



ACGWT: The Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn Women's Taskforce

Annual Report 2022

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Women's Taskforce continue to work successfully in 2022.

Once again, our first event of the year was a breakfast celebration for *International Women's Day*. Our guest speaker, Sr Clare Condon reflected on her fiftieth anniversary of profession as a Good Samaritan Sister and shared inspiring stories of advocacy, faith, education, and leadership within and on behalf of the Church.

The Taskforce prepared a submission on behalf of women of the Archdiocese, to the Synod on Synodality, an international process of consultation.

A consultation between women of the Queanbeyan Parish and members of the Catholic Women's Taskforce was held in May. The parish representatives described the numerous ways that they supported the mission of the Parish and expressed appreciation for their deep faith. At the same time other women acknowledged the Church has caused pain and excluded them. The Taskforce values the relationships and honesty of women throughout the Archdiocese and the opportunity to hear their stories.

The Taskforce reviewed the skills of the members and considered the areas of need for the future. We celebrated the presence of skills in Community Liaison, Strategic organisation, Listening and Communication across all age groups. However, we noted weaknesses in Secretarial Management, Administration and Web Management and hope to invite women with these skills onto the committee in the future.

Following the publication of the Plenary Council decrees, the Taskforce considered hosting an Archdiocesan Assembly for women to explore the renewed commitment to women's ministry in Decree 4 Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men. However, the crowded program of events that have been rescheduled since the easing of the pandemic made this impossible.

Through the leadership of Alison Weeks, deputy chair of the Taskforce, several Taskforce members attended the Care for Creation conference in September at John Paul College and learnt more about the urgent priorities of Laudate Si and the intersection of these with women's development.

The long-awaited dinner to celebrate women's contribution to the Catholic Church was held at the Southern Cross Club in Woden in October. Dr Ursula Stephens, CEO of Catholic Social Services and now as CEO of Australian Catholic Safeguarding spoke of what it is actually like in the workplace, the inherent biases a woman will encounter, and the clear steps we can take to learn, innovate and imagine new roles.

The Taskforce opened an account with the Archdiocesan Provident Fund and of donations and fund raising has a balance of \$8 000. A portion of this will be donated to MacKillop House, a place of safety for women and children.

Membership: Andrea Dean (chair); Alison Weeks (deputy chair); Judith Stuart (treasurer); Selina Stanford (secretary); Lara Kirk; Catherine Conroy; Monica Phelan; Madelaine Banister; Genevieve Colbert and Sr Clare Condon SGS.