



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

# NEWSLETTER

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

Vol..XXVIII No. 2. May 2015

**Australian Catholic Historical Society Program May, June and July 2015.**  
*(These details are correct as at 28 April 2015, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances).*

Date	Topic	Speaker
May 17 2:30 pm	<i>The Australian Bishops and National Media: conflicts and missed opportunities.</i>	Fr Brian Lucas. General Secretary: Australian Bishops' Conference, Canberra.
June 21 2:30 pm	<i>The many faces of religious persecution in Asia.</i>	Fr Michael Kelly SJ. Executive Director: Union of Catholic Asian News, Bangkok
July 19	<i>How an Irish Catholic became an army officer at Waterloo and in the Australian Colonies before Catholic Emancipation.</i>	Dr Christopher Cunneen. Formerly Deputy General Editor <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> .
August 16	<i>William Booth and Henry Edward Manning: true Political Economy.</i>	Mr John Cleary. Presenter and Producer Religion Department ABC Radio, Sydney.

*These meetings are held at 2:30 pm on Sundays, in the Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill [Grosvenor Street], The Rocks. Enquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS: john.carmody@sydney.edu.au*

## ACHS June Melbourne meeting

Date	Topic	Speaker
June 1 2:00 pm	<i>"Fragments of Reformation Spirituality in the writings of Peter Stuyvesant".</i>	Dr. Donna Denning (Merwick)

Location: Seminar Room, Dorish Maru College, Yarra Theological Union, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill. Enquiries: Dr Larry Nemer. [nemerlarry@gmail.com](mailto:nemerlarry@gmail.com)

## ACHS 2015 Annual General Meeting

**The following members were elected to the ACHS Council at the AGM held on 15 March 2015.**

President: Dr John Carmody  
Vice Presidents: Prof James Franklin, Mr Geoff Hogan OAM.  
Secretary: Dr Lesley Hughes.  
Treasurer: Ms Helen Scanlon.  
Councillors: Dr Michael Belcher, Mr Tom Byrnes, Mr Vince Crow, Dr Janice Garaty,  
and Mr Howard Murray.

Fr. George Connolly continues as Chaplain and is appointed by the Archbishop of Sydney.

### Decisions made.

A category of Honorary Life Membership be established  
The Council will appoint a group to consider any necessary changes to the ACHS Constitution

### Report.

- 1 The president gave a report on 2014.
- 2 It was noted that a conference is proposed to be held in 2016.
- 3 Planning is continuing for the ACHS history project. Finance and a suitable work location are needed.

### **Membership subscriptions for 2015 were due on 1 January 2015.**

A reminder to those who have not renewed their membership for 2015; this will be the last Newsletter that you will be sent if you do not pay your 2015 subscription. If you have any concerns regarding your membership status, please email an inquiry to: [secretaryACHS@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryACHS@gmail.com) or write a note to Helen Scanlon at PO Box A621, Sydney South, NSW 1235.

Subscription rates for 2015 are: Individual \$45, Family (persons living at one address in Australia) \$50, Overseas \$50, Institutional (a congregation, school, library, etc. at the one address in Australia) \$50, Student \$25.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I recently read a review in the Times Literary Supplement of a new biography of Pope Francis (Austen Ivereigh: *The Great Reformer: Francis and the making of a radical Pope*). It seems an interesting book which the reviewer (Peter Marshall, Professor of History at the University of Warwick) called "a masterly account". Marshall concluded with a challenging sentence: "It is too early to state that the era of papal monarchy has come to an end, but the steps taken to undermine it by this sometimes authoritarian pontiff [Benedict XVI] will seem like proof to some that the Holy Spirit has a sense of humour."

Even more interesting was his opening paragraph. Early in 2013, Francis told Argentinian pilgrims to World Youth Day that what he wanted, in Ivereigh's translation of his idiom, was "going out into the streets to bang saucepans and shout passionately in support of a cause." It almost sounds "UnAustralian". We don't like fuss: but perhaps we should.

Kieran Kapsall's recent scholarly address to ACHS was an encouragement to Catholics to create a fuss about what has been done in our names, as revealed by the Australian Royal Commission into sexual abuse (and previous enquiries overseas). Furthermore, research which that Commission commissioned has revealed that this has been going on at least as far back as Archbishop Polding's time, to judge from his correspondence to his Benedictine colleagues, lamenting the behaviour of some of the priests who had been sent to the Colony. The truth about such things can benefit us all but, well before such legal enquiries, we need to be honestly informed; yet our media are in decline and the ABC, for all of its secularist hostility to religion, is under constant attack (financial and political).

Societies like ACHS must never lose sight of the importance of the "banging of saucepans" in public.  
(*John Carmody*)

### **Presentation by Dr Eugene Stockton. 15 March 2015. *The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry: the urban apostolate.***

Rev Dr Eugene Stockton gave a most interesting presentation on *The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry: the urban apostolate*. Fr Stockton described the original Catholic ministry to the Aboriginal people as being an agent of colonisation which focused on Aboriginal people needing to be managed without them having any input into the process. A turning point came in the mid-1960s. It was a time of change: the 1967 referendum to change the Australian Constitution which had actual and symbolic impact on aspects of the legal status of Aboriginal Australians, the Land Rights campaigns began to gain strength and many Aboriginal Australians moved from country regions to the cities. In 1968 Fr Stockton was appointed as part-time chaplain to the Sydney Aboriginal community after discussions with Cardinal Gilroy.

Fr Stockton proceeded to outline the development of the Aboriginal Catholic ministry from the mid-1960s. He mentioned some key dates, events, people, groups and reports related to this. Of particular importance was establishing the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) in

1986 in which Aboriginal Catholics exercised leading roles. Fr Stockton expressed regret that the ACM was subsumed under Catholic Social Services in 2010.

He also quoted from the address by Pope John Paul II to the Aboriginal people given in Alice Springs in 1986. Fr Stockton pointed out that the Pope recognised the deep spirituality of the Aboriginal people over many thousands of years.

The situation today, Fr Stockton suggested, was very different to that which existed up to the 1960s. Aboriginal Catholics are now active participants and leaders in that ministry. Fr Stockton also provided a list of key dates and a bibliography related to this topic.

An interesting question time followed and included an address by Val Bryant, a direct descendant of the Whaddy clan of the Gumbaynggirr Nation. Val's family's connection with the Catholic Church goes back to her Great Grandfather the late Lambert Whaddy. Aunty Ruth Bryant also told some personal

stories including the suppression of Aboriginal culture in the Nambucca Heads area by government authorities in the mid-1930s. Both endorsed the points made by Fr Stockton and expressed appreciation for his personal service to Aboriginal Catholics.

Fr Stockton circulated a list of Key dates and bibliographical sources related to the topic.

*Geoff Hogan (Editor)*

### **Melbourne Chapter meeting 2 March 2015. Speaker: Dr Val Noone.**

#### ***Fr Con Reis and the Movement's attempted take-over of the Catholic Immigration Office, Melbourne.***

An audience of 14 were present for Dr Val Noone's Presentation on Father Con Reis and the Movement's attempted take-over of the Catholic Immigration Office, Melbourne, 1950-53.

In 1951 there was a dispute about Mass at Williamstown Migrant Hostel focused on a complaint that the Polish language was always used. However Fr Reis at the Catholic Immigration Office was offering a "moderate cultural democracy" alternative, arguing the Australian way was preferred to that of ethnic parishes. Meanwhile, B.A. Santamaria proposed to expand the ANSCA to cover all Catholic agencies. This was on the eve of the split in the Labor Party. The Catholic

Immigration Office retained its independence, but Father Reis resigned and was moved to a parish in St. Albans.

A lively discussion followed. Those present shared their understanding of the role that Santamaria played in Church life at this time and offered their judgments on it. The question of whether there should be ethnic parishes or "multicultural" parishes (an ideal that Fr. Reis supported while he was at the Catholic Immigration Office and later as parish priest in Sacred Heart Parish, St. Albans) was discussed, the advantage of each being articulated by the participants.

*(Fr. Larry Nemer)*

### **Sydney meeting 19 April 2015: Book Launch**

James Franklin spoke on his new book, *The Real Archbishop Mannix: From the Sources* (Connor Court, with coauthors Gerry Nolan and Michael Gilchrist). Since 2013 there have been no less than five books on Archbishop Mannix. The present book complements the excellent new biography by Brenda Niall by providing a selection of what the man himself said and wrote, and what friends and enemies said about him. The book brings the reader in contact with the man himself (or at least, the man as he wished to appear). James' presentation concentrated on Mannix's personal relationships. In some ways he avoided close personal contact, isolating himself in the near-empty mansion, Raheen and getting on the wrong side of the Vatican and his fellow bishops with his overtly political

speeches. Yet he had intense relationships of hero-worship (in both directions) with three men who had great political effects: Eamon de Valera, Arthur Calwell and B.A. Santamaria. He also had a kind of personal contact with many during his long hours in the confessional. It was recalled that on sexual matters "He was somewhere between being frank and modest, but very kind."

The book is available from Connor Court's website for \$29.95. It will be on sale at the May ACHS meeting. A short video on the book on on the new Cathnews youtube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTt5sYx BbBw>.

### **Presentation by Kieran Tapsell. Sunday April 18 2015**

#### ***Canon Law on child sexual abuse through the ages.***

Kieran Tapsell had a career in law and served as an acting District Court Judge prior to retirement. His most interesting and forensic examination of the topic was well researched. Doing justice to his presentation in a few hundred words is impossible. Fortunately Kieran has submitted his presentation for publication in the ACHS Journal.

Kieran referred to The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse being conducted in Australia and clarified some historical issues related to the concept of childhood, the

codification of Canon Law and the "privilege of clergy" promulgated by the Emperor Constantine through which clergy were to be tried exclusively in the Church courts. He pointed out that "the Judaeo-Christian tradition had always condemned this behaviour" e.g. *The Didache*. The Council of Elvira (306 CE) required offenders to be "excluded from communion" i.e. excommunicated.

Church Fathers, Popes and Councils applied a strict approach to the sexual abuse of children. Severe penalties were imposed with clerical offenders being

“degraded” and handed over to be subject to civil law. The Council of Trent strengthened this strict approach and as late as 1726 the Holy See continued with it.

By 1842 the strict approach began to soften. The requirement to hand over offenders to civil authorities was weakened and from 1866 a reluctance to dismiss offending clerics was evident. In 1904 Pius X set up a Pontifical Commission to codify Canon Law. Decrees of previous popes and councils requiring the degrading of offending clerics and having them dealt with under civil law were discarded. In 1922 Pius XI issued *Crimen Sollicitationis* which caused any report of offending clergy to be subject to the “secret of the Holy Office”, a breach of which incurred automatic excommunication. Hence if civil authorities did not know about these allegations, there would be no state trials, and the matter would be dealt with exclusively through the Church’s canonical procedures. Further papal actions extended these provisions. Paul VI’s *Secreta Continere* in 1974 renamed this as a “pontifical secret”, and extended it to cover the allegation of child

sexual abuse, and not just the information obtained in the Church’s internal inquiries and trials. There was no exception for reporting to this the civil authorities. It even applied to those who accidentally come across the information subject to the secrecy requirement.

Kieran discussed further papal decrees including those which made it difficult for local bishops to dismiss offending clergy and mentioned approaches by Irish, American, British and Australian Bishops to the Holy See to permit mandatory reporting of clerical offenders to civil authorities. While there was some limited movement to allow such reporting, Kieran concluded by suggesting that “The culture of secrecy in the Church over child sexual abuse will never disappear while canon law imposes the pontifical secret on all allegations and information about it.”

During question time some points were clarified and reaction to Kieran’s book “*Potiphar’s Wife*” was discussed.  
*Geoff Hogan (Editor)*

#### Centenaries in 2015

- **ANZAC Centenary.** In commemoration of the ANZAC Centenary a Mass for the Fallen has been composed by Fr Christopher Willcock SJ. More information is available on: <https://www.catholic.org.au/bishops-commission-for-pastoral-life/anzac-day-100th-anniversary-commemorative-music> An interview with Fr Willcock can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mphUm6qNQY>
- **The parishes of Auburn and Campsie** in the Sydney Archdiocese were founded in 1915. Source: [http://www.sydneycatholic.org/parishes/foundation\\_dates\\_of\\_sydney\\_parishes.shtml](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/parishes/foundation_dates_of_sydney_parishes.shtml)
- **William Lawrence Bragg becomes the first Australian to win a Nobel Prize in Physics.** The award was shared with his father William Henry Bragg.
- It is claimed that **1.5 million of about 2 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were killed.** Many call this a genocide, but the Turkish Government strongly opposes the use of this term.

#### Other anniversaries

**800 years ago** (1215): Signing of the Magna Carta.

**200 Years ago** (1815): Napoleon defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

**175 years ago** (1840): Transportation of convicts to NSW is suspended. St Patricks Church Hill established.

**150 years ago** (1865): Fire destroys St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney. The Diocese of Bathurst established and Bishop Matthew Quinn appointed as the first Bishop of Bathurst. Waverley Parish established.

**125 years ago** (1890) Mercy Catholic College Chatswood established.

#### RIP Sister Regina Cameron

Sister Regina IBVM (Jennifer Jane Cameron) died recently. She had been an ACHS member for many years and served on the Council. A Mass of Christian Burial for Sr Regina was offered in The Church of St Francis Xavier, MacKenzie Street, Lavender Bay, on Friday April 24, 2015 at 12.10pm.

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

All correspondence for the newsletter to: PO Box A621, Sydney South, NSW 1235. © 2012 Australian Catholic Historical Society. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part may be reproduced without written permission from the Secretary.