



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
(UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY)

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1837- 4123 (print) ISSN 1837- 4131 (Online)

Vol..XXV, No.1 February 2012

NOTICE OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

2.30 PM ON SUNDAY, 11 MARCH, 2012
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE HALL, SYDNEY

The Agenda:

- Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2012

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2012

All positions on the Council of the Society are declared vacant at each AGM and you are encouraged to nominate for a position to help the Society to continue to achieve its goals. The Society depends upon both the support of its members and on the efforts of its Council.

If you are interested in assisting in this or any other way, please contact ACHS President Dr John Carmody by writing to: SECRETARY ACHS, P.O. Box A621, Sydney South, NSW, 1235, NSW or email secretaryachs@gmail.com requesting that your correspondence be passed onto Dr Carmody.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Dr Michael Costigan on the topic: *Vatican II as I experienced it*. This will be the first of a number of presentations this year that will focus on Vatican II which first assembled fifty years ago on 11 October 1962. Bring a friend or colleague to listen to these very interesting presentations and encourage them to join the Society.

From the President

Most of us remember 1962 and much of what happened in that year. We hardly consider it history, though the fact that the Second Vatican Council opened in that year should make us all acknowledge the passage of time and the truth that this is what makes "history"!

But surely 1912 is another matter? The *Titanic* sank that year and Scott reached the South Pole (just after Amundsen): those two events perhaps symbolise the birth of the 20th century and the modern world as well as anything else – just as it is salutary to be reminded that Dr Joseph Lister, the British doctor who pioneered aseptic surgery, *died* in that year. The Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard, once observed that "Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards" – and that backward panorama is both long and just as

exhilarating to historians as the headlong forward sweep of the passage of time.

This human reality – and the fact that though the *pace* of life may change, nothing *ever* remains the same – is the eloquent theme of the moving little reflective essay by the late Br. Kevin Friel which Professor James Franklin has included in the revitalised *ACHS Journal* which he has just produced. It is wonderful to see that publication "re-born" and Professor Franklin deserves the genuine thanks of not only ACHS members but the entire historical community of Australia: it is a formidable achievement.

As the first step for ACHS this year it is extremely significant. So, however, is the need to reflect on the pragmatic operations of the Society in 2012. I am delighted with the generosity of those who have

agreed to speak to us this year and I am still committed to a conference (so think about participating in that!). But we need to recognise reality, including the truth that Helen Scanlon and Geoff Hogan carry too great a burden of work for the Society.

We need *everyone* to become an ACHS “recruiting officer” and we need every member – old and new – to consider some committee service: ACHS must be able look forward optimistically even as it scrutinises the endlessly-fascinating past.

John Carmody, ACHS President.

Australian Catholic Historical Society: Program for the first half of 2012.

A full program was published in the November 2011 Newsletter and a program brochure mailed out with the Journal. A 2012 program brochure is available by emailing: secretaryachs@gmail.com

(These details are correct as at 8 February 2012, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances).

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 11 <i>(Includes the AGM and election of Councilors)</i>	<i>Vatican II as I experienced it.</i>	Dr Michael Costigan. Formerly: Editor, <i>The Advocate</i> [Melbourne]; Director, Literature Board of the Australia Council; and Director, and Executive Secretary, Australian Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development and Peace.
April 15	<i>Some aspects of the Sydney Irish: 1850-1900.</i>	Dr Damian Gleeson. School of History & Philosophy, UNSW.
May 13	<i>Memoirs by Australian priests and religious.</i>	Professor James Franklin [Vice-President: ACHS]. School of Mathematics, and Statistics, UNSW.
June 17	<i>Vatican II viewed from afar.</i>	Emeritus Professor Paul Crittenden. Formerly Professor of Philosophy and Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney.

The colloquia are held on Sunday afternoons, at 2.30pm, in the foyer of St Mary's Cathedral College hall, Cathedral Street, Sydney. Best entry is from Cathedral Street, near the entry to the Cathedral Street Parking Station.

2011 James MacGinley Award

Entries for the 2011 James MacGinley Award closed in October 2011.

The judges / assessors have decided to make the 2011 award to Robert O'Shea from Parkville, Victoria. His topic was “*Irish nuns during English Benedictine rule: the impact of Irish sisters in early Catholic Australia*”.

2012 Membership subscriptions are now due.

Most members have renewed their subscriptions and this is a gentle reminder to those who may have overlooked this. Some members had paid in advance and they did not have a renewal form included with the November Newsletter. They are still financial, but it should also be noted that we are phasing out the 3 year payment option and this is not available to those renewing or joining in 2012.

If you are in doubt or need a form, send an email to secretaryachs@gmail.com. Alternatively write to:

The Secretary ACHS
PO Box A621.
Sydney South, NSW, 1235.

2012 ACHS Subscription rates are:

- Individual \$30.00;
- Family \$40.00;
- Institutional \$45.00;
- Overseas \$50.00.

THE RISE AND FALL OF CHRISTENDOM. Presented on Sunday 13 November, 2011

Scientia Professor John Gascoigne, from the School of History and Philosophy at UNSW, was called upon to present this paper at short notice as Jane Carolan, who was listed on the program to speak on

“Catholic Church Insurance centenary”, was unable to make her planned presentation due the serious illness of a family member.

Professor Gascoigne presented an excellent paper which examined the changing roles of and relationships between of the Church and the State over time and in both the Old and the New Worlds.

The Church began as a small persecuted minority, but the Roman Emperors Constantine and Theodosius later established the Church as the state religion. By 800AD when Charlemagne was crowned Head of the Holy Roman Empire, there was a fusion of religion and the state.

During the middle ages, the Pope was seen as a State ruler, with all this entailed, as well as head of the Church. After the Reformation, rulers like Henry VIII assumed spiritual powers as well as temporal. Coronation in England is a religious ceremony; the King is anointed with Holy Oils. In Catholic Spain the Inquisition was a State organised event. Rulers, Catholic and those such as Anglican and Lutheran chose the Bishops for the state religion.

After this time serious problems arose with dissenters, those not following the State church. Many of these were persecuted, others fled to the New World. In North America groups of Catholics, and Protestants established settlements.

The era of revolutions, industrial, French and American in particular, resulted in further change. In America, where each separate original colony had its own religion, it was agreed after the revolution that church and state must be completely separate. This is still the case. Yet unless a candidate

professes belief in God, she/he cannot run for president. In France, in 1795 separation was proclaimed, then in 1801, the Catholic Church was designated the religion of most of the French people and only in 1905 was there a formal separation. In France marriage is a civil ceremony, carried out by the Mayor. For Catholics there is also a complimentary religious ceremony conducted by a priest. Yet the state maintains the upkeep of the great Cathedrals.

In Europe in general, there has not been the complete separation of church and state. For example the Church has played a role in changing the power in Poland and also in the Philippines. In Iceland and Germany, church taxes levied on all.

In both the Old and the New Worlds, the fully secular state has been elusive. In Australia and USA, where there was no one established church, the experience of Catholics was important in forming the Vatican II statement on Religious Freedom.

Professor Gascoigne concluded by saying that since 1960s, we had been in "The Age of Authenticity". The big issues in the West are gender, sex, sexual identity, notions of family etc. These are not the issues confronting the 3rd World, where traditional religion is buoyant.

Helen Scanlon ACHS Treasurer.

Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2011. After dinner speaker was Fr Jim Boland who spoke on the religious services at the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics in 2000.

The Sydney Olympic Games of 2000 were widely acclaimed as the best ever. That gratifying judgement overwhelmingly referred to the facilities (both sporting and residential) and the great spirit which was apparent in Sydney, in no small measure because of the wonderful contribution of the innumerable volunteers. On reflection, this should remind everyone that the Olympics are far more than simply a sporting event: they have significant political and diplomatic dimensions, too.

But the address which Fr James Boland gave after the annual Christmas Lunch of ACHS on December 10 last year was, to many, a revelation: it revealed the important religious aspects of the games. And Fr Boland, who has a long service as a Chaplain to the NSW Police Force, was right at the centre of it all -- the provision of religious services and support to the 15,000-16,000 residents of the Olympic village during the Olympics and the Paralympics, an astonishing population which included coaches and

diverse support staff as well as the athletes themselves.

Preparations began quite early. It was in July 1998 that SOCOG and the NSW Minister for the Olympics [Mr. Michael Knight] appointed Fr Boland and a number of other chaplains and pastors, all of whom had significant service with the NSW Police Chaplaincy, and who enjoyed good standing because of their undoubted skill in achieving inter-denominational co-operation. Their brief was also to help with the design and staffing of a single religious centre to accommodate the five principal faiths -- Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism -- providing five separate prayer-rooms for those faiths as well as rooms for counseling and administration. It was the first time, ever, that such a single centre had been provided at an Olympiad. This decision was obviously a wise one because Fr Boland particularly remarked on the praise which was received after the Games, notably about the

wonderful way in which the faiths had interacted, with some Olympians wistfully wishing that this could be achieved in their own countries.

SOCOG was also concerned about proselytising within the Games village, as had been evident at the Atlanta Games. This was successfully avoided.

Volunteers were recruited (as with other aspects of the Games) -- 85 in all -- and services were conducted in many different languages, including

numerous Masses for Catholic and Orthodox Christians. Although rigorous counting of attendances was not done, there were known to be over 5000 patrons during the Olympics and at least 2500 during the Paralympics.

It was another aspect -- largely unknown but inspiring -- which contributed to the "best ever" Games in Sydney in 2000.

John Carmody, ACHS President.

The Catholic Weekly

The Catholic Weekly is celebrating its 70th year of publication, being first published on 5 March 1942. A 70th Anniversary Souvenir Edition was published on 1 January 2012.

The Catholic Weekly is a rich source for those researching Catholic history as it provides contemporary reports, photographs and other data. The Souvenir Edition demonstrates this point well in

reprinting reports and photographs from previous editions.

A brief account of the history of the Catholic Weekly and of its antecedent Catholic newspapers can be accessed on the Catholic Weekly's website. <http://www.australiancatholicnews.com.au/?p id=7>.

Some other events in Australian Catholic history

(Source: http://www.sydneycatholic.org/about/key_dates_in_our_history.shtml)

150 years ago (1862). The NSW Government passes a bill to abolish State aid to religion.

125 years ago (1887). A decree from Rome constitutes Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, founded by Mary MacKillop, as an approved Regular Congregation with the Mother House in Sydney.

100 Years ago (1912). The Australian Catholic Federation is established in Victoria to advocate the political interests of the Catholic Church in Australia and is endorsed by Archbishop of Melbourne. The Federation was established in NSW in the following year 1913.

75 years ago (1937). Norman Thomas Gilroy, former Bishop of Port Augusta, is created Archbishop in partibus and successor to Archbishop Kelly and the Sydney Archdiocese

Obituaries.

Ruth Lynch died on 14 July 2011. Ruth was a very active and committed member of the ACHS. She had served in various roles on the Council and regularly attended meetings. The Society extends its condolences to her family. May she rest in peace.

Fr John Eddy SJ died on 6 November 2011. He was a long-time historian at the Australian National University and served in many other roles including the establishment of the Australian Institute for Jesuit Studies. He was based in and was a priest to the people of Canberra for many years. An obituary for Fr Eddy was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 7 February 2012. (<http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/scholar-reached-out-to-marginalised-20120206-1r117.html>). May he rest in peace.

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