



*At the heart of everything there is always Jesus Christ*

Ordinary Time 2017

## Season of Creation

September 1 – October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi)

September 1 was first proclaimed as World Day of Creation in 1989, then declared by Pope Francis in 2015. In the ensuing month-long Season of Creation, Christians across all denominations and around the world are invited to pray and care for all creation.

**Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis' encyclical inviting us to care for our common home, was launched in 2015. Since then groups around the world are increasingly taking its words and invitation to heart, putting into practice the 'ecological conversion' that Francis and his predecessors have demanded.



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**On this second anniversary The Global Catholic Climate Movement has launched a Laudato Si' Pledge campaign to encourage mass action to address the climate crisis. Individuals and parish communities can easily and simply get on board.**

The pledge at [www.livelaudatosi.org](http://www.livelaudatosi.org) is a way for us to commit to the transition of renewable energy in our homes and communities and push elected leaders to take strong action on climate change. The goal is to get 1 million people to sign on. It reads very simply:

**Answering Pope Francis' urgent call in Laudato Si, I pledge to:**

- **Pray for and with creation**
- **Live more simply**
- **Advocate to protect our common home**

*God's presence  
permeating all reality*

## Links

**Catholic Earthcare Australia**, the ecological agency for the Catholic Church in Australia, has a wealth of resources/courses for response to Laudato Si' at <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/ecological-encyclical/take-action-today/>

**Season of Creation**, extensive website [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org) offering a toolkit of background to the celebration, prayer service element, planning worksheet and link to the Laudato Si' pledge.

**The Global Catholic Climate Movement** mobilises Catholics to bring Laudato Si' to life. Website [www.catholicclimatemovement.global](http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global)

## Let us know

*Individuals or groups are invited to send in details of how they are bringing this pledge to life. Rumour has it that Tighes Hill Parish and their community garden project will be first off the mark!*

## Have your say

To assist us in planning adult faith initiatives that are of help to individuals and parishes we welcome your ideas.

*Perhaps some of the following?*

- *Retreat gathering*
- *Scripture workshop*
- *Living faith today*
- *Exploring social issues (eg. drugs, end of life, refugees)*
- *Learning about Pope Francis*
- *Other ...*

We'd love to work with you to organise what is of value.

Contact details below ...

## Adult Faith Formation Office

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Face to face engagement

## Year of learning – so far!

There has been little gap between visiting speakers or learning opportunities as this year unfolded. Gathered from different parts of our globe we have had exposure to the best teaching and insight.

Where possible we have taken the show on the road; unless needing to be in Newcastle for strategic reasons. With distances easier to negotiate than in some other dioceses, many make the journey.

**May** **Tim Flannery** at the TWEC Dinner, reminded us especially to encourage initiatives in the urgent task of harnessing carbon.



Prof. Tim Flannery inspiring hope and optimism to address climate change at the Annual TWEC Dinner, East Maitland.

**Catholic Mission Conference** 'Mission 2017 One Heart Many Voices' in Sydney – an inspiring and dynamic gathering of people celebrated their engagement in the diverse mission of the church across the land.

**Jun** **Cardinal John Dew** from Wellington NZ covered much ground - always in the context of spreading the good news of Pope Francis: His style, his capacity to communicate, his groundbreaking Encyclical which is about to celebrate its second year, *Laudato Si'*.



Cardinal John Dew (centre-left) made time to share his diocese's innovative leadership program "Launch Out" at the Newcastle West diocesan offices.

Cardinal Dew also shared Wellington's highly-resourced and acclaimed pastoral leadership formation process, *Launch Out*, as well as his preparatory material for their September Synod.

**Jul** The week-long 'tour' of **James McEvoy**, from Adelaide, led to our delving into the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes*, and taking seriously the need for the church to be interwoven with, and engaging with, the world.



Dr James McEvoy (left) 'living good news in our time' with Raymond Terrace seminar participants.

**Massimo Faggioli**, from Philadelphia, followed closely on James' heels. The two scholars are so complementary, and mutually affirming of one another. Massimo had us take on board the whole Vatican Document collection – after setting them in their context and reminding us how utterly inspirational Pope John XXIII's calling of the Council was for our history.

He consoled those of us who want to hurry the pace of change, indicating that the implementation of a Council usually takes 100 years! Massimo also reflected upon Francis as unquestionably a Vatican II pope – affirming the Council's call for us to discern and act upon the signs of the times, assured of the presence of God's spirit.



Prof. Massimo Faggioli explored the implications of Vatican II and the ministry of Pope Francis at Newcastle West.



**Aug** The annual **BBI eConference**, spanned all corners of the diocese. Massimo Faggioli was part of a panel of five well-known presenters reflecting upon Leadership in a time of Chaos. A passionate panel conclusion invited us all into the process of ongoing renewal in the spirit of Vatican II. The significant opportunity is captured on DVD – soon available at the [St Laurence Centre Library](#) Broadmeadow.



**Dr John May** has given his life to the understanding and developments of thinking around ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. His **November 16 seminar** with us will be unmissable and extremely significant.

He is using new research to break open for us some of the reasons why the road towards unity has sometimes been thwarted, and how we might more constructively travel. And how what we are learning about dialogue between the churches overflows into our developing dialogue among world religions.

In 1952 *The Faith and Order Commission* of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Lund, Sweden, posed some provocative questions to delegates about how we are resisting the path to unity, including the oft-quoted: **'Should not our churches ask themselves whether they should not act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?'** Imagine if that question was taken seriously! What a different terrain we might be sharing! Acting together in all matters?

John May will inspire us, in our already developing initiatives, to make any adjustments that might more readily bring about Jesus' great hope for us all.

## Question to Ponder

*When did I last take a look at the Vatican Document, 'The Church in the Modern World'? How is it still guiding the church?*

## The Reformation 500 years on

Does ecumenism and interreligious dialogue really matter? Aren't there more important things to do?

It's 500 years since the Reformation, when Martin Luther pinned those theses on the church door at Wittenburg.

The previous entirely-Catholic church was fragmented. And for years, of course, anyone from the reformed tradition of the Christian Church was to us an outsider.

But the 2nd Vatican Council, amazingly called as an 'ecumenical' Council, has led us on the homeward journey towards what Jesus most desires: that we all be one.

This is no easy road. Lots of bumps. But we are impelled on this rich and sometimes fraught forward journey, from which there is no return. Dialogue and discernment are our tools of trade (as Massimo Faggioli reminded and as Pope Francis practises).

*The journey that is life*

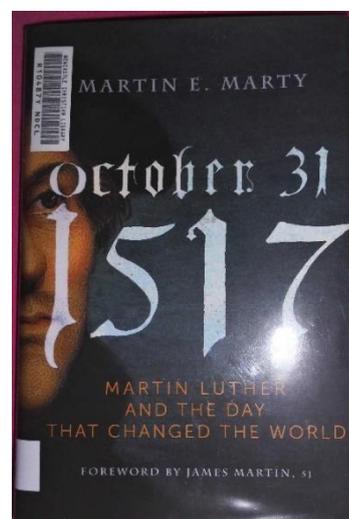


Amongst its many resources, the St Laurence Centre Library has the following books on the Reformation.

- 'OCTOBER 31, 1517: MARTIN LUTHER AND THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD' BY MARTIN E. MARTY, 2016
- 'THE REFORMATION: FAITH AND FLAMES' BY ANDREW ATHERSTONE, 2011

**P** 02 4902 9100

**E** [resourcecentre@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:resourcecentre@mn.catholic.edu.au)





## 2017 Adult Faith Formation opportunities

These events offered in the coming months may interest you

**Sep 8** [Dr Richard Gaillardetz](#), the Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston. *The reimagining of church – challenges and opportunities* seminar will challenge us yet inspire our hope in the Word to guide the church in contemporary society. A compelling and uplifting opportunity not to be missed. 3.30-7pm, including light meal. Victor Peters Suite, Newcastle West. \$20pp (\$10 concession). Bookings P 4979 1134. (3hr Faith Education Accreditation for Maitland-Newcastle Catholic schools staff)

**Sep 14** [Interfaith Forum](#) on Muslim faith. 6.30pm Mayfield Mosque, Victoria St Mayfield. Register P 4979 1111.

**Oct 10** [Two Bishops' Dialogue](#) 7pm, St Luke's Anglican Church, Metcalfe St Wallsend.

**Nov 16** [500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Dr John May](#), Fellow of Trinity College Dublin emer., ecumenical scholar, world-renowned lecturer and professor, will consider in this seminar why the reformation was needed, explore the resulting ecumenical journey and point to the urgent need for Christian unity and interfaith cooperation, offering practical approaches. 3.30-7pm, including refreshments. Victor Peters Suite, Newcastle West. \$10pp (\$5 concession). Bookings P 4979 1134. (3hr Faith Education Accreditation for Maitland-Newcastle Catholic schools staff)

**Nov 22** [Interfaith Forum](#) on Salvation Army Church. 6.30pm, 67 Cleary St Hamilton.

**Dec 10** [Carols in the Cloister](#), 6.30pm, St Joseph's Convent Chapel, Lochinvar.

ANOTHER EXCITING COUP FOR MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE! ONE OPPORTUNITY ONLY.  
The Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology, Boston College, author and editor of 13 books on the contemporary church

**Dr Richard Gaillardetz**

Following his keynote role of the National Pastoral Leaders & Pastors Conference of Melbourne, Richard will visit our diocese briefly to draw upon his extensive understanding of the post-Vatican II church:

**'the reimagining of church – challenges and opportunities'**

Dr Richard G. Gaillardetz's many recent books include *Go into the World!*, *The Welcoming Church of Pope Francis* (Paulist Press, 2016) and *An Unfinished Church: Vatican II, Pope Francis, and the Renewal of Catholicism* (Liturgical Press, 2015).

"Dr Richard Gaillardetz is one of the most inspirational speakers I have encountered in my 40+ decades as an educator. His list of credentials is long, but his open humanity and devotion to the Word of Jesus Christ make an opportunity to meet him both a compelling experience. I encourage any thinking Christian, no one thinking about, to take hold of such an opportunity and be uplifted by it."  
(Paul Downward, Director, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Southland)

**Friday 8 September 2017**  
3:30pm for 4pm start to 7pm  
VICTOR PETERS SUITE, 841 HUNTER ST NEWCASTLE WEST

Includes light refreshments | 3 hr FEA available for CSO staff

Cost: \$20 per person (\$10 concession) negotiable in the event of financial difficulty  
Bookings: P 4979 1134 E Sharon.Murphy@mn.catholic.org.au  
Payment: <http://mn.catholic.org.au/onlinepayments>  
1. Enter your details & payment amount  
2. Leave the "Select your Parish" field blank  
3. At Payment Note enter Gaillardetz to specify reason  
4. Click "Make Payment" button for secure payment




The human thirst for what is good, true and beautiful

Openness to all

**INVITATION**

**Interfaith Forum**

The Catholic Diocese Ecumenical and Interfaith Council invites you to attend a number of interfaith forums, that will be held during the year.

The purpose of the Forums will be to explore each other's faith as well as to increase or deepen the dialogue between us, understanding about the religious beliefs, symbols, structures and practices of different faiths in our community.

It will be an opportunity to explore our commonalities, values, assets, Catholic Eastern and Western, Muslim and Evangelical Christians. There will be one forum each term, in the evening, with each religion presenting aspects of their beliefs, symbols, scripture, practices and practices (prayer).

Following on from the Forums, it is hoped that those attending will be invited to join with the presenting faith at that usual worship services during their week.

Forum	Forum date	Time	Location	Working date
Jewish	Thursday 22nd March	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Hebrew Congregation, 122 Cliff St Newcastle	23rd March
Catholic, Muslim and Hindu	Wednesday 7th April	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Hebrew Congregation, 122 Cliff St Newcastle	8th April
Buddhist	Thursday 14th September	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Michael Shookan, 114 Victoria St Maitland	15th September
Salvation Army	Wednesday 22nd November	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Salvation Army Church, 67 Cleary Street Newcastle	23rd November

You are welcome to attend one or all of the forums, for catering purposes please register with [Brooke Robinson](mailto:Brooke.Robinson@mn.catholic.org.au) E: [brooke.robinson@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:brooke.robinson@mn.catholic.org.au) or P: 4979 1111 [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)

For more information on these or other formation opportunities check [What's On](#) in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese at [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au) or contact the Adult Faith Formation office on P 02 4979 1134.