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Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

True freedom

Welcome to Proclaim, a regular newsletter to help keep parish leadership teams informed and inspired as they proclaim and live out the joy of the Gospel.

Here we are again, coming to the end of another strange and challenging year. As Advent draws closer, we find ourselves once more in a place of broadening vistas, of blue skies and open roads. And as many of us come home to Mass and reconnect with loved ones and old routines, the path ahead seems a little more certain than it did this time last year, and we wonder if this, finally, is freedom.

But liberation can be a complicated experience, provoking all sorts of emotions, and not always the ones we expect: relief, joy and excitement, certainly, but also trepidation, nervousness, even grief and apathy. We want to get back to our old, familiar lives, so why does it sometimes feel like we are embarking on something daunting and new?

As disciples, we are constantly being invited to step into newness, trusting that our past experiences—the joys, encouragements and insights, as well as the failures and hardships—can be fashioned by God into something life-giving and glorious, into the long-awaited kingdom.

This month, in the final article in our series on discipleship, we explore Jesus' call to [embark on a life of mission](#) and to participate in his renewal of the Church and the world. We also revisit this year's [Take the Way of the Gospel journey](#), and look ahead to what the new year might hold as we continue to seek new life for our parishes and communities. Archbishop Peter encourages us to [share the message of concern](#) regarding the State

Government's proposed new legislation. And we outline some practical and inspiring ways your parish can recognise and celebrate two significant events coming up this month—[World Youth Day](#) and [Red Wednesday](#). There is also news about the Synod of Bishops consultation process and the upcoming relaunch of *The Summit Online*

This Advent and Christmas, may you know the true liberation to be found in Christ Jesus, the one who sets the captives free, who makes everything new and journeys with us through it all.



Take the Way of the Gospel: Moving with the global Church into a reimagined future

Earlier this year, at gatherings of clergy and lay leaders from parishes, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli proposed that we 'Take the Way of the Gospel' together, renewing the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's focus on mission, and opening ourselves to Pope Francis' call for 'a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything'. The journey of Take the Way of the Gospel in 2021 has not been without uncertainty and restrictions due to COVID-19, and yet more than 1500 people from across our Archdiocese have begun planning, discussing and discerning together with their communities. Find out more about the journey so far, resources that are available and the next steps.

[Read here](#)



Proposed Bill a 'serious overreach': Archbishop Comensoli

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has written to all members of the Melbourne Catholic community expressing grave concerns about the State Government's proposed new legislation, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*. In the letter, the Archbishop explains that the proposed changes will significantly impact all faith-based organisations in Victoria who will no longer be able to employ staff who hold the same religious beliefs and values unless they can prove that it is an 'inherent requirement' of the job. Parishes are encouraged to share this message widely with their parishioners.

[Read here](#)



Celebrate World Youth Day

Pope Francis has called for a relaunch of the celebration of World Youth Day (WYD) in local churches now marked on the Feast of Christ the King (21 November 2021). WYD provides an extraordinarily powerful missionary thrust for the whole Church and, in particular, for the younger generations. This resource offers ideas, suggestions and guidance on how your local community can animate the WYD 2021 experience for the young people of your parish. Suggestions can be tailored to your local needs and capacity.

[Download here](#)



Red Wednesday, 24 November: Stand up for persecuted Christians

Across the Archdiocese, we are invited to stand in solidarity on Red Wednesday, 24 November, and to pray for those around the world who are suffering violence, persecution and death simply for professing their religious beliefs. A range of resources—including five ways to mark Red Wednesday—have been developed to help parishes, households and individuals mark this day in a meaningful way. And St Patrick's Cathedral will join other cathedrals, churches and prominent buildings around Australia and the world on 24 November by floodlighting the exterior of the cathedral in red and by holding a prayer vigil at 7.30pm.

[Read here](#)



Discipleship: Embarking on mission

The life of a disciple is shaped by a number of significant experiences. Our baptism incorporates us into a life in Christ, but it is only the beginning. Each baptised person is called to embark on mission with Jesus, helping to bring healing and restoration to a hurting world. The call God places on our lives is personal and unique, and each of us is needed and necessary in building up the kingdom.

[Read here](#)

Start the journey to Synod 2023

Interested to learn more about the local consultation process in preparation for the Synod of Bishops—*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission?*

The local consultation phase is being held between October 2021 and August 2022.

Individuals, parishes and other communities are encouraged to provide opportunities for groups and individuals to make submissions during the consultation phase.

Learn more about the Synod and how you might engage and consult within your own community in two workshops especially for parish leaders (staff, clergy or volunteers):

- What is the Synod on Synodality?
- How can we contribute as a local community to the preparatory phase?
- Experience the discernment process as a participant so you might learn to facilitate your own community discernment for the Synod consultation in 2022

The sessions (same content for each session) will be held on:

- Tuesday 23 November, 2.00–3.30pm
- Thursday 25 November, 7.30–9.00pm

Both sessions will be hosted online (via Zoom), and registration is essential:

www.trybooking.com/BVEXX

A range of [resources](#) are also available to help you understand, engage with and prepare for the Synod.

Celebrate World Youth Day 2021

Young people from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne are warmly welcomed to join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli for a special World Youth Day Mass to be livestreamed on Sunday 21 November at the 11am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. You can view the livestream via the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne [YouTube channel](#).

The new *Summit Online* is almost here!

On 28 November—as we embark on a new liturgical year—we will also be launching a new and improved *Summit Online* website.

We have developed the new site to provide Melbourne parishes with high-quality, freely accessible and engaging liturgy resources and liturgical-formation materials in a more attractive, easy-to-use online format.

As well as all the regular resources that long-time *Summit* users have come to value—such as weekly music suggestions, liturgy notes, Sunday readings, prayers of the faithful and the popular ‘Exploring the Word’ RCIA resource—the site will feature a range of subject-based ‘libraries’, where you will be directed to excellent resources from around the web on music, prayer, RCIA, Scripture, the liturgical environment, saints and seasons, and homily preparation, among other subjects. You will also be able to find regular news items on liturgy-related events and developments, and a more logical, attractive site design and more intuitive functionality will make it easier to navigate and to find what you need. That’s just the beginning though—there are more exciting new features on their way next year.

Keep an eye out for a special edition of the *Proclaim* e-newsletter in the coming weeks for more information on the new *Summit Online* site, including how to access and use the site to support and enhance the liturgy in your parishes.

If there are others in your parish with a particular interest or involvement in the liturgy, but who do not yet subscribe to this newsletter, please forward this to them and encourage them to subscribe (at the link below) so that they can be kept up to date with all the *Summit Online*–related news.

Gratitude and Grace—an invitation to parish staff

Parish staff are warmly invited to attend this special online event:

Gratitude and Grace—an afternoon of connection and nourishment

- How are you travelling?
- Are you feeling fatigued from dealing with COVID-19 protocols and being isolated from community?

Step ‘away’ from the daily busyness of parish life to catch up and reflect with others across the Archdiocese in similar positions.

Tuesday 16 November and Wednesday 17 November, 1.30–3.00pm

BYO your favourite coffee cup and sweet treat.

RSVP by Friday 12 November at: www.trybooking.com/BVCIB

Two online sessions will be held. Please choose the one that suits you best.

Thank you to parish staff for the many ways you have continued to attend to the ongoing needs and demands of parish life throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au



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OF MELBOURNE

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