



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
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# NEWSLETTER

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## Australian Catholic Historical Society Program for 2014.

(These details are correct as at 25 January 2014, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances)

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 16 * <u>2:00 pm start for this meeting.</u>	<b>The Annual General Meeting</b> and <i>God in the Lodge: Religious beliefs of Australia's Prime Ministers</i>	Roy Williams. Lawyer and author of international best-seller: <i>God, Actually.</i>
April 13 (Palm Sunday) * <u>Changed from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to Easter.</u>	<i>A restless and contrary man: the life and journeys of Jeremiah O'Flynn.</i>	Dr Paul Collins. Broadcaster and author: <i>Mixed Blessings; Burn: The epic story of bushfire in Australia; The Birth of the West</i>
May 18	<i>Winners are Grinners: A curious tale of Episcopal One-upmanship.</i>	Rev. Dr John De Luca. Historian, musician and former PP of Maroubra.
June 15	<i>Pope Pius XII and the Nazi occupation of Rome.</i>	The Hon. Tim Fischer AC, Former Deputy Prime Minister and latterly: Australian Ambassador to the Holy See
July 20	<i>Recollections of a "Movement" chaplain</i>	Dr John Challis. Former Head, ABC Science Unit
August 17	<i>The role of Sydney Catholic girls' (select) schools in the development of a Catholic middle class.</i>	Dr Janice Garaty. Historian, ACHS Councillor and member of the Australian and NZ History of Education Society.
September 21	<i>The 1962 Goulburn "Schools Strike": reality and myth.</i>	Dr Brian Croke. Executive Director: Catholic Education Commission NSW
October 19	<i>Children of Abraham: Jews, Christians and Muslims in history - one another's.</i>	Emeritus Professor Clive Kessler. School of Sociology, UNSW
November 16	<i>Making hymns with James McAuley: liturgical change in Australian Catholic life.</i>	Richard Connolly. Composer and former Head, ABC Radio Drama and Features.
December 6 (Saturday)	Annual Christmas Lunch	Speaker and venue to be confirmed

ACHS meetings are held on Sunday afternoons, at 2.30pm, in the Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill [Grosvenor Street], The Rocks. There is bus transport along George and York Streets; the nearest railway stations are Circular Quay and Wynyard; and the Circular Quay ferry terminal is a short walk away.

Enquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS. Email: [john.carmody@sydney.edu.au](mailto:john.carmody@sydney.edu.au)

### Meeting of the Melbourne Chapter.

**Monday 3 March 2014 at Dorish Maru College**, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill Vic, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The speaker will be Sr. Jane Kelly, IBVM who will speak on Gonzaga Barry IBVM who brought the Loreto Sisters to Australia. The dates for future meetings in 2014 will be set at the March meeting. Likely future speakers include: Dr Peter Price and Dr Max Vodola. Fr Larry Nemer is coordinating this group. His contact details are: 100 Albion Road, Box Hill 3128. Ph:8892 2603. Email: [nemerlarry@gmail.com](mailto:nemerlarry@gmail.com)

## NOTICE OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

2.00 PM ON SUNDAY, 16 MARCH, 2013.

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

### The Agenda:

- Minutes of 2012 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2013

### NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2013

All positions on the Council are declared vacant at the AGM and you are encouraged to nominate for a position to help the Society to continue to achieve its goals.

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.

**Following the AGM at approximately 2:30 pm** Roy Williams will speak on: *God in the Lodge: Religious beliefs of Australia's Prime Ministers.*

### 2014 Membership subscriptions are now due.

A gentle reminder to those who may have overlooked renewing their membership for 2014. If you are in doubt or need a form email: secretaryachs@gmail.com or write to: The Secretary ACHS, PO Box A621 Sydney South, NSW, 1235.

#### Membership subscription rates for 2013.

- Individual \$45

- Family \$50: this covers all persons at the one address in Australia.
- Institutional \$50: one congregation, school, library etc. at the one address in Australia.
- Overseas \$50.
- Student: \$25

### Recent news.

**Chaplain.** Cardinal Pell has reappointment Fr George Connolly as ACHS Chaplain. Congratulations Fr George on this appointment and thank you for agreeing to continue as the Society's much valued Chaplain.

**Order of Australia Awards.** Two ACHS members received awards in the 2014 Australia Days Honours List. The Hon. Michael Egan is now an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) and Fr Terry Southerwood received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM). Ken Healey, who was the speaker at the ACHS 2012 Christmas lunch, becomes a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Congratulations to these recipients.

### Sunday 17 November 2013. Rev Dr Bruce Kaye

#### *The Passing of English Christendom and the future of the Anglican Communion*

Dr Kaye gave a carefully presented paper outlining the history of the Church in England. He stressed that the church had always seen itself as the Church OF England, an idea expressed by Bede in 735 when he wrote "The Christian History of the English".

Defining the Anglican Communion is difficult. Methodists follow the teaching of Wesley, Lutherans follow Martin Luther's teaching, Catholics are united with the Pope. Dr Kaye said that possibly "the fellowship of the churches" was the best descriptor.

The English Church has always had a lay head, the monarch; it has always been a national church. The Archbishop of Canterbury is loyal to the monarch, and is not the head of the Church of England.

Dr Kaye outlined the spread of Anglicanism to the colonies of America and Australia. The first settlement

in America at Jamestown in Virginia had, as a secondary aim, the conversion of the indigenous inhabitants. These Christian communities evolved into the Episcopal Church. No English Bishops were appointed. Today the Episcopal Church in the USA, particularly in the southern states, tends to be conservative descendants of slave owners.

In contrast, the Australian colonies were crown colonies and it was assumed that the Church of England would be the National Church, but the situation changed, particularly under Governor Burke. However Anglican bishops in Australia originally came from England.

Dr Kaye then spoke about developments in the last 50 years. In 1968 the Anglican Consultative Council, ACC, was established to consider, among other

matters, the diversity of the various churches. Since then there have been several important world-wide meetings for Anglican delegates. While Archbishop Rowen Williams tried to focus on unity, this had limited success. Dr Kaye expressed the opinion that there are groups working within the churches that seem to have some effect in uniting people: Mothers' Union, schools and colleges, missionary orders, etc.

Dr Kaye mentioned the division between different churches, within the Anglican Communion, in terms of beliefs and practices. Many African churches were established from churches in the southern USA and are evangelical in practice and have a strong organisational grouping with other like-minded churches elsewhere and hold separate conferences which require a faith test to attend. *(Helen Scanlon: Treasurer)*

**Saturday 7 December 2012 Christmas Lunch address by Fr George Connolly...  
*Catherine Connolly, governess, wife: a Catholic family, Carcoar, 1868-1880***

About 50 members and guests attended the ACHS Christmas Lunch at The MacKillop Centre North Sydney. Fr George Connolly, the ACHS Chaplain, spoke on his great grandmother: Catherine Frances Heydon who married Nathaniel Vincent Connolly, a widower with seven surviving children.

The central characters in this story were people of standing and accomplishment. Catherine had been, amongst other things, head mistress in the Girls' Department of the Fort Street Model School. Catherine's parents lived at Ermington on the Parramatta River. Her husband's family, the Connollys, were well known in the NSW Colony. In 1840, Archbishop Polding had appointed Nathaniel's father as a Trustee of the Catholic Church in Bathurst. Nathaniel was a Justice of the Peace, an Honorary Magistrate and owned a property named Werajel, at Carcoar beyond Bathurst in NSW.

Fr Connolly's account of Catherine's story was based on letters she wrote to her parents and family which gives an insight, not only into life in country NSW at the time, but also into the life of a Catholic woman and a Catholic family in the bush: the books they read and their religious practices.

Catherine died at Carcoar in 1903, aged sixty eight. Her son Richard, Benedictine from Downside Abbey, attended her death. He was a graduate of Cambridge University and an eminent scholar in early Church history. The Australian Dictionary of Biography contains entries on Catherine's father, Jabez King Heydon, and her brothers, Charles and Louis. Her husband, Nathaniel, is memorialised in a large window in the Catholic Church at Carcoar as a layman kneeling before St Patrick.

Fr Connolly suggested that Catherine deserves to be known in her own right as an intelligent, well-read and committed Catholic woman. She knew early Sydney, the early years of the Fort Street Model School. She lived in the days of the founding figures of the Catholic Church in Australia, Archbishop Polding and Archdeacon McEncroe. Polding mentions her in one of his letters. Her letters reveal, not only the thoughts of Catherine Connolly on a variety of subjects, but also the story of how a Catholic woman of faith, learning and courage raised her family in the NSW bush in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century.

*Geoff Hogan (Editor and Vice President)*

**Catholic priests in Antarctica. Fr Heaney - Deep Freeze. Contributed by David Burke**

An August '58 edition of the Catholic Weekly has a two-page story I wrote on my first return from the 'ice', and featuring the work of Fr Harold Heaney, the USN chaplain at McMurdo. Father Daniel Linehan SJ celebrated Mass in Captain R F Scott's hut at Cape Evans in 1955. The hut is on Ross Island, with the volcano, Mt Erebus in the background. On the slope above the hut a large cross stands in memory of three men, one a C of E minister Spencer-Smith, all victims of wild Antarctica. Fr Linehan was in Operation Deep Freeze 1 and his was probably the first Mass celebrated on the south polar continent, though we can't be sure. Prior to Cape Evans he had said Mass aboard the USN ice breaker in the voyage through the stormy waters of the Ross Sea and subsequently, no doubt.

At the start of Deep Freeze 111 in 1958 (which is when I met him), he also celebrated Mass at the Geographic South Pole, while depthing the ice cover (about

8500ft.), for the American expedition at Admiral Dufek's request: literally fulfilling the divine command "to the ends of the earth". A sector of the Pole sees the beginning of Australian Antarctic Territory –so doubly significant. Father Henry Birkenhauer SJ, another seismologist, located at Wilkes Station (now the location of Casey base) said a Mass at Archbishop Mannix's request for the Australians working in Antarctica. The late Dr Phil Law (he and I were observers on USN's making of the first flight from Australia to the Pole) carried the letter of request from St. Pat's to Wilkes; this was in the early 1960s. During Deep Freeze, another Jesuit served at Ellsworth Station, I believe, in western Antarctica. In the same sector, the Argentines have a regular chapel in their base (to which I've been) at Hope Bay. The Chileans also have bases, but I haven't been ashore there. Both national bases go back to the late 1940s (things were

pretty tense then, the Argentines fired on then British) so maybe the church figured in Antarctic expeditions going back to those years.

If we turn further back to the 1800s, it is possible that the French explorer, d'Urville had a chaplain on his ship. The French sector of Adelie Land was his doing. The various British explorers of the heroic age held church services on Sunday, all recorded in their writings. A big cross of Australian jarrah stands on Observation Hill above McMurdo in memory of Captain Scott and his lost men. At the opposite side of the base is another cross in memory of Seaman Vince, the first to die there in 1901. Nearby is the statue of Our Lady of the Snows, remembering an American sailor, a victim of Deep Freeze when his tractor crashed through the Ross Sea ice. At Mass I would read on the hut wall a list of lost men. In the past 12 months or so, a request was made to Australian clergy that they consider summer duty at McMurdo, to support the New Zealanders; but I don't know if anything resulted (*David Burke*)

**Postscript.** Fr Terry Southerwood, from Hobart Archdiocese, was contacted regarding possible Australian Catholic involvement. He replied that he could not recall the names of any Australian priests who may have celebrated Mass in Antarctica, but

suspects there have been. He stated that he almost went there about 40 years ago as the Director of the Antarctic Division in Hobart was a parishioner, but circumstances prevented this. He suspects that priests have visited Antarctica as tourists on cruise ships. He mentioned that Archbishop Adrian Doyle, former Archbishop of Hobart, flew over Antarctica as a present from his family, possibly for his 70th birthday

The Diocese of Christchurch in New Zealand has had an involvement in Antarctica for over 50 years. Information on this is located on the following web link: <http://www.chch.catholic.org.nz/?sid=1051>

Father Dan Doyle, The co-ordinator of Catholic Chaplaincy for the U.S. Antarctic Programme responded to an enquiry stating: that he had recently returned to Christchurch after serving at the Chapel of the Snows, McMurdo Station, adding that the information from David Burke is good historical information for their records. David Burke has also just advised that Fr Michael Smith SJ (Xavier College, Kew) has just returned after serving a month as chaplain at the US base at McMurdo Sound. His posting was organised through Christchurch Diocese... (*Editor*)

### **A course on Australian Catholic History**

The Broken Bay Institute will be conducting the course "[The History of the Catholic Church in Australia since 1788](#)" in Semester One 2014 (starts 3 March 2014). The course will explore the history of the Catholic Church in Australia from its beginnings amongst convicts on the First Fleet up to the late 20th century when the Catholic Church had gained a prominent position in Australian culture and society. It will be conducted by ACHS past president, Dr John Luttrell and will be offered on line. Further information: BBI Student Services Team on: (02) 9847 0030 or email [bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au). Web link: [http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/\\_uploads/rsfil/00637.pdf](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/_uploads/rsfil/00637.pdf)

### **Anniversaries**

This year the Benedictine Community of New Norcia WA will be commemorating the Bicentenary of the birth of Rosendo Salvado the founder of the community. A part of these celebrations will be Ecumenical Vespers service at St Mary's Cathedral Perth on 4th March, 2014 at 6.30pm. For more information on the bicentenary, email Michelle Ebbs: [michelle.ebbs@outlook.com](mailto:michelle.ebbs@outlook.com) or call Lucy Nicholson: (08) 96 548018. Web link: <http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/cms/resources/december-chimes-2013-send-out.pdf>

### **Request for information**

Mick Seigel is conducting research on Paolo Marella a former Apostolic Delegate to Australia and Japan and Nuncio to France. He would be grateful if anyone could provide him with information. Further details on the focus of this research will be provided in the next newsemail. Email any information, etc. to: [secretaryachs](mailto:secretaryachs) or mail it to the Society's postal address and it will be sent onto him.

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