

Truth-telling, Synodality, and Mission



Keynote presentation

Dr Elissa Roper

Theologian

&

Bishop Shane McKinlay

Bishop of Sandhurst





Mercedarian Sr. Shizue "Filo" Hirota
(Courtesy of Filo Hirota)

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/synodality-radically-inclusive-says-vatican-committee-member-sr-filo-hirota>

[Synodality is a] radically inclusive call not to leave anybody behind.

The synod is participatory, collegial, grounded in and energized by the creative spirit of God, affirming the nonviolent impulse of listening dialogue and working through differences.

From this perspective, the synod can be understood as a global, nonviolent practice to foster a more nonviolent church and world...

the church must become more comfortable with open-ended questions, and that being able to live with questions unanswered and problems unsolved but still feeling peace [is an essential part of synodality, or walking together as the whole Church]

Truth-telling, Synodality, and Mission

Elissa:

explore the theological foundations
of truth-telling

Shane:

the Catholic Church's institutional
exercise of synodality



Action

Experiential learning

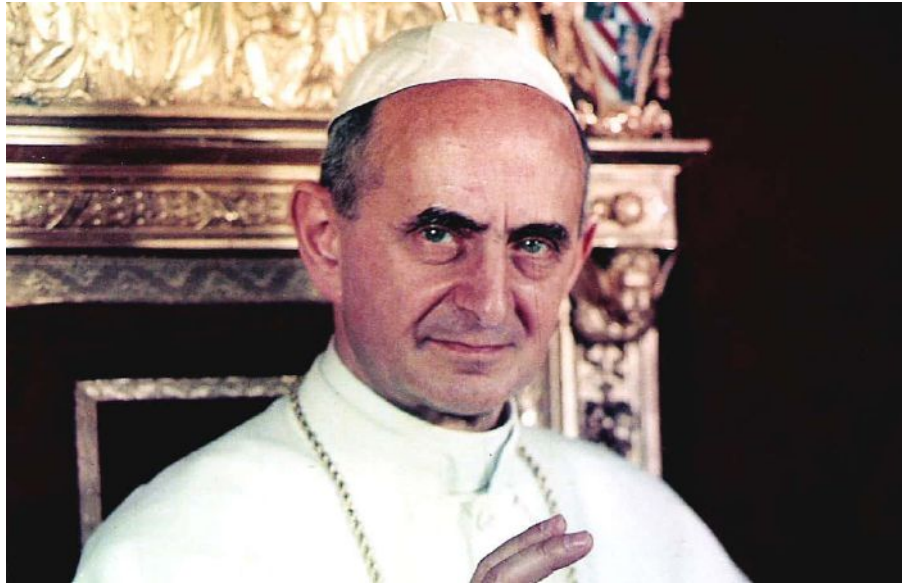
*Creating space for the
Spirit*

*Affirmation of good
work already being
done*

Live, concrete examples

Pope Paul VI

Ecclesiam Suam, 1964



<https://denvercatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Paolovi.jpg>

The Church must

- *Have a deepening self-knowledge*
- *Heroically and impatiently struggle for renewal*
- *Enter into dialogue*

A large heart shape is formed by a grid of small, square portrait photographs of people from various backgrounds, ages, and ethnicities. The portraits are arranged in a way that they fit together to form the outline and fill of the heart. The people shown include children, young adults, and older adults, representing a wide range of human diversity. The text is overlaid on the center of this heart.

**Truth-telling is one aspect of a holistic process of dialogue;
within a context of reconciliation,
healing,
renewal,
and mission.**

Synodality

..."not a plan or a program to be implemented" but "a style to be adopted" that listens to the Spirit through the word of God, prayer and adoration.

The Spirit is the protagonist...

...the Synod is an “ecclesial moment”, not a parliament or an investigation into opinions, but “an ecclesial moment” whose protagonist is the Holy Spirit.

“Without the Spirit, there is no Synod.”



Synodality



Truth-telling is *not*:

- Simply arguing, or seeking to win
- Pre-ordained
- Purely a human exercise

TRUTH-TELLERS:
GRETA
THUNBERG



TRUTH-TELLERS:
GRACE TAME



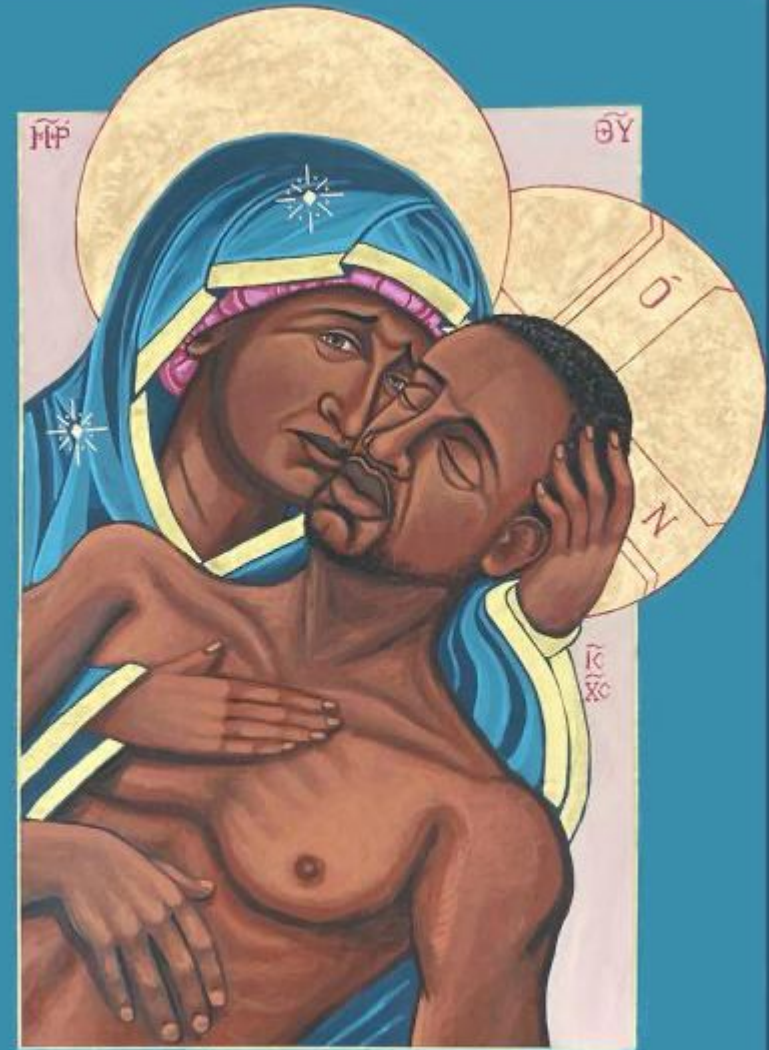
TRUTH-TELLERS:
DEBBIE
EDWARDS





"Hildegard of Bingen" by Gracie Morbitzer

TRUTH-TELLERS:
GRACIE
MORBITZER
&
KELLY
LATIMORE



"Mama," by Kelly Latimore

THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

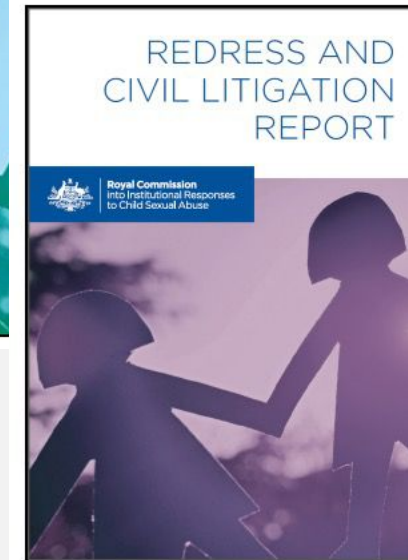
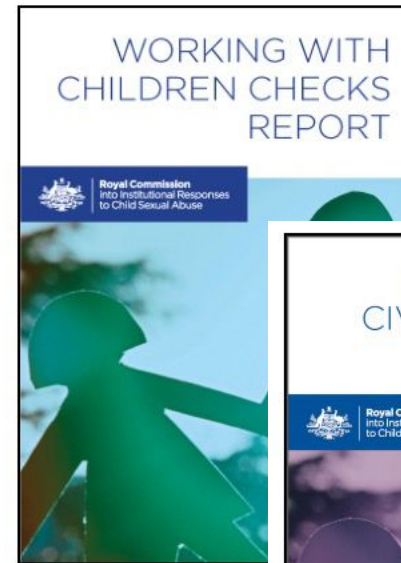
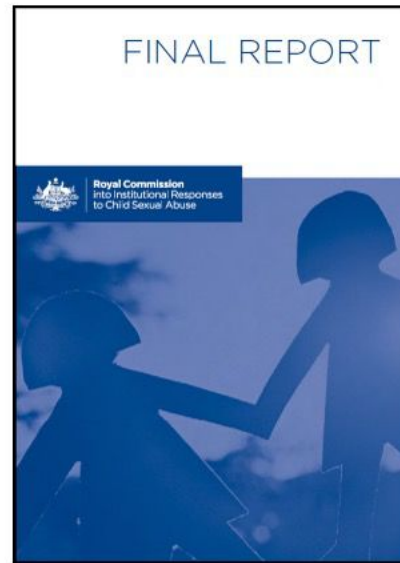
TRUTH-TELLERS:
FIRST NATIONS
LEADERS

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the Australian people. We ask Australians to accept our invitation to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future. We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making and truth-telling about our history.

EXPLORE THE STATEMENT

<https://ulurustatement.org>

TRUTH-TELLERS: ROYAL COMMISSION



Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS
EXPLORING THE DIACONATE

WEBINAR EVENT

FEAST OF ST PHOEBE

DR PHYLLIS ZAGANO


Phyllis Zagano is an internationally acclaimed Catholic scholar and lecturer on contemporary spiritual and women's issues in the church, the

WHAT?



Liturgy on the Margins

Australian Diaconal Ministry, Present and Future



PlenaryTracker
TOWARD A TRANSPARENT, INCLUSIVE & HUMBLE CHURCH

Daily Zoom

Archive of Plenary Tracker, a daily Zoom with exclusive news, insights, and panel discussions hosted by respected former ABC presenter Genevieve Jacobs AM.

Access

"Stand up! Speak out!"
~ Sr Joan Chittister

A Church for All

A guide to the Australian Plenary Council ...and beyond

A Church for All

Transcripts from convocation speakers – such as Joan Chittister, Robert Fitzgerald, Debra Zanella, and John Warhurst – along with a response to the Plenary agenda and concrete proposals for the Plenary Council.

Purchase



HARNESSING THE ENERGY FOR REFORM

Australasian Catholic Coalition For Church Reform (ACCCR)

FORMATION

WATAC PRESENTS

Two guests dialogue with a WATAC member about an area of their questions to the guests

- June 2020 Women and the Plenary Council
- August 2020 A Pilgrimage of Dignity and Equality
- October 2020 Acting now: Laudato si', eco-theologies a
- December 2020 Celebrating and Planning with WATAC

Upcoming Events

MAY 10 INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF CATHOLIC WOMEN REGISTER

JUN 14 WATAC Presents

JUL 12 WATAC in Dialogue

SEP 13 WATAC Presents

OCT 11 WATAC in Dialogue

DEC 13 Christmas Reflection

AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM

INVITES AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS TO THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF CONVOCATIONS VIA ZOOM

MONDAY 2 MAY 2021 7:00-10:30 AM (AEST)

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA

Convocations: 1. Renewed directions, priorities, hopes and aspirations

Guest speaker: Sr Joan Chittister OGB

FREE REGISTRATION

Click to purchase the text of Sr Joan's presentation

AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM

INVITES AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS TO THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF CONVOCATIONS VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 7:30 - 9:30PM (AEST)

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA

Convocation: 2. Outcomes and actions for the Plenary Council

The Convocation will be opened by Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann

Guest speakers: Dr. Joan Chittister, Ms. Debra Zanella, Mr. Robert Fitzgerald, Prof. Emerita John Warhurst

FREE REGISTRATION

View Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann

View the Session Recording

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FREE REGISTRATION

WATAC

WOMEN AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

Modelling new ways of being church, based on a "discipleship of equals"

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PREACH



Truth-telling



Truth-telling *is*:

- A feature of human authenticity
- Courageous and provocative
- Empowering

Truth-telling



Truth-telling *is*:

Parrhesia

➤ Bold, honest and free speech

After the last Consistory (Feb 2014), in which the family was discussed, a Cardinal wrote to me, saying:

what a shame that several Cardinals did not have the courage to say certain things out of respect for the Pope, perhaps believing that the Pope might think something else.

This is not good, this is not synodality, because it is necessary to say all that, in the Lord, one feels the need to say: without polite deference, without hesitation.

And, at the same time, one must listen with humility and welcome, with an open heart, to what your brothers say.

Synodality is exercised with these two approaches.



“Speak with *parrhesia*
and listen with humility”



TRUTH-TELLING

1. Prophetic speech
2. The “Cry of the Poor”

I. PROPHETIC SPEECH

- Being attentive
- Being intelligent
- Being reasonable
- Being responsible
- And being loving

Informed conscience

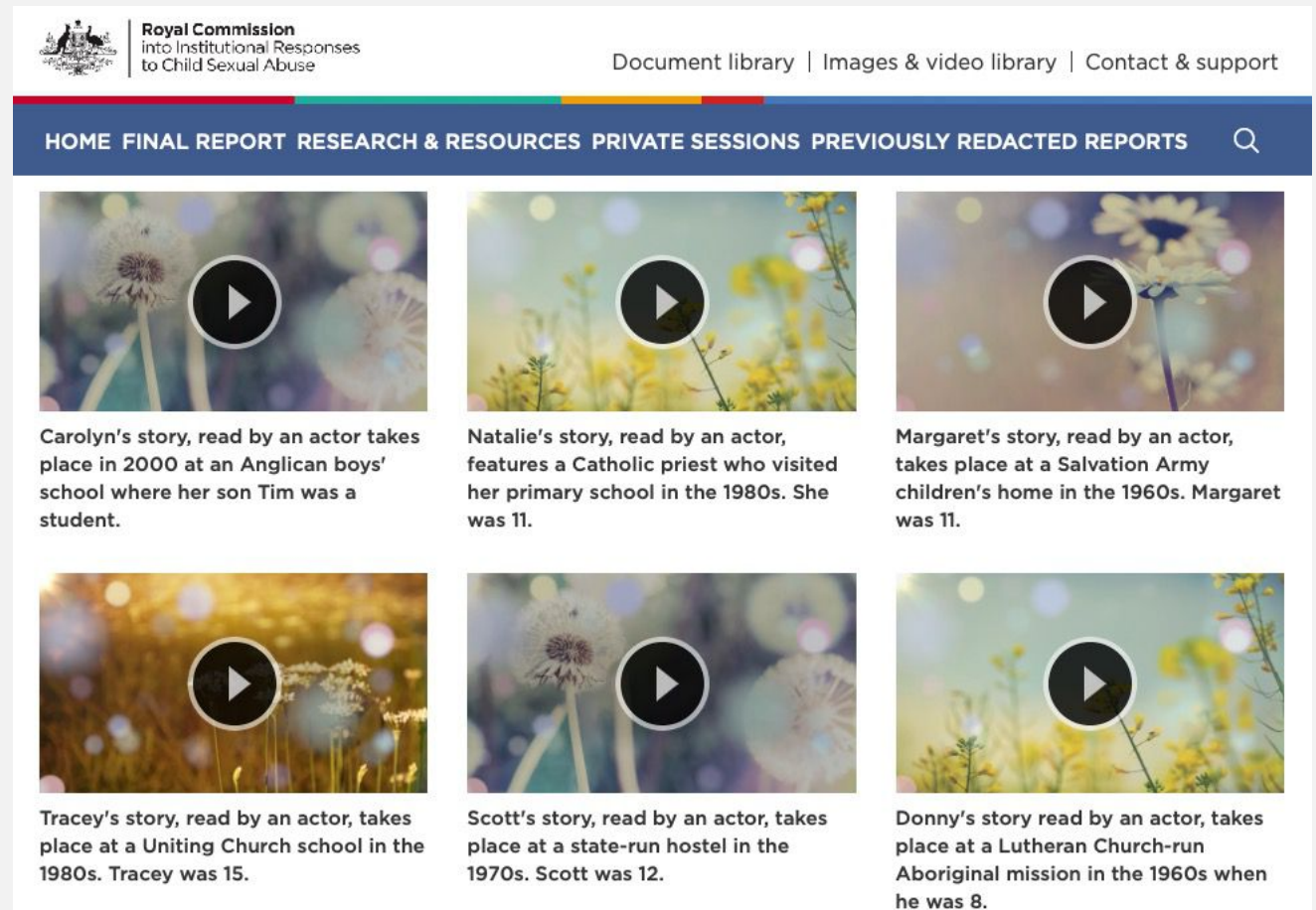
Driven to express
truth

I. PROPHETIC SPEECH

➤ Being attentive



- 29,620 documents
- 3,928 videos of personal stories



The screenshot shows the website of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The header includes the commission's name and a navigation bar with links: HOME, FINAL REPORT, RESEARCH & RESOURCES, PRIVATE SESSIONS, PREVIOUSLY REDACTED REPORTS, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a grid of six video thumbnails, each with a play button icon. Each thumbnail is accompanied by a short description of a personal story.

Thumbnail Description	Story Description
Carolyn's story, read by an actor takes place in 2000 at an Anglican boys' school where her son Tim was a student.	Carolyn's story, read by an actor takes place in 2000 at an Anglican boys' school where her son Tim was a student.
Natalie's story, read by an actor, features a Catholic priest who visited her primary school in the 1980s. She was 11.	Natalie's story, read by an actor, features a Catholic priest who visited her primary school in the 1980s. She was 11.
Margaret's story, read by an actor, takes place at a Salvation Army children's home in the 1960s. Margaret was 11.	Margaret's story, read by an actor, takes place at a Salvation Army children's home in the 1960s. Margaret was 11.
Tracey's story, read by an actor, takes place at a Uniting Church school in the 1980s. Tracey was 15.	Tracey's story, read by an actor, takes place at a Uniting Church school in the 1980s. Tracey was 15.
Scott's story, read by an actor, takes place at a state-run hostel in the 1970s. Scott was 12.	Scott's story, read by an actor, takes place at a state-run hostel in the 1970s. Scott was 12.
Donny's story read by an actor, takes place at a Lutheran Church-run Aboriginal mission in the 1960s when he was 8.	Donny's story read by an actor, takes place at a Lutheran Church-run Aboriginal mission in the 1960s when he was 8.

I. PROPHETIC SPEECH

➤ Being intelligent



I. PROPHETIC SPEECH

- Being reasonable



I. PROPHETIC SPEECH



➤ Being loving



I. PROPHETIC SPEECH

“In the Spirit?”

- Signs of authenticity?
- Fruits of the Spirit?
- And me?

AUTHENTICITY MEETS AUTHENTICITY

- This is genuine dialogue
- Copes with differences in experience & understanding
- Fosters conversion



2. THE CRY OF THE POOR

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course...

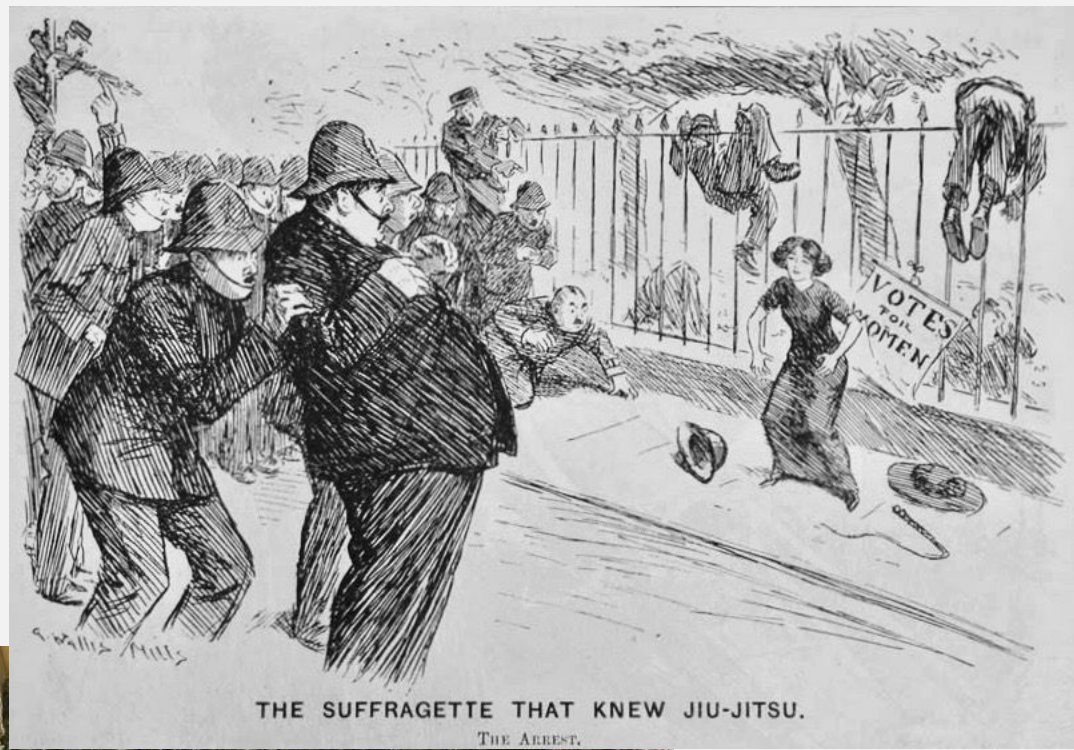
We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.

The problem is that we still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis.





<https://www.smh.com.au/national/scowling-at-scott-morrison-grace-tame-squanders-her-moment-20220125-p59r62.html>



<https://historiansforhistory.wordpress.com/2019/01/21/twelve-angry-men-the-forgotten-militancy-of-the-womens-suffrage-movement-by-amy-swainston/>



<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/august-29the-beheading-of-st-john-the-baptist/>

TRUTH-TELLING NEEDS...

Conversion
Reconciliation
Discernment

- Training
- Open hearts and minds
- Space for the Spirit to breathe
- Permission to speak
- Radical listening
- Patience
- A pastoral approach
- Building partnerships & friendships

Communion
Participation
Mission

The background of the image is a solid reddish-pink color. It is covered with a dense, repeating pattern of stylized dove silhouettes in flight. The doves are depicted in three colors: white, light blue, and yellow. They are scattered across the entire frame, with some appearing larger and more prominent than others, creating a sense of movement and abundance.

**Transformation,
as God's activity,
will be welcome and effective when Christian
communities are committed to a culture of conversion.**



- How do we prepare ourselves as prophets? (remembering that this is one of our baptismal callings)
 - Where in ourselves do we need to open and expose ourselves more?
 - Commitment to conversion involves vulnerability. What does this mean to you?
- How do we recognise and encourage the various forms of truth-telling in our Church?
 - And in its many different communities, including families, Catholic workplaces, social services, parishes, dioceses, religious congregations, associations, groups, etc.
- What are the barriers to truth-telling?
- How do we move then as faithful, Spirit-filled Christians in the world?
- Who may speak and be listened to? Who has *authority* to speak?

THANK YOU