



TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

PO Box 166, New Town, Tas. 7008

tcctas@bigpond.net.au
0418-3076-449

November 2012

The 'Lund' Principle

Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?



From the President

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" John 1:14
Retail outlets are already moving into Christmas mode, and the first Sunday of Advent is just days away. While commercial interests seek to maximize their sales the Church will seek to draw attention to the reason for the celebration – the coming of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour into the world.

Over recent months I have heard a number of variations of "like the product, they just don't like packaging". In each context it was "they like Jesus, they just don't like the organisation called church". For people who are fully engaged and supported in a local church or denomination this can be difficult to understand. Those who have been on the wrong end of church politics, or hurt by church members, may well resonate with its sentiment.

None of us will have missed the announcement of a Royal Commission on abuse within institution. Every reference to 'the church' in media reports evokes conflicting emotions within me. I am angered that people who profess faith in Christ would commit such heinous acts, profoundly disappointed that efforts have been made to protect perpetrators, and saddened that the name of Jesus has been damaged, and the proclamation of the good news hampered.

The church – the people of God – still offers hope to a damaged world. Those who are part of the body of Christ put 'flesh' on the message of the gospel. The challenge for each of us remains: to know Jesus truly, and to live faithfully as his servants.

The Message translation of John 1:14 reads:

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father,
like Son,
Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*

When Christ is seen in us, when the love and grace of God is revealed in our words and actions, when we are "generous inside and out", when integrity permeates every area of our lives – then the Word will become flesh in our neighbourhoods, and people will encounter Christ in us.

May the love of God be heard in our words, and seen in our actions - in every place and at all times.

Graham Roberts (Major)
President - TCC



Christmas Bowl launches: Sunday, 25th November

On Sunday, 25 November, Jeff Wild, the Act for Peace Development Officer for Victoria and Tasmania will launch and bless the 2012 Christmas Bowl in Tasmania, in both Hobart and Launceston.

The Christmas Bowl launch in Hobart will be held during morning worship at Hobart North Uniting Church, Swan Street, North Hobart, at 9:30 a.m.

The northern launch will be held at 6:00 p.m., at Launceston North Uniting Church. The launch will include an international dinner, music from a local band, and an opportunity to hear a refugee's personal story. Please bring an international dish to share (perhaps one from the Christmas Bowl Cookbook).

Attending either launch, please bring a donation for the Christmas Bowl, and your congregation's Christmas Bowl (or your home's Bowl) to be blessed with the other bowls.

Spirituality

"Soul Sorting in the Silly Season"



An adult faith formation day at the Emmanuel Centre, Launceston. Reflecting on life as experi-

enced in the light of the Christian Advent and Christmas. The evening is an abridged version of the day programme. The programme will be led by Sr. Virginia Bourke.

Wednesday, 5th December
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
or
7:30—9:00 p.m.

Donation.

Please RSVP by 30th November to the Emmanuel Centre on 6334 1082

Labyrinth in Launceston: On the last Sunday of the month (such as 25 November), a Labyrinth Walk is held at the Emmanuel Centre, 123 Abbott Street, Newstead, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Come and discover this ancient form of Christian prayer and reflection.

"Praying with Handel's 'Messiah'"

On Saturday, 1st December, a retreat afternoon for the beginning of Advent will be held at All Saints' Anglican Church, Macquarie Street, South Hobart. The retreat will be on the theme "**Praying with Handel's 'Messiah'**", and will be led by Bob Faser.



The intention of this retreat will be to allow the words and music of this well-loved example of sacred music (frequently associated with the Advent-Christmas period) to be a starting-point for our prayers during Advent. All are welcome.

The retreat will begin with a shared lunch at 12:00 noon. (Please bring food to share.)

The retreat will conclude with All Saints' regular Saturday evening Vigil Eucharist, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Bob Faser on 0418-307-449 or Father David O'Neill on 6223-1795.



Taizé In Hobart: On the third Sunday of the month (such as 18 November), a service of prayer using the music of the ecumenical Taizé Community is held at All Saints' Anglican Church, Macquarie Street, South Hobart, beginning at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

National Conference, Australian Academy of Liturgy "Liturgical Renewal: Sound, Space, Presence" Jane Franklin Hall, 21—24 January



The National Conference of the Australian Academy of Liturgy (AAL) will take place at Jane Franklin Hall (Elboden Street, South Hobart) during the period of 21st to 24th January. This is a once-in-twelve-years opportunity to attend this conference in Tasmania.

The conference theme is "Liturgical Renewal: Sound, Space, Presence", including a public lecture on the Tuesday evening at St. Francis Xavier Church, South Hobart, by Claire Johnson, Senior Lecturer in Sacramental Theology and Liturgical Studies at the Australian Catholic University, on the topic "Transcending Text: Liturgy as medium of evangelisation 50 years after Vatican II". (More information on the public lecture will soon be available.)

Information on this conference has been distributed in a previous TCC e-mail. If you'd like a leaflet and registration form e-mailed to you, please contact tctas@bigpond.net.au.

Please contact Alison Whish (Alison.Whish@victas.uca.org.au) for more information about the conference.

Youth Ministry

Uniting in Faith:

We are an ecumenical group of young adults (aged 18 - 30ish), who will be meeting fortnightly, discussing faith, life and everything. Run by two young adults of the Uniting Church, we will be using a DVD series called "**Dream, Think, Be, Do**", designed for young adults, and put together by **Living the Questions**. The plan is to watch one 20 minute episode a fortnight and then discuss it. We will be meeting on Sundays at 7:00, with the first meeting on the 18th of November. We estimate each meeting will go for 1 to 1.5 hours. We will be meeting in the smaller hall at Scots-Memorial Uniting Church, Hobart. For those wanting more information, please contact Tanita Wierenga on 0448373526 or e-mail tanitaw@utas.edu.au or e-mail Heath Cowled on hhcowled@bigpond.net.au.



Pints of Faith

The final **Pints of Faith** for 2012 (for young adults and others) will be held on Thursday evening, 6th December, at the Soho Hotel, South Hobart. Archbishop Adrian Doyle will be the guest speaker, with an Advent-Christmas theme. Please ring 62086274 or 62086270 for more information or to book.

The first **Pints of Faith** for 2013 is planned for 7th February. Please ring 62086274 or 62086270 for more information as February gets closer.

World Youth Day 2013

A preparation day for anyone interested in attending World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro will be held at St. Patrick's College, Launceston on Saturday, 1st December, from 11 to 4. Registration is essential. Please ring 62086274 or 62086270 to register.



Schools Sunday: 17 February 2013

Schools Sunday in 2013 will be held on 17 February. Please note this day and consider ways your congregation can observe Schools Sunday and relate creatively with local schools.

Schools Sunday is a programme of Scripture Union Tasmania, and is supported by the TCC's Commission on Christian Ministry in State Schools (CMiSS).

As Schools Sunday gets closer, updated information for Schools Sunday will be found on their website.

(www.schoolssundaytas.org.au).



ADVENT-URE: 2 December, Launceston

ADVENT-URE is a statewide youth and young adult event in Launceston, hosted by Catholic Youth Ministry Tasmania, on Sunday, 2nd December.

ADVENT-URE begins at St. Patrick's College at 1:00 p.m. It includes a walking pilgrimage to the Carmelite Monastery and Cataract Gorge, with activities and reflections along the way to help participants enter into the season of Advent.

The day of **ADVENT-URE** will conclude at the Church of the Apostles with the Launceston Parish Youth Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by a BBQ to celebrate the end of the year (and the beginning of a new Church Year).

There is a \$5 donation to assist with costs.

Registrations are required, at www.cymtas.org.au/ADVENT-URE.

Sister Barbara Hateley MSS: a tribute

One of Tasmania's most significant ecumenists in recent decades, Sister Barbara Hateley MSS, died on Sunday, 7 October 2012, after a brief illness. Sr. Barbara was a member of the TCC Executive and an active participant in providing ecumenical ministry to children and young people in state schools in Tasmania. On this page are excerpts from the eulogy given at Sr. Barbara's Mass of Christian Burial by Sr. Bernadette Wallis MSS. (The full text of Sr. Bernadette's eulogy may be obtained from the TCC at tcctas@bigpond.net.au.)



Excerpts from the eulogy by Sr. Bernadette Wallis:

Barbara was born on 22nd October 1939, in Mt Gambier, South Australia. She was baptized three weeks later; ten years later she made her Confirmation. These are significant faith occasions in light of the trajectory of her life and her life's work – her spiritual journey, her journey of mission. Barbara had a very rural background, a great foundation for her work in Tasmania and giving her a deep understanding of rural life and small communities with its joys and difficulties. It was in 1966 when she first heard about the Missionary Sisters of Service through the parish priest at Mt Gambier. Two years later in 1968 at the age of 29, Barbara joined the Missionary Sisters of Service for the first time. She then fell ill and eventually returned home at the end of that year.

After a number of years of work and study, she applied to re-join the Missionary Sisters of Service. After a short period at Parkes in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese, Barbara arrived in Hobart towards the end of 1977 and remained in Tasmania to serve on the highways and byways of the Island.

In 1981, Barbara was appointed to the Catholic Education Office. There she was part of the Adult Formation in Faith Team. Barb served on many committees, both national and local, including the National Education Commission, the [Executive of the] Tasmanian Council of Churches, Convenor of the [TCC's] Commission on Religious Education in State Schools, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the State Emergency Response Team, ... and many other involvements. In 2005 Barb moved into the Office for Church Life and Mission at the Diocesan Centre. She has been a member of the Pastoral Team carrying out the role of Adult and Family Faith Coordinator.

Her commitment has always reached out beyond Hobart. She never reneged on her concern for people in the rural areas. At times, she supported people who were refugees adjusting to their new context, or people who had difficult hurdles to face in life. Her work over the years was always underpinned with a passion for those who are marginalized or on the edge in society.

Throughout Barb's life, she knew the dark night of the soul, she walked dark valleys and accompanied many people down their dark valleys of misunderstanding and injustice, emptiness, despair and loss of meaning and hope. It was the hope she carried, the flickering flame, and her acute ability to see truth in murky situations that drove her in her pastoral expression for justice and compassion. Barb's earthy humility and 'wicked' sense of humour was the gift she offered to the world around her, never with a sense of belittlement, but inclusive and with great care for the dignity of all.

Barb, your mantra or motto at the time of your profession was the invitation from God: "Come walk with Me". You loved and took as your own the Gospel passage, the Emmaus Story. Barb you have been a contemplative woman of prayer, a woman of mission as you walked your journey to your Emmaus, recognizing Jesus in the breaking of bread. You walked in faith, in hope and with great love and service in the church and in the world. May you now walk your eternal journey to God. In faith and hope, we indeed thank you and bid you farewell.

May the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Ecumenical Communications

Receptive Ecumenism

Accompanying this newsletter is a brochure from the South Australian Council of Churches with the title "Healing Gifts for Wounded Hands". It describes the practice of "receptive ecumenism", by which churches can actively seek to receive the gifts and graces God has given to other churches as a way of becoming more fully Christian in their life together. If your church or local ecumenical group uses this material, please let us know what your experience of it has been (tcctas@bigpond.net.au).

The TCC's Website

After a brief time when not much was happening with the TCC's website (tcctas.org.au), it's now in a more useable shape (not perfect, but useable).

There is now a range of useful information on the site about ecumenical activities in Tasmania, including a text version of the September edition of our newsletter *Oikoumene*. This current edition of *Oikoumene* for November should be up there soon.

Please visit our website and tell us what you think.

The TCC on Facebook

The TCC now has a **Facebook** page. While there are still a few bugs to work out of the system, we hope this can soon become a way to share Tasmanian ecumenical information quickly. This will only be possible if the page is widely used.

If you're a **Facebook** member, please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tasmanian-Council-of-Churches/286146261490068>

the next time you use **Facebook**. Please click "like" when you visit the TCC's page.

We hope this will become a good way to share information among our member churches and other supporters.

This space is reserved for information from your congregation or local ecumenical group.

Please contact
tcctas@bigpond.net.au.

*University of Tasmania, Conservatorium of Music
in conjunction with MONA presents:*

***Southern Gospel Choir -
Standing In the Shadows of Mona***
Free Event

***Sunday 25th November 2012
2:00pm Dean Stevenson
3:00pm Southern Gospel Choir***

The SGC is an ARIA winning ensemble that experienced incredible success of the past 12 years. Three CD's and now a best selling DVD all point to the impact that this remarkable ensemble has had on the national stage. Attracting the plaudits and interest of gospel churches throughout the USA, they now journey to MONA to present a concert that will delight, move and inspire – to the point where you will just have to sing along with them.

In the tradition of their success with Sing Salamanca, the SGC will be headlined by Michael Spiby (Badloves), Maria Lurighi, Andrew Legg and Brian Ritchie in an afternoon of energetic, soulful and spirit-filled Motown and Gospel inspired music. Music will include material by the Martha and the Vandellas, the Staples Singers, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, as well as the soul-inspired gospel music of Kirk Franklin, Richard Smallwood, and Donald Lawrence – there may even be a reference to the Beatles and the way in which they too were inspired this amazing music!

"IN ACCORD SINGERS"
present
 **Carols From** 
Around the World

*Sunday, 25th November at 2pm
at Scots Church, Bathurst Street*

*Conductor-KEN CHILCOTT
Accompanist-JOHN MENADUE*

soloists

*Ken Chilcott, Ken Hunt, John Maeer and
Barry Hall,
Community Carols*

*Donations in aid of Christmas Bowl Appeal
Afternoon tea*

Social Justice

There are more than 100,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. For 26 years the Sri Lankan conflict forced thousands of refugees to seek asylum in India. Despite most refugees having lived in camps in Tamil Nadu, southern India since the 1990s, they still lead temporary lives and are housed in temporary shelters. Since the ceasefire many refugees are looking to return home. Health services for Sri Lankan refugees in India are among the programmes funded by your support of the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl. For more information on the 2012 Christmas Bowl, please **call 1800 025 101**, **email info@actforpeace.org.au**, or visit the Christmas Bowl **web-site www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl**



act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities

Landmines:

In many nations of the world, particularly those seeking to rebuild their lives after recent wars, landmines remain a real threat to the lives and health of many people.

A group based in the Clarence Uniting Church is seeking to organise the demining of an area in Southern Sudan the size of Bellerive Oval, in conjunction with Act for Peace.

If your group would like to hear about what they're doing — and about how your group can get involved in this project — please contact Roland Wierenga at rwierenga@pittsh.com.au.

Healing relationships and practicing justice with Indigenous people

What can Christians and churches do?

Personal stories, family histories, community hopes, national policies



2:00 – 4:00pm

Sunday 25th November

Leprena

280 Main Road, Glenorchy
(at entrance to Cosgrove High School)

**You are welcome to come and
join a conversation
and be part of a renewing community**

Contact: David Rowe, david.rowe@fusion.org.au Ph 6229 1939, 0412 223 558
or Grant Finlay, gfuaiactas@netspace.net.au Ph 6272 9234, 0417 340 050

Human Rights Week

Human Rights Week runs from the 3rd through the 10th of December. The theme of this year's Human Rights Week is "Inclusion and the Right to Participate in Public Life".



A number of events have been planned in Tasmania for Human Rights Week. Two public events in Hobart include:

- a public rally on Saturday, 8th December, from 11:20 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., on the lawns of Parliament House, Hobart. The rally will include a Welcome to Country by Kartanya Maynard and a speech by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Robin Banks. Organisers have applied for a permit for a march to Parliament House preceding the rally.
- an Inter-Faith Gathering at the Friends' Meeting House, North Hobart, on Sunday, 9th December, at 4:30 p.m.

For information about other Human Rights Week events, please visit the Human Rights Week website, www.afaierworld.org **HRWeek**.



Good homes wanted for Christmas Bowl signs (urgent): If your church or group would like one or more corflute Christmas Bowl signs, suitable for outdoor use, please contact Bob Faser on 0418-307-449.

From the Liaison Officer

The title of this newsletter is the Greek word *Oikoumene*, meaning "the whole inhabited world". We get our English word "ecumenical" from *oikoumene*. As *oikoumene* is based on the word for "house" (*oikos*), there is the implication that to be "ecumenical" means to regard the entire world as a single unity, a single household. (Our words "economics" and "ecology" also come from *oikos*, but that's another topic in itself.)

This sense of the world as a single household has motivated the ecumenical movement since its beginnings in the early twentieth century. The early strands of ecumenical work reflected a desire for unity expressed both in a commitment to churches working together for a just, peaceful and merciful society ("Life and Work") and in churches developing a more sympathetic understanding of each other's theologies, spiritualities, polities, and styles of worship ("Faith and Order"). Later strands of ecumenical work in terms of developing relationships with faiths other than Christianity and in developing a theology of the non-human creation grew from these earlier concerns.

And, for the most part, this promotion of unity and community among the churches has worked, and worked well. Even though we have a long way to go before the fullest possible sacramental unity is achieved among Christian churches, we have developed a strong sense of unity among worshipping Christians of a wide range of traditions. While this fact may not be evident to some people outside the churches, many of whom assume we're still caught up in the hostility and fights of the pre-ecumenical "bad old days", our churches are no longer saying to each other "We have no need of you."

Even with those thorny theological issues that led to churches separating from each other centuries ago, there is now a sense of "Give the scholars time to work things out. Somewhere between Rome, Constantinople, Geneva, Canterbury, Princeton, Dibley, *et. al.*, a way forward is inevitable, even if the way forward is painfully and frustratingly slow. Watch this space."

But, it's like the old "I have some good news and I have some bad news" jokes.

The good news is that Christians are no longer (or, at least, rarely) saying to each other "We have no need of you" over such thorny theological issues as predestination, transubstantiation, believers' baptism, papal authority, etc.

The bad news is that there is a growing tendency for Christians to say "We have no need of you" to other Christians if they have conflicting convictions to oneself on issues relating to gender, sex, marriage, and bioethics. To add to the bad news, this rejection is taking place not only in the relationships among the denominations, but frequently in the relationships among Christians within the same denomination.

As the ecumenical movement is about promoting unity and community among people of faith, I believe that promoting unity and community among Christians who have conflicting attitudes and beliefs about gender, sex, marriage or bioethics is as much part of the ecumenical task as promoting unity and community among Christians with conflicting attitudes and beliefs about baptism, bishops, or biblical interpretation.

In today's Tasmania, where matters of gender, sex, marriage or bioethics are frequently issues of public policy, this may be a particularly important task for the churches to undertake.

Bob Faser, TCC Liaison Officer.



**The Tasmanian
Council of Churches
and its member
churches wish you,
and all the members
of your congregation,
a joyful Advent-
Christmas season
and a healthy
and happy 2013.**



The next *Oikoumene* will be published in mid-February, 2013. All material for publication should be received at

tcctas@bigpond.net.au

or at

PO Box 166, New Town 7008

by the end of January.