

Refounding the Church

A Revolution in Lay Spirituality

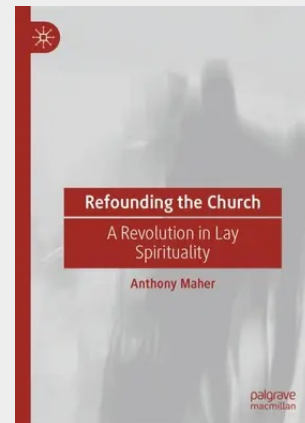
Refounding the Church weaves together the basic dynamics of a lay incarnational spirituality, including synodality, a liberated theology, an informed conscience, local eucharistic, the and a western theology of liberation. Making the case that only a radical refounding synodal Church can respond philosophically, theologically and practically to the signs of the times, this distinctive book makes an unapologetic work of apologetics in the traditional sense. The book is a work of a liberated theology, intended as a pathway to a postfoundational Church. Written to inform and liberate an educated laity and awaken a lay incarnational spirituality, it is not intended to appease hegemonic clericalism. This book is an important read for scholars of theology interested in Synodality and Church leadership.

In, Anthony Maher delivers a profound and urgent theological manifesto for our times. With meticulous scholarship and prophetic insight, Maher confronts the mounting crises facing both Western culture and the Catholic Church, offering a bold vision of renewal grounded in the concept of entanglement — a quantum metaphor that underscores radical relationality, interconnectedness, and a shared responsibility for human flourishing. Maher masterfully weaves together historical analysis, ecclesiological reflection, and contemporary socio-political critique, diagnosing the spiritual malaise gripping Western society. He draws attention to the resurgence of authoritarianism and the troubling rise of Christian nationalism, embodied by figures like Trump and Putin, whose ideological distortions of faith weaponise Christianity to serve political ends. In this darkening landscape, Maher challenges the Church to reclaim its prophetic voice, advocating for a return to the liberative mission of the Gospel.

Anthony Maher was the 2024 Crawford-Miller (Oxford-Australia) Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford, Professor of Practical Theology and Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra. He was the previous President of the Association of Practical Theology in Oceania and has also served as Academic Dean, theological consultant, and Director at various higher education institutions in the UK and Australia. Recent books include (2022); (2017); (2017); and (2015). His current research in post-secular, political theology includes his next book, 'Refounding Australia' (2026/7). Anthony is married to Lesley, they have four children and live in Sydney.

The whole Church owes Anthony Maher a great debt of gratitude for his , in which he lays out his vision for a future Church characterized by radical relationality, interconnectedness, and a shared responsibility for human flourishing. It is an urgent theological manifesto for our times and a pragmatic call to action to overcome the gripping crises facing the Catholic Church and our fractured world. No Church leaders and concerned lay Catholics can afford not to read if they want the Church to realize its role as a beacon of justice, peace, and ecological stewardship, and "refound" it on the principles of solidarity and liberation of the Gospel. They will find in this book a bold and hopeful vision for Church renewal inspired by Vatican II and Pope Francis.

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