



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

# NEWSLETTER

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**NOTICE OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS**

**1.30 PM ON SUNDAY, 15 April, 2018.**

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

**The Agenda:**

- Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2018
- Items of business and motions of which due notice had been given.

Agenda items must reach the Secretary at the ACHS PO Box by Friday 2 March 2018.

**NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2018**

All positions on the Council are declared vacant at the AGM. Positions: President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Councillors (up to 7). Nominations must be in writing, signed by the nominee, nominator and seconder who must be financial members of the ACHS and received by the secretary prior to the meeting.

**Following the AGM at approx. 2:00pm the presentation scheduled for 15 April will be given.**

**REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Membership of ACHS for 2018 was due on 1st January. If you are intending to remain a member and continue to receive Newsletters and Newsemails please see to this without delay. Application/Renewal forms were sent out with the November Newsletter. A form is also available on the ACHS website. NB Fees remain the same as last year.

*(Dr Lesley Hughes, Treasurer)*

**Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Program for 2018**

*This information is correct as at 2 February 2018, but changes can occur.*

**Sydney Meetings.**

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
February 18	A maker of the Australian Catholic Story: John McEncroe	<b>Emeritus Professor Fr Edmund Campion:</b> author, historian formerly Professor of History, Catholic Institute of Sydney.
March 18	The bureaucratisation of Catholic schooling and the emergence of the Catholic Education Office	<b>Br Dr Kelvin Canavan fms:</b> Executive Director Emeritus Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Sydney and Visiting Professor: University of Notre Dame and ACU
April 15 <b><u>1:30 pm start for this meeting</u></b>	<b>1:30pm Annual General Meeting</b>  <b>2:00pm Presentation:</b> The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: Findings, implications, recommendations, future directions. <i>Reflections from three senior members of the staff of the Royal Commission.</i>	<b>Mr Stephen Crittenden:</b> <i>Latterly:</i> Lead Writer -- Religious Institutions Volume; <i>Formerly:</i> Presenter, <i>The Religion Report</i> [ABC Radio] <b>Ms Maha Melhem:</b> <i>Latterly:</i> Lead writer -- Information Sharing; <i>Formerly:</i> Director Policy & Legal, NSW Children's Guardian; Senior Lawyer, Australian Law Reform Commission. <b>Ms Anna Tydd:</b> <i>Latterly:</i> Principal Policy Officer, Special Projects Taskforce; <i>Formerly:</i> Solicitor acting for the Dublin Archdiocese [Murphy Inquiry, Ireland]

May 20	<i>Humanae vitae</i> after 50 years: a retrospective panel	<b>Professor Carole Cusack:</b> Professor of Religious Studies, University of Sydney; <b>Dr Bernadette Tobin AO:</b> Director: Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; <b>The Hon. Deirdre Grusovin AM:</b> Formerly: MLC and MLA (NSW) and Cabinet Minister.
June 17	In search of Cardinal Gilroy	<b>Br Dr John Luttrell fms</b> (Life-member: ACHS) Catholic Institute of Sydney and Broken Bay Institute.
July 15	<i>Humanae vitae</i> : The beginning of the end of Tridentine Clericalism?	<b>Emeritus Professor Desmond Cahill:</b> Department of Intercultural Studies, RMIT University
August 19	Catholic Social Justice and parliamentary politics.	<b>Senator Susan Ryan AO:</b> Formerly: Hawke government Cabinet Minister, latterly: Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioner
* September 2 Date change.	Faith at "World's End": Father Angelo Confalonieri and the first Catholic Mission to Northern Australia	<b>Professor Mark McKenna:</b> Department of History, University of Sydney
October 21	Their Eminences, an <i>éminence grise</i> , and ruffled feathers: the sometimes rocky voyage of St Patrick's, Church Hill, within the Archdiocese of Sydney	<b>Fr Peter McMurrich sm:</b> Vicar Provincial and Archivist Marist Fathers' Australian Province.
November 18	In Paradise, under the sun: Francis McGarry and the rewards of missionary work in 1930s' Alice Springs.	<b>Dr Charmaine Robson:</b> Independent scholar and 2017 Australian Religious Fellow of the State Library of NSW
December 8	Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch	MacKillop Centre North Sydney (12:00pm)

**Location, time and contact:** Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm (unless otherwise stated) in the Crypt 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 to:** **Dr John Carmody**, President ACHS: john.carmody@sydney.edu.au  
**Further information** see: ACHS website. [<http://www.australiancatholichistoricalociety.com.au>].

#### **\*Date change for the September Meeting**

The ACHS Sydney meeting in September 2018 will be held on September 2 which is the first Sunday of the month and not on the usual third Sunday which is September 15. September 2 is also Fathers' Day. Apologies for this, but we were advised in late January that the Crypt at St Patrick's would not be available on September 15 as St Patrick's will be celebrating 150 years of Marist Fathers at St Patrick's. This also delayed the printing of this newsletter while discussions took place to arrange an alternative date which is now September 2.

#### **Melbourne Meetings 2018**

Monday 5 March. Speaker: Katharine Massam Topic TBA

Monday 4 June. Speaker: Graeme Pender. Topic TBA

Monday 3 September. Speaker and topic TBA

Monday 12 November. Speaker and topic TBA

**Location and Times:** Seminar Room of Dorish Maru College, Box Hill. 2:00 to 3:30pm.

**Contact** Fr Larry Nemer email: [nemerlarry@gmail.com](mailto:nemerlarry@gmail.com)

#### **ACHS JAMES MACGINLEY AWARD**

The judges of the James MacGinley Award have decided that no entry of sufficient standard was received and the award will not be conferred in 2017. Students, recent graduates of Australian universities and theological colleges that offer accredited degree programs and other persons who are in the early stage of a career as a scholar of Australian Catholic history and early career historians are encouraged to apply. Entries for this award close on 31 October. Further Information is on the ACHS Website: <http://australiancatholichistoricalociety.com.au/awards/index.html>

## Faith in the West Conference: Historical Perspectives on the Catholic Church in WA

Held on World Heritage Day 2018, this conference will explore the rich story of Catholicism in Western Australia over the last three centuries and is co-hosted by the Archdiocese's Centre for Faith Enrichment and the Archives Office.

**Speakers and Topics:** Professor Michael Quinlan 'Law and Religion: cooperation or conflict?'; Dr Angeline O'Neill: 'Archbishop Clune and Archbishop Mannix: Responses to the Easter Rising 1916'; Associate Professor John Kinder: 'Missionaries from many lands: the nineteenth-century foundations of the Catholic Church in Western Australia'.

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 18th April 9.30am - 1.00pm, **Cost:** \$50.00

**Location:** St Mary's Cathedral, Perth

**Contact:** Mrs Tracy Stevens [cfe@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:cfe@perthcatholic.org.au)

**Registration:** <http://cfe.org.au/courses-and-events/faith-west-historical-perspectives-catholic-church-wa/>

### Note from the President

The beginning of every new year is "special", if only because we can relish the fact that we're still here to enjoy it -- something that applies to institutions as well as to each of us, individually. History might remind us that each year will, mostly, be "more of the same" because, actually, we learn so few lessons; yet it is still worth examining our lives while we continue to live them.

I've been reminded of that "recycling" nature of history as, like others in ACHS I'm sure, I've been reading John Luttrell's comprehensive new biography of Dr Norman Gilroy. In 1946, having just been made a Cardinal, he went to Europe and, in Dr Luttrell's words, "immediately witnessed the devastation and dislocation of the war, particularly when he visited a refugee camp in Italy." As a result, "He readily supported immigration to Australia" and very soon a Catholic Migration Committee was established here.

Then, "In his Lenten Pastoral Letter of 1947 Gilroy linked problems in Australia and world distress after the war." It

was important, he wrote, that Catholic workers "should loyally and wholeheartedly co-operate with their Protestant fellow-workers in preserving and promoting the true character of the Trade Unions as instruments of social justice and welfare". Furthermore, this biography records that Gilroy "lent his voice to calls for forgiveness and reconciliation with Japan". "We as a nation have no right to point a finger of scorn at any nation," he said.

Like much of the rest of the book, this urges a salutary rethink about Gilroy and his work. No less important, it should prompt serious reflection in Australia – as materialism, selfishness and insularity increase in our community – about what our personal (and, therefore, communal and national) values *really* are. Furthermore, I hope that the work of ACHS, in this and *every* year, will be a reminder of the enduring worth (and, indeed, edification) of history. If we forget and, accordingly, fail to reflect, we die in our spirit.

*(John Carmody President)*

### Melbourne Chapter meeting: Monday 13 November 2017.

**Topic: *The Tractarian Movement*      Presenter: Austin Cooper**

Prior to the presentation it was pointed out that this meeting celebrates the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Melbourne Chapter of ACHS. Austin Cooper then presented a fascinating paper on the Tractarian Movement.

He had told us ahead of time: '*Newman and his associates in the Oxford Movement are often referred to as 'Tractarians' yet the Tracts for the Times from which that designation derives, are rarely quoted by historians and the only one to get much 'airing' is Tract 90, the last and one of the least important in content. Perhaps they deserve a close look.*' Austin provided for us that "close look". He began by talking about the situation in Ireland and how, in many ways, this prompted the development of the Tractarian Movement which had a greater impact on the English Church than did Keble's Sermon on *National Apostasy*. Austin pointed out why the Tracts were significant. It was not only the content but their

widespread distribution through Newman's and his colleagues' Networks. We looked closely at the First Tract. It is striking that even in this first Tract there is an emphasis on the Church, the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit – themes that would be most important to Newman and the Movement. While the Movement is often called "The Oxford Movement" there is a great concern for supporting the Church and the faith of the people in the various industrial cities of England. Austin also described the development of the Tractarian Movement, which changed somewhat in character after Tract 35, and its later impact. This opened up a lively discussion about the role played by the Movement not only in the Anglican Church but also about its impact on English Catholicism. This is a very inadequate summary of the masterly presentation made by Austin and the stimulating discussion that followed. (*Fr Larry Nemer, SVD*)

### Sydney meeting: Sunday 19 November 2017. Topic: "*The Show*": *Another Side of Santamaria's Movement* Presenters: Mr Mark Aarons. Author, former ABC Reporter and NSW ministerial advisor with Mr John Grenville Former Federal Secretary of the Federated Clerks' Union

Mark Aarons and John Grenville, were authors of a recently published book on Bob Santamaria. Mark Aarons grew up in prominent Communist Party (CP) family. He joined the CP after finishing school in 1969. John

Grenville joined the National Civic Council (NCC) in 1957 and worked clandestinely for it while employed as a trade union official. From opposing sides, the presenters offered a insight into the activities of the NCC (also

known as The Show or The Movement) and the CP, showing that despite their ideological differences, many similarities existed in the structure and organisation of these two groups.

Aarons stated that Santamaria was an extraordinary man. His family were Italian migrants, his father a greengrocer in Melbourne. He graduated from University in Arts/Law and became concerned about the threat to Christianity by Communism. He was close to Archbishop Mannix. By the age of 30 he had established a secret organisation to oppose communism. In 1945 the Communist party had managed to infiltrate the ACTU Congress and this infiltration, along with that of the Labor Party, posed worrying prospects for Catholics in Australia. Santamaria met with the Australian bishops in Sydney and recommended that there should be a counter movement of Catholic Action set up following the same organising structure as that of the Communists. The support of Catholic Bishops was important to the success of the NCC and Aarons noted that both the NCC and the CP had the same strengths but also weaknesses, particularly democratic centralism, whereby one person – Santamaria in the case of the NCC - exercised control of all. In the late 1940s and early 1950s at all annual conferences of

The Movement, Santamaria would speak from Saturday morning till Sunday afternoon, delivering all but one of the papers at the conference.

The communists learnt in 1945 about the Movement from a report to the Victorian Bishops. The two organisations mirrored one another and had a symbiotic relationship. The Movement became an intelligence gathering organisation and soon had connections with ASIO. In the 1950s the Communist Party split as did the Movement. Within the Movement the division was between those wanting industrial activities and Santamaria who seemed to want to resurrect what Aarons described as a mediaeval form of Catholicism.

John Grenville, Catholic educated, joined the DLP as a student and became a member of the National Civic Council. He became Research Officer in the Federated Clerks Union and then Assistant Secretary of the Trades Hall Council. He spoke of Santamaria's autocratic rule and disloyalty, and of his own work within the Union. The meeting concluded with many stimulating comments and questions including many from those involved with and impacted by the activities and groups mentioned.

*(Helen Scanlon Secretary)*

#### **Saturday 2 December 2017 ACHS Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch**

The ACHS Annual Christmas Mass and lunch was held at Mary MacKillop Centre Mount Street North Sydney on Saturday 2 December. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Brian Lucas who also preached the homily. During the homily he focused on an extract from the Gospel calling on us to "Stay awake", meaning to be alert, and to be ready for when we are called from this life. He referred to a conversation between the Greek Nobel Prize winning author Nikos Kazantzakis and a Greek Orthodox Monk discussing lifestyles and how some do not prepare us for or keep us alert to the inevitability of the end times.

The after-lunch speaker was Mr Nathan Pitt. Nathan is the Inaugural Australian Catholic University (ACU) Conaci Scholar. Nathan was introduced by Professor Anne Cummins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor ACU. She mentioned the importance of what the Society does in recording the stories of the Catholic Church and mentioned a project to be initiated by the ACU related to the history of the Catholic Church in Australia and Catholic education which will include an exhibition of historical items. She also briefly outlined aspects of the Conaci Scholarship and the life of Francis Xavier Conaci.

Nathan began his presentation by mentioning his background, his indigenous heritage, growing up on a farm in Brisbane, attending Catholic schools and factors that drew him to studying Psychology at ACU. He mentioned Mary MacKillop's statement: "Never see a need without doing something about it". Some of the specific factors included knowing people who suffered from mental illness, the risk of young people of entering the criminal justice system including the disproportionately high number of indigenous youth.

During the Q&A session he elaborated on aspects of the scholarship, his experience in Rome while on the scholarship and of Francis Xavier Conaci's studies in Rome, mentioning Conaci's study of several languages.

The following link to an article in the Catholic Leader reflects some of the points Nathan made about himself, the scholarship and Francis Xavier Conaci: <http://catholicleader.com.au/news/indigenous-student-sent-to-rome-in-honour-of-aboriginal-boy-who-died-training-for-the-priesthood>

*(Geoff Hogan Editor and Vice President)*

<p><b>Postal address</b> The Secretary ACHS PO Box A621 Sydney South, NSW, 1235</p>	<p><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></p>
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