



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

NEWSLETTER

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NOTICE OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS 1.30 PM ON SUNDAY, 20 MARCH, 2016.

Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill [Grosvenor Street], The Rocks.

The Agenda:

- Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2016
- Items of business and motions of which due notice had been given by Monday 25 January, 2016.
(Agenda items must reach the Secretary at the ACHS PO Box by Monday 25 January 2016)

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2016

All positions on the Council are declared vacant at the AGM. Positions: President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Councillors (up to 7). Please consider nominating. Nomination forms must be completed and mailed to: SECRETARY ACHS, P.O. Box A621, Sydney South, NSW, 1235, These need to arrive by Friday 11 March 2015. A blank nomination form is enclosed in the envelope with this Newsletter.

Following the AGM at approx. 2:00pm Dr Moira O'Sullivan RSC will give her presentation.

Fr George Connolly retires as ACHS Chaplain.

At the Christmas lunch, the President advised members that Fr George Connolly is retiring as ACHS Chaplain. Fr George has been an excellent, supportive, involved and highly regarded Chaplain of the Society. He will be greatly missed. Dr Carmody will discuss the appointment of a new Chaplain with Archbishop Fisher.

2016 Order of Australia Award

Congratulations to ACHS member, The Hon Deirdre Grusovin, on becoming a Member of the Order of Australia.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Program for first half 2016.

A full program was published in the November 2015 Newsletter. This information is correct as at 24 January 2016.

March 20 *1:30 pm start	*1:30pm Annual General Meeting 2:00pm Presentation: <i>Religious life: flight from, or race to reality?</i>	Presentation: Dr Moira O'Sullivan RSC. Sisters of Charity, Sydney.
April 17	<i>Remembering the 1916 Easter Rising.</i>	Dr Frances Flanagan. Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney.
May 15	<i>Dr Herbert Michael ("Paddy") Moran - the contribution he made to Australian social history, and the disruption he caused in Catholic and medical circles in Australia's inter-war period</i>	Ms Anne Thoeming. Formerly Director of Research Services Australian Catholic University. Currently MA student (Macquarie University)
June 19	<i>Some second thoughts on The Sectarian Strand: Religion in Australian History.</i>	Associate Professor Michael Hogan. Dept. of Government and International Relations. University of Sydney.

ACHS Sydney meetings are held on Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm (unless otherwise stated) in the Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill [Grosvenor Street], The Rocks. Admission is free and does not require membership of ACHS, but a donation is welcome. Enquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS: john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

The Melbourne Chapter will meet from 2:00 to 3:00pm on March 7th, June 6th, September 5th, and November 7th. The speakers and topics have not been finalised. The Melbourne Chapter meetings are held in the Seminar Room, Dorish Maru College, Yarra Theological Union, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill, Victoria. Enquiries: Dr Larry Nemer phone: (03)8892 2603 or email: nemerlarry@gmail.com

President's Message

“The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils Himself in many ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world”
as Tennyson wrote in *Morte d'Arthur* – or it **should**.

With every organisation renewal is imperative – whether companies, universities, governments, or societies like ACHS. It is a challenge for them all and it is not easily achieved. I certainly recognised that when I was elected President of our society but, I regret to say, I have not been terribly successful in attracting younger members. However, I am hopeful that some recent contacts with the Australian Catholic University and the new Rector at St John's College at Sydney University (Dr Adrian Diethelm) might bear fruit in that respect.

Accordingly, I encourage *every* current member to try to recruit a new member – but especially *young ones*.

Despite this issue, we are all proud of the current activities of the society and the Council are working optimistically for the day-long conference on 24 September this year. It will be held in the impressive facilities of the James Carroll Centre on the North Sydney campus of the ACU, with a closing Mass in

the nearby St Mary McKillop Chapel. An extra enticement will be a social event, on the previous evening, in the lovely Christopher Brennan Hall at St John's College.

The Council have agreed on a unifying theme, *To and from the antipodes.....Catholic missionaries over two centuries*, which we hope will attract participants (and contributors) from a variety of religious orders as well as ACHS members and many others. **The more the better!** I earnestly hope that our conference will be a highlight of what already promises to be an excellent year for our society. There is something special about a conference: it is an enjoyable blend of the social and the informative. Since I'm sure that New Guinea will feature significantly in our deliberations – as it should because it has been, and remains, a place of singular importance for Australia – I'm reminded of James McAuley's beautiful lines from *New Guinea*:

“Bird-shaped island, with secretive bird-voices,
Land of apocalypse, where the earth dances.....
The stranger is engulfed in those high valleys,
Where mists of morning linger like the breath
Of Wisdom moving on our specular darkness.”
That is a lot to live up to! (Jack Carmody)

ACHS JAMES MACGINLEY AWARD

The winning entry for the 2015 James MacGinley Award was submitted by recent UNSW History PhD graduate, Dr Charmaine Robson and was titled: “... *in the event of a call from the Government*: *The Australian Catholic Church and the Indigenous Leprosy Apostolate*”. Another entry that should be noted was by PhD student Mrs Christine Creaser, titled ‘*Some experiences of the teaching sisters in the Catholic primary school in the 1950s and 1960s*’.

ACHS 2016 Conference.

This will be held on Saturday 24 September at the North Sydney Campus of the Australian Catholic University. A welcome event will be held on the evening of Friday 23 September at St John's College within the grounds of Sydney University, 10 Missenden Road, Camperdown NSW. The conference theme: *To and from the Antipodes: Catholic missionaries over two centuries*. **Weblink to Conference and call for papers details and deadline:** <http://www.australiancatholichistoricalandsociety.com.au/conference/>

2016 Membership subscriptions are now due.

If you had not renewed by 10 January 2016, a membership form is included with this newsletter. If you are in doubt about your membership status please email: secretaryachs@gmail.com or write to: The Secretary ACHS, PO Box A621 Sydney South, NSW, 1235. Membership subscription rates for 2016: Individual \$50, Individual Overseas \$50, Full Time Student \$20, Family \$50 (this covers family members at the one address in Australia), Institutional \$60 (one congregation, school, library etc. at the one address in Australia).

ACHS 75th Anniversary Mass Sunday 15 November 2015

About 25 members attended the 75th Anniversary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am on Sunday 15 November 2015 in St Mary's Cathedral Sydney. The celebrant was Archbishop Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney and Patron of the Society. A number of clergy

who are members of ACHS were co-celebrants. These included Fr George Connolly (ACHS Chaplain), Fr Brian Lucas, Fr Edmund Campion and Fr John De Luca. In his homily Archbishop Fisher mentioned the Society's 75th Anniversary, aspects of its history and

named some eminent people who have been members of the Society over that time. Members of the Society did the readings, led the Prayers of The Faithful and

brought forward the Gifts at the Offertory. Richard Connolly was present and two of his hymns were sung. (*Geoff Hogan Editor*).

Sydney Meeting, Sunday 15 November 2015. Presenter: Assoc. Professor Julia Horne
Topic: *Political machinations and sectarian intrigue in the making of Sydney University*

Assoc. Professor Julia Horne presented a highly informative and entertaining outline of the establishment of the University of Sydney as the first university in the Empire where no one religion could predominate. W C Wentworth had led the movement to establish what would be the first full colonial university in the British Empire, believing it was the duty of the State to educate a governing elite, suitable male colonists selected on their merits, who as graduates would give back to society. The university was founded in October 1850 by an Act of the NSW Legislature. After much debate, the notion of a public secular university, with a secular curriculum and religion contained to university colleges was adopted. It was the new University of London, where students did not have to profess any faith, which became the model for Sydney University.

Religious leaders objected strongly. Anglican Bishop Broughton labelled the planned university as that 'great emporium of false and Anti-Church views' and Wentworth 'that old heathen tyrant' yet the first Principal and Professor of Classics, the Rev John Woolley, was strongly committed to university reform. An agreement was reached in 1853 that college students would attend secular lectures but before graduating would have to pass a character test from their college. The following year the NSW Parliament passed an Act to establish colleges within the university grounds and the government allocated 18 acres of land and substantial sums for establishment costs and principal's salary to the respective religions. All university college students had to be matriculated and attend professorial lectures. By 1856, Woolley had persuaded Parliament to rescind the character test

provision of the Act. Although the official figures show 19% of the original students was Catholic, the figure is most likely closer to 25%; the university was not allowed to record a student's religion.

Archbishop Polding opened the appeal for funds to establish St John's College for Catholic men in 1857 and it was incorporated into the University of Sydney in December 1857 on terms identical to St Paul's, the Anglican college which had opened in 1856. The generous support for St John's, especially from rural areas, led to Polding changing his attitude to the University. Catholic women had to wait until 1925 when Sancta Sophia was opened. The university admitted women to all university privileges in 1881, with Chancellor Sir William Manning and Professor Charles Badham arguing strongly on their behalf.

The establishment of the denominational colleges with State funding was a definite departure from Wentworth's original vision of a secular university. They were a compromise solution. Only a small proportion of students lived in these colleges, but the colleges played an important role in the socialising and bonding of youth especially through sport. By the 21st century almost all were co-ed. The university was one of the first to consider ways of obtaining enrolments from all classes and Woolley's successor, Charles Badham, was insistent bursaries be offered to promising students. Teaching scholarships from 1912 significantly increased student numbers, especially of women. Sydney became the model for all Australian universities. It was an 'experiment' of which we can be rightly proud. (*Dr Janice Garaty*)

Melbourne Chapter Meeting, Tuesday 9 November 2015. Presenter: Michael Francis.
Topic: *Catholic opinion on the conscription issue (During World War I)*

Michael Francis gave an excellent paper/power-point presentation on Catholic opinion on the conscription issue. He pointed out that although Mannix was outspoken in his opposition to conscription he stated clearly that he was not speaking on the topic as a moral issue but a political issue and that he was not presenting "the Catholic view" on conscription. Francis introduced the members to the leading Catholics who spoke in favour of conscription. He also pointed out that the conscription issue was more complex than might appear on the surface. He listed the "Pro-Conscription Groups": the Nationalist Party (NLP & CLP), Orange Lodge, Protestant Federation, and middle-class and establishment people. These

people believed that volunteerism had failed, that conscription was necessary to boost enlistments, that it was a patriotic duty to put the Empire first, and that it was unfair that the best men died in war while the worst men stayed at home and lived like cowards. The "anti-Conscriptions Groups" were: the Labor Party, Trade Unions, International Workers of the World (IWW), and the urban working-class and agriculturalists. They believed that volunteerism was the best policy. They also argued that the small number of conscripts that would be available from Australia would in the end make little difference to the war's outcome. Such an act would increase taxation and harm industry and the economy. It would also

destroy the trade union movement while enslaving the people under the double yoke of militarism and capitalism. For this group, Australia, and not the Empire, came first. The paper sparked a great deal of discussion. Some of the issues raised were: the emotional debates that took place around the terms “Loyalty” and “Traitor”; the role of Irish nationalism;

and the extent to which “class” played a role in the position that one took on the issue and to what extent one can talk about “class differences” among Australian Catholics at that time. The group thanked Michael for his paper and encouraged him to get it printed. (*Fr Larry Nemer*).

Saturday 5 December 2015. ACHS Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch

The Society’s Annual Mass was held on Saturday 5 December 2015 at the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney. The celebrant was Fr George Connolly. In the homily Fr George mentioned the work of St Mary of the Cross and told a touching story of Mary travelling to visit a dying orphan at Kincumber.

Following Mass we moved to the dining room and enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch. Thanks to all of those involved. Professor Craven who was to give the

after lunch address was ill. Dr Michael Costigan who has had a long association with the Australian Catholic University stepped in and spoke on aspects of ACU’s foundation and development, those who had led the ACU and some of the historic buildings on its various campuses. He noted that 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of ACU’s establishment and mentioned a recently published book written by Dr John Hirst. “*Australia’s Catholic University: The First Twenty-Five Years*”. (Geoff Hogan).

RIP

Fr Brian Larkey, 7 December 2015, an ACHS member and former Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta who read the mandate of appointment at the installation Mass for the first Bishop Of Parramatta, Bishop Bede Heather. He was also the NSW Director for the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1986.

Gregory Neathery 10 May 2015. Gregory was a long standing ACHS member. His wife’s father, Brian McGrath, was a founding member.

Parish Centenaries in 2016

Sydney Archdiocese: St Felix de Valois Bankstown, St Joseph’s Enfield, St Declan’s Penshurst, St Mary MacKillop Rockdale City, St Michael the Archangel Stanmore, St Martha’s Strathfield.

Broken Bay Diocese: Our Lady of the Rosary Waitara, now included in Hornsby Cathedral Parish.

150 years ago 1866

- Bishop Murray, the first resident bishop of Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and his cousin Bishop Quinn first bishop of Bathurst installed in their dioceses.
- Fr Julian Tenison Woods and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop found the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Construction begins on a temporary St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney.

100 years ago 1916

- The formation of the Manly Union, an association of priests from St Patrick’s College seminary.
- A former student of St Patrick’s Manly, Matthew Brodie, is appointed as the Bishop of Christchurch.
- Catholic Woman’s Social Guild founded in Melbourne. It became the Catholic Women’s League.
- Easter Week April 1916. The Irish Easter Rising.
- The first plebiscite on military conscription held in Australia. It was defeated and was followed by a split in the Australian government and the Prime Minister Billy Hughes being expelled from the Labor Party.

500 Years ago 1516. Thomas More’s *Utopia* is published. (The ACHS November presentation focuses on *Utopia*).

<p>Postal address The Secretary ACHS PO Box A621 Sydney South, NSW, 1235</p>	<p>Enquiries may also be directed to: secretaryachs@gmail.com Website: http://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/</p>
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