

## TO THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN

Parish priests, parish office personnel, Catholic religious of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn, Catholic school principals

### FROM

Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn

### WHAT

2nd Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) Convocation

***Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council***

Thursday 26 August 2021 7:30-9:00pm

**AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM (ACCCR)** is holding the second of three online convocations, '***Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council***', Thurs 26 August, 7.30-9pm. To be opened by Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann (Senior Australian of the Year 2021) – with speakers Jesse Rogers, Debra Zanella, Robert Fitzgerald, and John Warhurst. All welcome. Further info and register at [accr.com.au](http://accr.com.au)

**We are asking parishes and schools to publicise this event within the limits of the COVID shutdown and where possible to reach out to non-church going Catholics in your care.** A suggested electronic bulletin notice is included above. We would be grateful if details could be shared in your parish and schools in the days ahead and on the weekend of 21/22 August.

### Background

Our Archbishop and other Plenary Council Members from the Canberra-Goulburn region are aware of this lay-led initiative. The Convocation will be presented by prominent and thoughtful lay Catholic leaders, and will bring a tighter focus to the Plenary Council as we drew nearer to the first session in early October, addressing issues that matter, including:

- hearing the voice of the people in our Church;
- deepening connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions;
- Australian Plenary Council in its international context;
- inclusion particularly ensuring the equality of women;
- synodality and governance.

In May 2021, Sr Joan Chittister OSB addressed the 1st ACCCR Convocation with 3,000+ participants.

However, a large proportion of Catholics in the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn was not given the opportunity to learn of that historic and uplifting gathering.

Given Pope Francis' resolve on synodality, and our own Archbishop's recent [Pastoral Letter](#) on mutual listening we are confident that all Catholics in our Archdiocese will be given adequate notice to learn of this 2nd ACCCR Convocation, two weeks from now.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. Please feel free to contact me.

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**Rod Page, Parish Liaison**