
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 17 September 2021 — Twenty-sixth edition

“truth, justice and love . . .”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

Current affairs are a powerful reminder that it is vital for lay Catholics to be actively involved in political and civic life.

Some paragraphs from the Catechism about government authority and “The Common Good”:

1898 Every human community needs an authority to govern it.¹⁶ The foundation of such authority lies in human nature. It is necessary for the unity of the state. Its role is to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society.

1902 Authority does not derive its moral legitimacy from itself. It must not behave in a despotic manner, but must act for the common good as a “moral force based on freedom and a sense of responsibility”:²¹

A human law has the character of law to the extent that it accords with right reason, and thus derives from the eternal law. Insofar as it falls short of right reason it is said to be an unjust law, and thus has

not so much the nature of law as of a kind of violence.²²

1903 Authority is exercised legitimately only when it seeks the common good of the group concerned and if it employs morally licit means to attain it. If rulers were to enact unjust laws or take measures contrary to the moral order, such arrangements would not be binding in conscience. In such a case, “authority breaks down completely and results in shameful abuse.”²³

1906 By common good is to be understood “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.”²⁶ The common good concerns the life of all. It calls for prudence from each, and even more from those who exercise the office of authority. It consists of three essential elements:

1907 First, the common good presupposes respect for the person as such. In the name of the common good,

public authorities are bound to respect the fundamental and inalienable rights of the human person. Society should permit each of its members to fulfill his vocation. In particular, the common good resides in the conditions for the exercise of the natural freedoms indispensable for the development of the human vocation, such as "the right to act according to a sound norm of conscience and to safeguard . . . privacy, and rightful freedom also in matters of religion."27

1908 Second, the common good requires the social well-being and development of the group itself. Development is the epitome of all social duties. Certainly, it is the proper function of authority to arbitrate, in the name of the common good, between various particular interests; but it should make accessible to each what is needed to lead a truly human life: food, clothing, health, work, education and culture, suitable information, the right to establish a family, and so on.28

1909 Finally, the common good requires peace, that is, the stability and security of a just order. It presupposes that authority should ensure by morally acceptable means the security of society and its members. It is the basis of the right to legitimate personal and collective defence.

1910 Each human community possesses a common good which permits it to be recognized as such; it is in the political community that its most complete realization is found. It is the role of the state to defend and promote the common good of civil society, its citizens, and intermediate bodies.

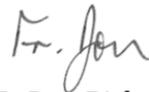
1911 Human interdependence is increasing and gradually spreading throughout the world. the unity of the human family, embracing people who enjoy equal natural dignity, implies a

universal common good. This good calls for an organization of the community of nations able to "provide for the different needs of men; this will involve the sphere of social life to which belong questions of food, hygiene, education, . . . and certain situations arising here and there, as for example . . . alleviating the miseries of refugees dispersed throughout the world, and assisting migrants and their families."29

1912 The common good is always oriented towards the progress of persons: "The order of things must be subordinate to the order of persons, and not the other way around."30 This order is founded on truth, built up in justice, and animated by love.

So, folks, even as you engage in discussion of political and social issues as our community grapples with pandemic-related restrictions (and the strong anti-life currents that are also stirring), ask yourself "Is everything I do, say, support or promote, founded on truth, built up in justice, and animated by love?"

Praying for a good week ahead for you and yours,



*Fr Don Richardson, **Dean***

Notes:

16 Cf. Leo XIII, *Immortale Dei*; *Diuturnum illud*

21 (Vatican Council II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et spes* (GS) 74 # 2.

22 St. Thomas Aquinas, *STh* I-II, 93, 3, ad 2.

23 John XXIII *Pacem in terris* 51.

26 GS 26 # 1; cf. GS 74 # 1.

27 GS 26 # 2.

28 Cf. GS 26 # 2.

29 GS 84 # 2.

30 GS 26 # 3

Chronicle Notices

ARCHBISHOP'S AFGHAN REFUGEE APPEAL

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has launched an appeal to help Afghan refugees when they resettle in Australia

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)



Vietnam Emergency Appeal

Malnourished children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam need your support.

\$20 will feed a young child for three months.

Please give a donation at:

jesuitmission.org.au/vietnam-relief



COVID-19 FAQs

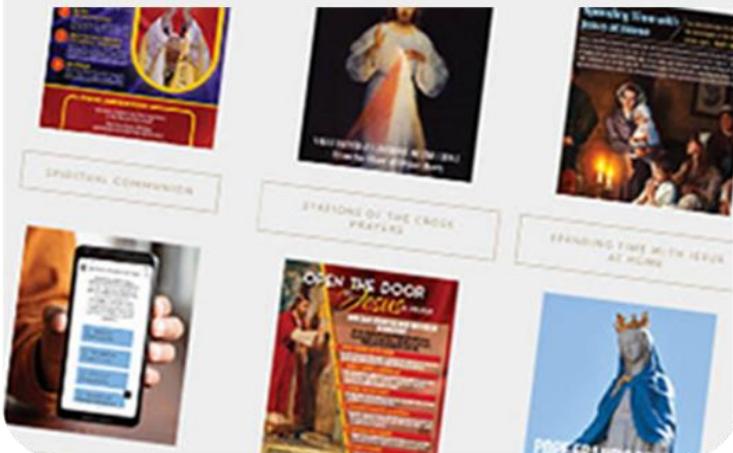
Frequently-asked-questions
Please click here for further information



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

COVID-19 PRAYER RESOURCES

[www.sydneycatholic.org/
coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-
for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/)



MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP
FISHER REGARDING THE NSW
GOVERNMENT'S COVID FREEDOM
PLAN – 9 SEPTEMBER 2021
[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

THE Catholic Weekly DIGITAL EDITION

Free while Sydney churches are closed

Subscribe: www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/



Pre-order your copy now!

The first 100 copies ordered will be personally signed by the Author



BEAUTY AND LIGHT with *FAITH*

By
Fr Donald Richardson

\$45.00
+ \$5.00 postage & handling

BEAUTY AND LIGHT WITH FAITH, The Stained Glass Windows of St Mary's Cathedral, is a guide which takes the reader through the history and story of each beautiful stained glass window of St Mary's Cathedral and Crypt. The beauty and story in each window may serve to draw the reader closer to their faith.

Book will be available for distribution: November 2021

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

SUBURB:

POSTCODE: STATE:

QUANTITY: TOTAL CHARGE:

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM BACK TO: info@stmaryscathedral.org.au

A STAFF MEMBER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITHIN 48 HOURS OF RECEIVING YOUR ORDER TO PROCESS YOUR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Terms & Conditions: St Mary's Cathedral is collecting your personal information (including your name, your contact details such as your phone number, address and email address) and financial information (such as credit card details) so that you can purchase the book titled "Beauty and Light with Faith". Our privacy policy is available at <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/sysweb/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SMC-PARISH-COLLECTION-NOTICE.pdf>