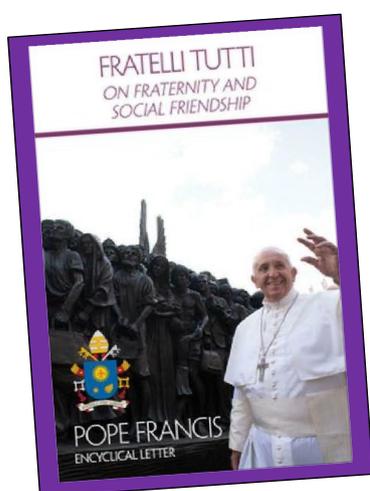


Fratelli Tutti, October 2020, IS A CALL TO ACTION

JOHN DAY is enjoying Falling Upwards (in the words of Richard Rohr) as he enters his more mature years. John aims to be a life-long learner and is an avid searcher and reader as he explores his spirituality in context of both Church and culture. He is on the Board of the Spirituality Ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph and a member of the Mission Leadership Team in his local parish of St John Bosco in Engadine NSW. To keep his feet firmly planted on the ground, he is a member of his Parish's Property Development Committee and treasurer of the Bosco Social Justice Group.



Pope Francis's third encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, October 2020, is a call to action in which he exhorts his 'Brothers and Sisters All' to live radically the message of the Gospel – love your neighbour as yourself.

It is a critique of the world's current social, economic and political

situation through the "moral lens of human kinship"¹ (fraternity) and Catholic social teaching, especially the concept of the 'common good'.

It is both bleak and compelling reading; it rings true for me, and, I suspect, will do so for many of you. Pope Francis is inviting us to critique, through the eyes of the parable of the Good Samaritan, our physical, economic, political, social, cultural and religious environments so that we can "live together as brothers and sisters" (FT#5).

It provides a timely Easter reflection. "The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His love on the Cross, are what calls us to be missionary disciples, inviting us to recognize each other as brothers and sisters of the larger human family, and especially of those who feel themselves orphans. As the Beatitudes and Matthew chapter 25 show us, the principle of salvation is fulfilled in the compassion we demonstrate."¹

"For many Christians, this journey of fraternity also has a Mother, whose name is Mary. Having received this universal motherhood at the foot of the cross ... she cares not only for Jesus but also for "the rest of her children" (cf. Rev 12:17). In the power of the risen Lord, she wants to give birth to a new world, where all of us are brothers and sisters, where there is room for all those whom our societies discard, where justice and peace are resplendent." (FT#278)

Central to *Fratelli Tutti* is an extended reflection (in Chapter Two) on the parable of the Good Samaritan. The words of Jesus in this parable "compel us to recognize Christ himself in each of our abandoned or excluded brothers and sisters" (FT#85).

Francis associates 'fraternity' with 'social friendship'(FT#154), 'social charity'(FT#180), 'social love'(FT#183), 'political charity'(FT#190). "Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible."(FT#99) Pope Francis contends that this concept has significant social, economic and political implications. It is important, he says, that our civil and religious leaders "speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person, and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters" (FT#86).

Fratelli Tutti should be seen as "an assertion of values not a prescription of solutions."²

Fratelli Tutti is a manifesto for Catholics (and indeed, for all people of good will, to whom Francis addresses this encyclical). We are to “get off our knees” and “go out from our churches” to engage in the economics and politics of our societies³: “... belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God” (FT#74).

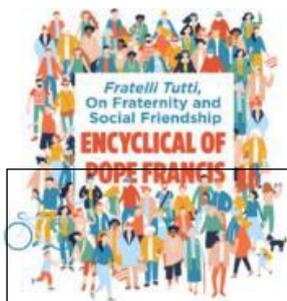
It is not the ‘party-political’ or partisan politics that Francis is talking about but a politics that creates in our world a “culture of encounter” where people “should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone” (FT #216). And it is about an economics that is geared to the ‘common good’, the obligation that we as a community have “to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development” (FT#118).

While the encyclical addresses other matters such as:

- re-stating the Church’s teaching that there is no absolute right to private property;
- confirming the total rejection of the death penalty and the deployment of nuclear and chemical weapons; and
- raising significant questions about the possibility of a ‘just war’,

the golden thread that is running through this encyclical are the questions: “what gives life?”, “what helps everyone to develop their full potential and to flourish?”⁴.

But the question that each of us has to answer is: “How am I going to respond to the call to action by Pope Francis?”.



In Pope Francis’s own words:

“Jesus’ parable (*of the Good Samaritan*) **summons us to rediscover our vocation** as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals.” (FT#66) (Emphasis added)

What is your reaction to this “summons to rediscover our vocation as ... builders of a new social bond”?

How should we respond both as individuals and as the local Catholic community?

1. *Francis, Pope; Ivereigh, Austen. Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future (p. 106). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.*
2. *A Letter for Dark Times: Pope Francis on the Call for a New Politics, Anna Rowlands, October 26, 2020, [Fratelli Tutti and the Future of the Catholic Church](#)*
3. *Five things to look for in Pope Francis' new encyclical, 'Fratelli Tutti', Oct 6, 2020, Thomas Reese, NCR*
4. *Pope Francis’ new encyclical: Fratelli Tutti, Cindy Wooden, October 5, 2020 in The Catholic Weekly*

The Carmelite Centre invites you to join them on ZOOM for Carmelite Conversations:

Fratelli Tutti: A challenge for our Christian Life with John Day, the author of this article on

Wednesday 5th May, 10.30 am – 12 midday

<https://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org/events/via-zoom-carmelite-conversation> for bookings

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER (from Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD)

Risen Lord,
shed your light on those who live in the shadow of death
and warm the hearts of those who have lost hope,
that they who daily bear the cross of hunger may find your Promised Land,
and move from slavery to freedom.
As we proclaim your Easter song help us to die to greed and rise to justice,
to abandon apathy and take up action,
that rich and poor together may travel the road to freedom,
and be restored to your resurrection life. Amen.

OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOURS GRAPPLE WITH COVID-19: CORONAVIRUS ...TIMOR LESTE



Since my last update, the coronavirus outbreak in Timor has escalated. A fortnight ago Timor had 35 active cases, today there are 211 active cases. The majority of cases are among Dili residents, however there are also positive cases being discovered in two other municipalities, Baucau and Viqueque. In welcome news, the outbreak in Covalima (where Zumalai is located) is now under control.

The government has put in place several Health Fences around the affected areas, has been conducting contact tracing and increased testing. In practice, the Health Fences mean that communities in Dili, Baucau, Viqueque and Covalima are in a strict lockdown and no-one is allowed to enter or leave those areas, while the rest of the country has few restrictions. Reports from the ground are that while many people are complying with compulsory mask wearing, it is proving difficult to enforce the mandatory stay-at-home orders.

Here are the latest numbers from the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health. On 22 March 2021 there were:

- 9 new case of COVID-19
- 9 people currently waiting for test results
- 124 people have recovered
- 335 total confirmed cases in Timor
- 35,669 negative test results received
- 211 active case, - 0 deaths

(Mayra Walsh, Community Development Ministry Coordinator: Mayra@carmelites.org.au for full report)

IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Getting the news of Covid-19 cases reported in my home country PNG in the last weeks has been a concern for me. I rang my brother in Manus yesterday and like the rest of the country, they had been anxious and scared as authorities had made wearing of masks mandatory when going to public places in town. An emphasis on social distancing has to be observed and hand sensitiser has been made available wherever you go in urban areas. However, Manus and the other 14 provinces still have zero cases. Schools throughout the country have been given four weeks holidays to minimise the number of crowds gathering.

According to National television, EMTV, there are 845 recovering cases of covid-19 leaving 2693 active cases still in isolation from the accumulative total of 3, 574 case reported during the month of March. As of yesterday, 215 new cases were reported with Gulf province recording their first COVID-19 case.

Yesterday it had been announced in PNG that they will be receiving 8,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines today Tuesday 23rd March. The vaccination program is expected to start this weekend with the first lot of health workers to be vaccinated.

We thank the Australian Government for the assistance with the vaccines and sending health workers to PNG to provide the facilities. We pray for the country of PNG that there be peace and comfort amongst the frightened and anxious citizens and that the disease will be controlled before spreading to all parts of the country and Australia. (Paul Sireh O.Carm, member of JPIC Team)



IWD @ OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE, MELBOURNE

On Friday 5 March, Vice Captains Alex and Baxter, Ministry & Social Justice Captain Peter and myself, were invited to join Our Lady of Sion College for their celebration of International Women's Day. This was a such a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the partnership between our two schools and enrich our appreciation and respect for all the women in our lives.

We started the day by distributing awareness-ribbons with the Sion senior student leaders. Following this, we gathered in small groups with various staff and student leaders in a 'conversation cafe'. We discussed a range of prompts, focussing on identifying gender stereotypes, the issue of consent and equality in relationships. These prompts fostered thought-provoking, robust conversations that inspired action around improving gender equality, our connection with Sion and provided ways forward to address gender issues in our schools, local community and in wider society.



Charlie Schroder, Baxter House and Alex Pisotek.

These conversations were insightful, informing us on many of the issue's women face in school, the workplace, in society. They also provided us the opportunity to share our own hopes and questions and how we can strive to overcome them. The captains and I were deeply appreciative of the staff and students of Sion for their hospitality and openness. In the future we look to broaden our conversations on gender equity, and continue to hope to foster these important issues among our peers. (contributed by Charlie Schroder, Whitefriars College Captain)

SECRECY AND SPYING: The Trials of Bernard Collaery & Witness K

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A Webinar hosted by Australian National University – 31 March 2021 @ 6:00 pm. To register:

<https://law.anu.edu.au/event/webinar/bernard-collaery-witness-k>

Witness K, a former Australian spy, and his lawyer, former ACT Attorney-General Bernard Collaery, are currently being prosecuted for breaches of the Intelligence Services Act 2001 (Cth). The allegations relate to the exposure of Australia's alleged espionage against Timor-Leste during the negotiation of a resources treaty between the two countries in the early 2000s. The prosecutions have been shrouded in secrecy and elicited considerable public controversy. They raise complex legal issues, including the legality of spying on a friendly neighbour, the invocation of national security law to keep the prosecutions secret, the role of Attorney-General Christian Porter in the prosecutorial process, and the broader impact on Australia's court system and the rule of law. The Speakers will be **Nicholas Cowdery, Pauline Wright, Kieran Pender, and Rebecca Ananian-Welsh**. The moderator is **Professor Kim Rubenstein**. For more information and to register, click [here](#). (contributed by Sr Susan Connelly RSJ)



In the National Museum of Australia's 20th year – a landmark speech for a shared future



CELEBRATE THIS BIG MOMENT WITH US ...

Uluru Statement from the Heart

In a speech at the National Museum of Australia, Mr Pearson urged the government not to give up on the decades-long push for constitutional recognition and reiterated his support for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the constitution, in line with the calls of the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Noel Pearson suggests:

"Australia doesn't make sense without recognition, Australia is incomplete without recognition. "How could there be an Australia without its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Indigenous peoples?"

The full list of speakers include: Mr Noel Pearson, Founder and Director Cape York Partnership; Mr Dean Parkin, Director From the Heart; Ms Vicki Morta, first Indigenous female bosun on the Gladstone to Weipa run. <https://www.facebook.com/fromtheheartau/videos/440307123721067>