

50 YEARS ON

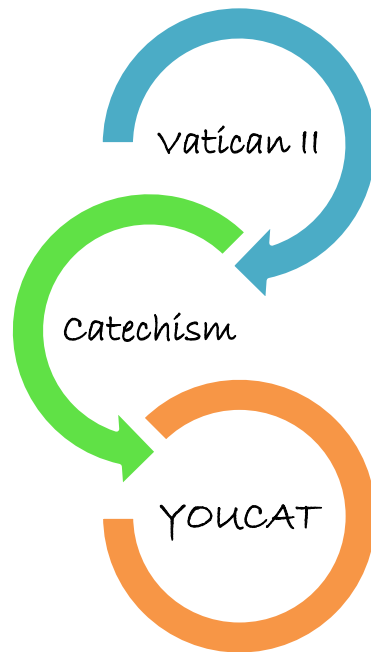
PARISH REFLECTIONS
on the impact of VATICAN II



Small group leaders training



This resource has been developed to help participants connect the teaching of Vatican II with their faith lives today and to start to reflect on how Vatican II makes a difference to us. It is intentionally connected to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and YOUCAT ! These are mainstream catechetical resources for today.



When you hear the word 'Catechism' as a Catholic, what comes to mind?

The Catechism (CCC) for today is not an instruction manual but a reference work for bishops. In it you will find:

- Key quotes from the Council
- References connecting to prior Councils
- Quotations from the Fathers and Saints of the Church

YOUCAT is another catechetical resource based on the framework of the CCC. It does have a question and answer format, presented as if a young person is asking the question.....

It might be important in sessions to remind the group that the CCC is not like the Penny Catechism of the past and should be used as a springboard for further reflection and as a reference point.

HOW THE SESSIONS WORK

The sessions all have the same predictable format. This is important when leading a small group. People begin to have confidence when they realise that the shape of each session will be the same. The sessions are NOT study sessions, they are meant to introduce the group to some major themes of the Council. The tone of the sessions is more about reflecting together and sharing. In the first session it is important that you help the group to be comfortable and invite each person to introduce themselves and share what they hope for.

RETURN to the SOURCE:

- Each session begins with a short quotation from Vatican II, which is read out loud by YOU the leader. Encourage the participants to then read it to themselves and underline or circle words or phrases that strike them.

RECALL:

- Then go on to explore how the Catechism develops the theme a bit further. Again read this out loud and give time for participants to underline and circle what stays with them.
- Move onto to look at the YOUCAT quotation. Encourage the group to see how it is connected to the Catechism.

REMEMBER:

- These quotes could be read by different member of the group, and once more time is given to circle which particular quote moves or strikes...

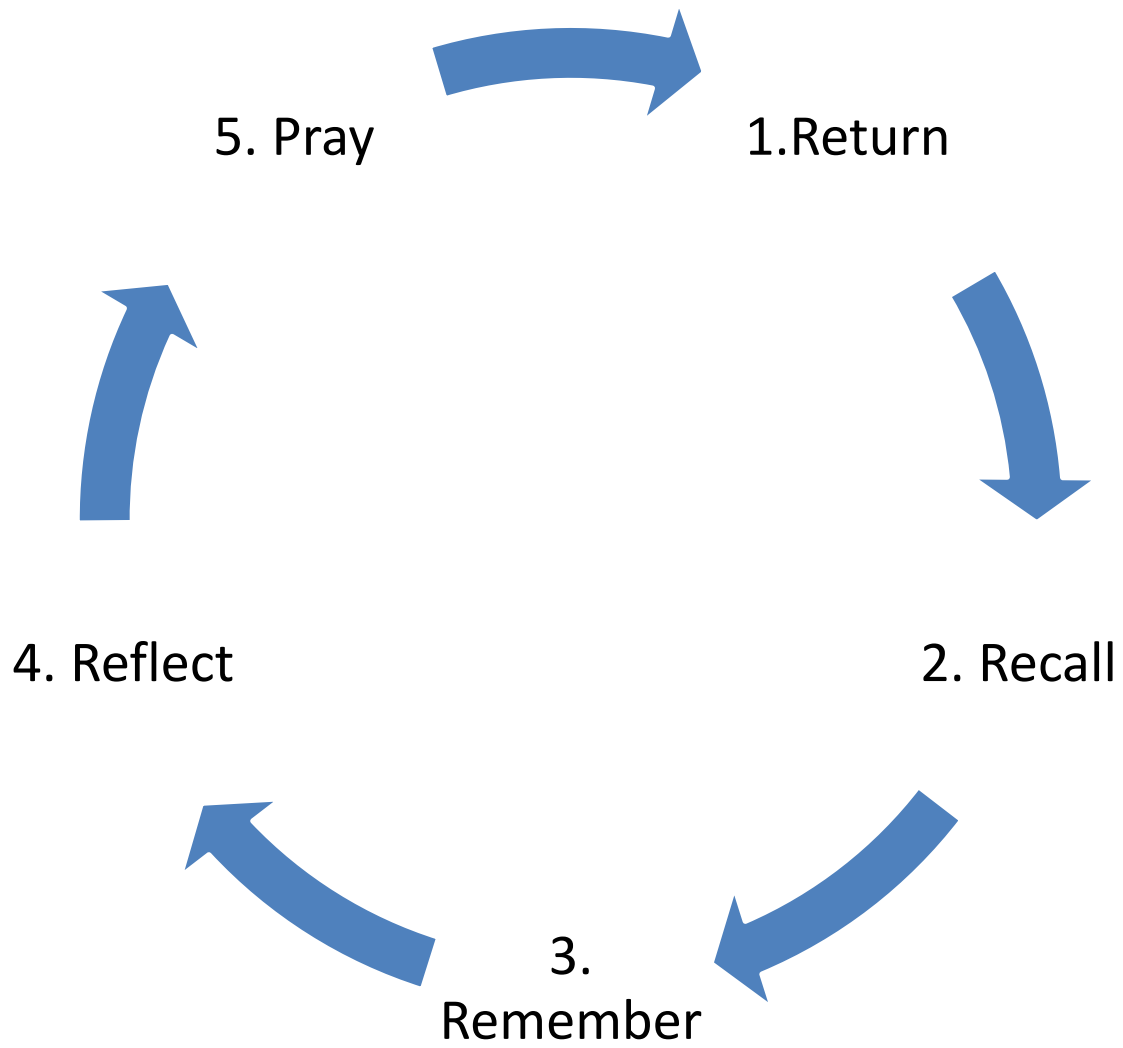
REFLECT

- Go on to look at the Reflection questions. The first question is always the same in each session: 'What stays with you.' This is deliberate, it is good to give the opportunity for free sharing.
- Then there are specific questions to help the group focus more intently on the theme.

FINAL PRAYER:

The session ends with a prayer which is given and all say together.

THE PROCESS



Trust the Process!

Time the Process!

Keep to the Process!

THE THEMES:

The 5 themes connect with the Major Documents of Vatican II called Constitutions.

These themes are:

Called to holiness – from the [Constitution on the Church](#)

Called to take part – from the [Constitution on the Liturgy](#)

Called to respond – from the [Constitution on Divine Revelation](#)

Called to witness – from the [Constitution on the Church](#)

Called to live justly – from [the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World](#).

[The Constitution on the Church](#) focused on what the Church is here for – the sanctification of every person. This helped us to recover a true sense of what baptism is all about and that all people everywhere are called to live lives of holy goodness. All play their part in the building up of the Body of Christ.

[The Constitution on the Liturgy](#) focused on what we do when we gather for worship and described liturgy, and in particular the Eucharist, as the source and summit of our Christian life.

[The Constitution on Divine Revelation](#) – focused on how God reveals God self to humankind and the place of scripture and tradition.

[The Constitution on the Church in the Modern World](#) – was a breakthrough document as it was PASTORAL in nature addressing how we can serve a world of rapid change and deep deprivation.

You can download all the documents from the Vatican website.....



THE CONSTITUTION on the LITURGY - December 4th 1963 1st DOCUMENT

2147 bishops voted for this 4 against it

What it promoted:

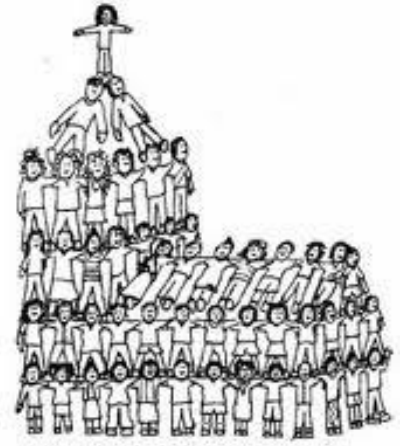
- ❖ Giving new life to the Christian way of life
- ❖ Adaptation to the changing needs of today
- ❖ Promoting union among all Christians
- ❖ Liturgical celebration as our life source and the highpoint of our lives
- ❖ 3 principles to foster this:
 - ❖ That we are well disposed
 - ❖ We know what we are doing –understand the liturgy
 - ❖ We actively participate
- ❖ Changeable elements such as: language, books, prayers, music, etc.
- ❖ Unchanging elements: scripture, bread, wine, shape of Rites, communion
- ❖ Allowed for use of vernacular to enhance full, active and conscious participation
- ❖ The Eucharist as a communal activity rather than a static private devotional object.
- ❖ Restored first century sources of liturgy
- ❖ Established Baptism as prime sacrament and doorway to all others
- ❖ Full, active and conscious participation as the main principle of all liturgical celebrations.
- ❖ Liturgical Seasons
- ❖ Removal of elements of the Liturgy that are out of harmony with the inner nature of it
- ❖ The full restoration of the catechumenate and diaconate
- ❖ The Liturgy of the Hours is the Prayer of the whole Church and should be prayed communally in parishes



THE CONSTITUTION on the CHURCH

– November 21st 1964

2151 bishops voted for this 4 against



What it promoted:

- ❖ The Church as the primary sacrament of God's presence in the world – a mystery with Christ at its centre
- ❖ The restoration of biblical models of the Church from New Testament
- ❖ Images such as Body of Christ, People of God, Sacrament of salvation
- ❖ The notion that among the People of God there were a variety of ministries
- ❖ That the hierarchical community of bishops is a community of service
- ❖ The bishops, are a college, in unity with the Pope, united in peace and charity
- ❖ The Lay faithful are called to be the presence of Christ in the world
- ❖ All are called to holiness, the same holiness deriving from baptism
- ❖ This universal call to holiness is a way to love and is manifest in a variety of responses or states of life
- ❖ Religious make a special consecration of their lives flowing from their baptism
- ❖ The communion of saints is part of the Church living and dead, we are in that communion
- ❖ Mary is the first disciple, taking her place among the People of God, so that all devotion to her always leads to Christ

The CONSTITUTION on DIVINE REVELATION – November 18 1965

2344 bishop voted for 6 against

What it promoted:

- ❖ Jesus Christ is the source of all revelation
- ❖ The Scriptures are the foundation of revelation
- ❖ Tradition elaborates the meaning of Scriptures for each generation
- ❖ Eternal truths do not change, although their expression does from generation to generation
- ❖ Our response to God's revelation is faith
- ❖ Through faith we entrust our whole selves to God
- ❖ This faith is handed on from generation to generation
- ❖ God wants us to know God fully
- ❖ God communicates God's own self to us
- ❖ God reveals the inner life of the Trinity to us
- ❖ The revelation is complete in Christ, but what the Gospel asks of us is still being revealed.
- ❖ So God is still speaking
- ❖ Over time there has been a gradual growth in humankind's understanding of what God desires
- ❖ Scripture and Tradition flow from the same divine wellspring – the heart of God.

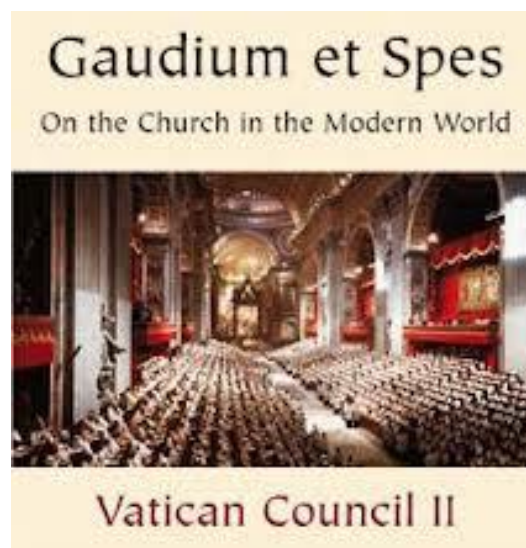


THE PASTORAL CONSTITUTION on the CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD – December 7th, 1965

2309 Bishops voted for 75 against

What it promoted:

- ❖ Radical involvement in a rapidly changing world so as to bring the compassion of Christ to the world through the lives of believers
- ❖ Exploring the signs of the times
- ❖ Understanding of the world we live in
- ❖ A church in the world and for the world
- ❖ The sacredness of the voice of conscience
- ❖ Discernment about how to respond
- ❖ Human beings are made for God and have a hunger for God
- ❖ Exploration of contemporary issues
- ❖ Lengthy exploration of the role of the family
- ❖ Supporting the common good in all we do
- ❖ Examining economic injustice
- ❖ Responding to the problem of war and a culture of peace making



WEBSITES:

VATICAN DOCUMENTS - www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/

ARTILCE - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Vatican_Council

vatican2voice.org/ This site promotes the teaching of the Second **Vatican** Council, through the voices of several of the Council Fathers who helped shape the Council.

YOU TUBE

1. Ep.1: History and Genesis of Vatican II - YouTube

▶ 22:40 ▶ 22:40

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOCJLb_6a_E

2. Vatican II After 50 years - YouTube

www.youtube.com/playlist?list...

"Vatican II After 50 years", a playlist created by GeorgetownUniversity

This gives a series of lectures held at Goergetown University all on YOU TUBE

3. The Meaning of Vatican II: A Commentary by Fr. Barron - YouTube

▶ 10:16 ▶ 10:16

www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8j24FBRgrA

27 Jun 2012 - Uploaded by wordonfirevideo

The Meaning of **Vatican** II: A Commentary by Fr. Barron

