.

I will give them a sign

and send some of their survivors to the nations:

to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech,

Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands

that have never heard of me or seen my glory.

They will proclaim my glory to the nations.

As an offering to the Lord

they will bring all your brothers,

on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries,

from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem,

says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels

to the Temple of the Lord.

And of some of them

I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

(R.) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)

2. Strong is his love for us;

he is faithful for ever. (R.)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons?

My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you.

For the Lord trains the ones that he loves

and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons.

Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons.

Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him?

(continued from p3) To which St. Peter responded, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the Holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? ... Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God."

Upon hearing these words from Peter, Ananias fell down and died.

"This cheating interrupts the chain of free sharing... and the consequences are tragic, are fatal," Pope Francis said.

"We could say that Ananias lied to God because of an isolated conscience. Hypocrisy is the worst enemy of this Christian community, of this Christian love: that of pretending to love each other, but only looking for one's own interest. To fail in the sincerity of sharing ... in the sincerity of love, means to cultivate hypocrisy, move away from the truth, to become selfish, to extinguish the fire of communion and turn to the frost of interior death," the pope said.

Pope: Mary is the "Gate of Heaven" Pope Francis invites us to "look upwards" because, thanks to Mary's Assumption, "Heaven is open" and we need no longer be afraid. In St Luke's Gospel, the Evangelist records the words of Our Lady as she prays: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". Pope Francis reflected on the two verbs in that prayer: to **rejoice** and to **magnify**.

To rejoice "We rejoice when something so beautiful happens that it is not enough to rejoice inside, in the soul, but we want to express happiness with the whole body. Mary rejoices because of God... she teaches us to rejoice in God, because He does "great things".

To magnify "To magnify means to exalt a reality for its greatness, for its beauty", continued Pope Francis. "Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord... she shows us that if we want our life to be happy, God must be placed first, because He alone is great". The Pope

THE
LITURGY
WORD