

# Catholics For Renewal Inc.

[www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au](http://www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au)



Convocations of Catholics - Special email to supporters of renewal

The Future of Catholicism in Australia

Friday 16 April 2021

(PDF/Larger-text version [HERE](#))

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## The Future of Catholicism in Australia

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)\* is planning a series of virtual Convocations of Catholics in this year of the Plenary Council, on ***The Future of Catholicism in Australia***. As a member of the Coalition, Catholics For Renewal supports the planned Convocations of Catholics.

The Convocations will be public and free. You can register to attend from home via your computer individually or, if you wish, with a group.

Sr. Joan Chittister will address the first Convocation on ***'A vision for Catholicism in Australia: Renewal directions, priorities, hopes and aspirations'*** - Sunday 2 May 2021, 9am to 10.30am AEST.

Joan will speak to the deep desires among Australian Catholics for a fresh vision and new directions. There will be space for discussions and questions.

Joan is prophetic in proposing directions towards fulfilment of the mission of Jesus. A beacon for everyone, she consistently calls for integrity in addressing our shortcomings as a Church while promoting ways of building on traditional strengths and emerging opportunities.



*Sr Joan Chittister. Photo eomega.org*

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, will send a greeting to participants in these public Convocations which will support all Catholics in thinking about the Plenary Council and renewal of our Church.

Register [HERE](#). Flyer [HERE](#)

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## Further Details

ACCCR are reaching out to all Catholics so that together we can reshape our Church as a life-enhancing community of the followers of Jesus.

A momentum for renewal is building but it needs encouragement and support. We are reaching out to all Catholics, especially those who are just hanging on, are on the edge, or have already detached themselves, to reshape our Church as a life-enhancing community of the followers of Jesus.

Your participation in this convocation will bring us another step forward in discerning our future and creating the Church we seek.

### **The aims of the Convocations are:**

- To** promote a vision for the future of Catholicism, informed by the lives of ordinary people, particularly in the context of the forthcoming Plenary Council;
- To** give a voice to Catholics, promote critical thinking and build personal confidence through sharing ideas and perspectives, particularly in the light of Vatican II and the leadership of Pope Francis;
- To** address the role of women in the Church and gender balance in decision making and ministry;
- To** promote justice with special regard to LGBTIQA+ people;
- To** explore Church teachings that hinder participation by Catholics;
- To** identify areas needing improvement in accountability, transparency and inclusiveness;
- To** initiate and support lay movements for renewal and reform;
- To** assist the bishops of Australia in understanding the priorities and concerns of the faithful.

***Please forward this invitation to all those who may be interested in this opportunity to reflect on the future of our Church (you can use the 'Forward' button underneath.)***

The time scheduled will conflict with some Sunday Mass times in Eastern Australia but is necessary having regard to Sr Joan's time zone in the USA (14 hours behind AEST) and time differences across Australia, New Zealand and the world, noting also difficulties during the working week and Saturdays for some families. ACCCR hopes to have a recording available for later passive viewing.

Catholics for Renewal is proud to be part of this Coalition initiative to support the sense of faith of the people of the Church as we move closer to the Plenary Council. Please help us reach as many potential participants as possible.

For further information: [accr.com.au](http://accr.com.au) or contact Kevin Liston - [kevin.liston1@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.liston1@gmail.com)  
Ph. +61 411 197 829 or Peter Johnstone - [pjgovernance@gmail.com](mailto:pjgovernance@gmail.com) Ph. +61 419 307 566

***\* The Coalition Members auspicing these Convocations on behalf of the Coalition are South Australian Catholics for an Evolving Church, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, and Women and the Australian Church. There are 16 other member groups, including Catholics for Renewal, throughout Australia and New Zealand.***

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