



CCCMR Report to the Region of Oceania

1 February 2022

Introduction

CCCMR re-opened again on 17 January 2022. Omicron ensured that everyone's holidays were disrupted in one way or another! And also, our return to work! Kim Chong and Sam Cherian are currently working mostly from home. I attend the office on various days according to what is on my 'to do' list. Today was our first day of synchronised office attendance. We hope to make it our regular practice very soon, but even then the 'new normal' will be 3 days at the office and 2 days working from home.

With Ryan Epondulan's resignation now in effect, we are a "new" team of three – but with Sam having joined us in September last year, happily we are also an "old" team who are familiar with each other.

Sam Cherian has successfully completed her probation and induction and is now fulltime. Congratulations!! 😊



Western Sydney Women's InThERfaith Initiative's 'Summertime Picnic', by Kim Chong

Emerging from lockdown late last year, the Western Sydney Women's InThERfaith Initiative (WSWII) managed to hold an *in-person* event on 8 December, their first face-to-face gathering since their inaugural morning tea in early 2021. The theme was 'Summertime Picnic', to be held outdoors at Blacktown Showground. However, La Niña and her persistent rainfall meant 'summer' was a no-show. Not to be deterred by the weather, the 'picnic' moved indoors to a venue at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) campus in Blacktown, thanks to WSWII's committee member and ACU community liaison, Caroline Allen. While it poured rain outside, we nonetheless had a sunny time inside,

munching on delicious picnic boxes, playing get-to-know-you bingo, and making new friends. Together, we were unstoppable, rain, hail or shine!

Playing it COVID-safe again due to Omicron, the women will be gathering online this week to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Bishop Vincent Long

On 15 December 2021 we hosted Bishop Vincent for a Morning Tea in our new offices. It was the first time he has visited us in our Centre since the official opening and blessing 3 years ago. It gave us a chance to thank him for the new offices, to introduce Sam Cherian, to farewell Ryan, and to share about our activities and plans for the coming years. We also proposed the idea of sharing the planning project between CCCMR and the Interfaith Commission. We enjoyed the bishop's support and company and he enjoyed our hospitality.

P.S. Who's going to take the selfies in future??





CCCMR Christmas Lunch

On 16 December, assisted by a generous donation from a benefactor which made it possible, we held our CCCMR Christmas Dinner in the Rockpool Bar and Restaurant, a very swanky, up-market venue in the CBD. The cuisine was superb. Needless to say, we avoided the Russian Sturgeon entrée at \$680 per serve! Next year's Christmas lunch will pale by comparison. McDonalds???

It was also a farewell and thank you to Ryan for his 4 years of contribution to CCMR. We wished him well for his future career and look forward to continued association in other ways. He will continue as a member of the Youth PoWR Committee and is on the interfaith commission of the diocese.

CCCMR Planning

After initial discussion and consultation towards the end of last year re conducting a formal "review" of CCCMR, we recognised two things. Firstly, we are talking more about "strategic planning" rather than "review" i.e. looking forwards rather than backwards. Secondly, that as our proposed principal partner in the interfaith apostolate is the Diocese of Parramatta, it would be good to do this planning in tandem with them (and have them share the cost!). We have proposed this to the bishop during his visit to CCCMR (see above) but there have been no formal negotiations. Also, the interfaith commission of the diocese is not yet up and running. Although CCCMR is ready for this planning project, it is evident that the diocese is not. It is probably best to pause this planning project until we can do it together.

Member of Drafting Committee of the Plenary Council

In mid-December I received an e-mail from Bishop Paul Bird inviting me to be a member of one of four drafting committees to work on propositions for consideration by the Plenary Council. The deadline was early February, so working on this project ate into my holiday time. 😞



View from the Pews! A salutary reminder to those of us who stand in a pulpit!

Letter to a bishop from a disgruntled parishioner:

May I please make a suggestion so that the members of the Catholic Church may continue to attend daily mass. I have noticed how many parishioners fidget and squirm when subjected to the punishment of having to listen to the daily long irrelevant sermons that usually have nothing to do with the readings.

In view of the current pandemic, it would be prudent to keep the daily masses brief and relevant. There is really no need for such long non-sensical and irrelevant sermons during the daily mass. It may be alright to torture the faithful with a long irrelevant sermon on Sundays just to shorten our time in purgatory. In short, daily sermons if at all necessary should be brief and to the point. What is the message?

Some of the priests in your diocese definitely need training in public speaking and becoming more relevant in delivering the message of the readings rather than just repeating everything that has just been read

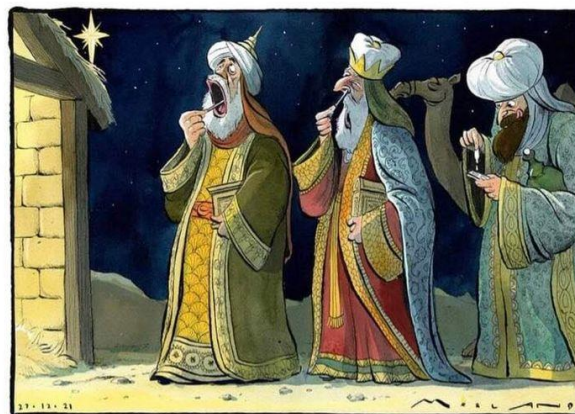
I am hoping that you take my comments on board as positive rather than negative from someone who is seeing the Catholic Church as completely irrelevant nowadays. Priests tend to talk too long and are entirely out of context and irrelevant to the subject matter.

N.B. The above letter **confidential** and **NOT for distribution!!**

Wishing you keep safe and well in this new year. Wishing you every blessing in your life and work!

Patrick McInerney

P.S. For some comic relief from COVID-related stress at Christmas, Epiphany and the New Year, please see the following page.



\$45 billion found in a Nigerian man's flat. He'd spent ten years trying to get rid of it but no one answered his emails.



This would be funny except there's no punch line...

