

Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn  
LAUNCH

*Wrestling with the Church Hierarchy: Engaging with the Plenary Council and Beyond*

By John Warhurst

Opening Remarks: Terry Fewtrell MC  
27 May 2021

It is my pleasure this evening to welcome you to the launch of John Warhurst's book with the wonderfully evocative title: 'Wrestling with the Church Hierarchy'. And the book will be launched by the wonderfully versatile, Genevieve Jacobs.

My name is Terry Fewtrell. I have been a colleague or 'side kick' of John's in both the republican cause and the movement for church reform. I thank John for giving me the honour to MC tonight's event.

In offering that welcome I note and invite us all to reflect that we meet here in suburban Canberra on what has been, and always will be, Ngunnawal land. We thank the Ngunnawal people, their elders, past, present and emerging for their care of this land through millennia and, for reminding us of the need to live in harmony with our land.

In welcoming you all this evening, as we gather here at the Curtin Parish Centre, and I would like to thank Fr John Woods for hosting us here, appropriately, in a Catholic Parish centre in Canberra. I also acknowledge John's enduring support of John Warhurst and his work with Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn.

I also would like to acknowledge the presence among us here tonight of Pat Power – a priestly inspiration to his people, and a man who has done a bit of wrestling in his time. Pat, it is great to have you with us, your people – truly *the faithful*, who wrestle at times with our bishops – seemingly *the fearful*.

Before we go any further, I need to point out some practical matters:

- Covid restrictions do still apply, and I would ask that you take responsibility for your own personal distancing.
- Light refreshments will be provided.

- Following the launch, John will be available to sign copies of the book, which I should point out is on sale tonight at the very special price of \$25.

The book is published by Garrett Publishing and they also welcome you this evening. Unfortunately, CEO David Hughan is unable to be with us for the occasion, but he has sent a message for the occasion. (See David's message on the CCCG website).

We now move to the main business of the evening, and I note in passing that while few of us may be well practiced in the art of wrestling, it is from that activity that we have in our language, the phrase **No Holds Barred**. Exactly how that may influence tonight's proceedings, we shall no doubt discover.

So, it is now my pleasure to introduce to you, someone who doesn't really need an introduction. I refer to Genevieve Jacobs who will formally launch John's book. However, I think it is important to point out that Genevieve is far more involved in this community than simply having been a greatly respected and high rating presenter on ABC 666 morning radio.

These days Genevieve is:

Group Editor for Region Media, Australia's fastest growing digital news platform, otherwise known as RiotACT. But in addition, Genevieve:

- chairs the ACT arts minister's Creative Advisory Council; and
- co-chairs the ACT Reconciliation Council.

Genevieve is also a member of the boards of the:

- Cultural Facilities Corporation,
- the National Folk Festival and
- Canberra International Music Festival.

Genevieve is a director of:

- the Conflict Resolution Service and
- the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

Genevieve was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours list for her service to public broadcasting and the community.

Genevieve has an enduring interest in building community engagement and is a partner in the family farming enterprise.

Please welcome Genevieve Jacobs.

Terry Fewtrell  
21 May 2021