



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
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NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday 19 June, 2016 at 1:30pm in the crypt hall of St Patrick's, Grosvenor St, Church Hill, Sydney. The sole business will be to consider the adoption of a revised constitution for the Society. A copy of the proposed constitution and an explanatory note are enclosed with this newsletter. This meeting will precede the regular meeting and presentation scheduled for that day.

The following members were elected to the ACHS Council at the AGM held on 20 March 2016.

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

Australian Catholic Historical Society Program from May, to September 2016.

(These details are correct as at 26 April 2016, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances).

Date	Topic	Speaker
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	1:30pm. Special General Meeting. 2:00pm: <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.
July 17	<i>Marco di Bartolomeo Rustici's Amazing Adventure: How a Florentine goldsmith travelled to Jerusalem in 1448 and to Australia in 1998 and met two popes.</i>	Emeritus Professor Nerida Newbigin. Dept. of Italian Studies. University of Sydney.
August 21	<i>Divine Light: the primary determinant of the configuration and adornment of the church building</i>	Dr Harry Stephens. Architect, Secretary of the National Architecture and Art Board. Formerly Senior Lecturer (Architecture) University of NSW.
September 24 Saturday	ACHS CONFERENCE (Registration is required).	ACU North Sydney. Welcoming event on Friday evening 23 September: St John's College Missenden Rd. Camperdown.

These meetings are held at 2:00 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 For further information see: ACHS website. [<http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au>].

ACHS Melbourne Chapter will meet at 2:00 pm on 6 June and 5 September in the Seminar Room at Dorish Maru College, Yarra Theological Union, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill. Enquiries: Dr Larry Nemer. nemerlarry@gmail.com

Membership subscriptions for 2016 were due on 1 January 2016.

A reminder to those who have not renewed their membership for 2016; this will be the last Newsletter that you will be sent if you do not pay your 2016 subscription before the end of May 2016. If you have any concerns regarding your membership status, please email an inquiry to: secretaryACHS@gmail.com or write a note to PO Box A621, Sydney South, NSW 1235. Subscription rates for 2016 are: Individual \$50, Individual Overseas \$50, Full Time Student \$20, Family \$50 (this covers family members at the one address in Australia) and Institutional \$60 (one congregation, school, library etc. at the one address in Australia).

ACHS Conference September 2016

A reminder that the ACHS conference will be held on Saturday 24 September 2016 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 is: *To and from the Antipodes: Catholic missionaries over two centuries*. It is planned to have details finalised and announced by 30 June.

Weblink: <http://www.australiancatholichistoricalandsociety.com.au/conference/>

Speakers for the conference are still being sought. Abstracts of presentations up to 300 words, including title, author affiliations and address, including e-mail address, are sought with a submission deadline of 31 May 2016. They should be in *Word* format and be submitted to achs2016conference@gmail.com. A brief biography of the presenter (100 words maximum) should accompany each abstract.

Melbourne Chapter meeting 7 March 2016.

The ACHS Melbourne Chapter met at Dorish Maru College, Box Hill, at 2:00pm on Monday 7 March 2016. Ten were present and nine apologies were received. Fr Larry Nemer had sent a copy of a chapter for a book that he recently finished and submitted to Regnum Press. The title of the book will be: *Evangelism and Diakonia in Context*. There will be 32 chapters of about 5000 words each and each written by a different scholar. The title given Larry Nemer was: *Evangelism and Social Responsibility: Perspectives from the History of Mission*. Fr Nemer did not try to summarize the paper but addressed the challenges he found in writing the paper. The major one he felt was the validity of using our present-day categories to analyse past events when people at that time did not use those categories. He could see some advantages in doing it, e.g. interpreting the past activities in terms of

categories that are understood today, being able to look again at past events from a different perspective ("through a different lens"), and gaining new criteria for evaluating the "success" or "non-success" of past missionary methods. However, he worried about "distorting" the past and imposing on people of past ages a category that they never would have considered. He addressed the special challenges that he faced in talking about the early, early medieval, late medieval, and 16th century missionary church in terms of the categories that are used today – evangelism, diakonia, social responsibility, and mission. This sparked a very lively discussion in the group and some offered examples from their own research of the difficulty of using a contemporary category to describe a historical person or event. It was a very enriching discussion for all who were there. (Fr. Larry Nemer)

Report on Sydney Meeting: 20 March 2016

Dr Moira O'Sullivan RSC spoke on: "*Religious life: flight from or race to reality*"

Following the AGM, Dr Moira O'Sullivan RSC spoke on the topic; "*Religious life: flight from or race to reality?*". She started by pointing out that "each person is different, so the story of each religious life is different". She then went on to discuss religious life from a personal focus, but also looked at some general themes. Some of these included the reason for joining, the denigration and criticism directed at religious both within and outside the church including the strong sectarian prejudice when she joined in the 1950s and the misunderstandings about religious life. She looked at the history of the development of religious life including "consecrated virgins" and hermits in the early Church and pointed out that "religious life kept adopting new ways to be better able to serve each new age". Mary Ward and St Vincent de Paul were among

those who challenged the prevailing notion of their time that "women were too weak to resist temptation if allowed outside the convent". Sr Moira explored some aspects of life as a religious; the works religious did and drew upon some of her personal experiences. She mentioned her time in Tasmania and the influence of Archbishop Young in preparing religious for the changes of Vatican II. She finished with a message sent to her which she felt encapsulated much of her development and renewal: "breaking open my own closed mind and helping others to do the same". In doing this she was influenced by some individuals such as Father Roger Pryke (chaplain at university), Archbishop Young and by the opportunity her Congregation gave her of four years of study in Rome. (Geoff Hogan Editor)

Report on Sydney Meeting Sunday 17 April 2016

Dr Frances Flanagan: Remembering the 1916 Easter Rising.

In this centenary year of the 1916 Easter Rising, Dr Frances Flanagan spoke of event commemoration in her paper *Remembering the 1916 Easter Rising*. Dr Flanagan's work engages with the general area of historical memory, with particular reference to collective memory and commemoration, and it shows how outcomes can be seen differently by people on the same side, and differently over time. A retrospective approach was used by situating the memory and commemoration of the 1916 event. It was done from the 1966 perspective of Bulmer Hobson who at this fifty year commemoration, and as a veteran, disavowed the posters that claimed the importance of the Easter Rising martyrs as symbols of inspiration to a younger generation building the prosperity of the nation. Hobson was pivotal in the planning of the 1916 Rising in Dublin, but like others featured in Dr Flanagan's talk, he became alienated from the cause and disagreed with the redemptive narrative adopted by those who viewed the execution of the Rising leaders as acts of martyrdom.

Following the executions of the Easter Rising leaders, a sense of redemptive martyrdom started appearing in the press stories and diary entries written about the leaders. The stories focussed on the positive qualities of the leaders who were described as a kind of moral elite - brave and spiritual. However people like Hobson expressed a degree of ambivalence about this approach and unsuccessful attempts were made to diffuse these ideas and show the leaders in a more realistic light. The story being told of the Easter Rising had another side,

but it became increasingly difficult to show this side in public forums.

Eamon O'Duffy was a supporter and friend of Hobson, and believed that the Rising should have taken a different more peaceful path. As a writer, he saw and portrayed the negative impact of the Rising – the looting, mental health issues and continuing civil conflict. His case for Irish nationalism was cast in terms of progression and advancement, and he believed the Rising did not deliver this. Meanwhile, writing about the revolution and the executed leaders, and commemorating them, was seen by Rising supporters as needing to be controlled to meet political needs. O'Duffy did not comply and his books were destroyed.

By 1966 when Hobson reflected on the Rising at its fifty year commemoration, the memory and commemoration had changed and broadened compared to the 1920s and 30s. Ireland's contribution to and sacrifice in the Great War, as well as its material achievements resonated much more than it had in the past but it still dwelt on the symbolism of the martyrs, much to Hobson's disappointment. A key question arising from this research is what it felt and meant to be on the winning side, but feel disappointed with consequences. Dr Flanagan's recent book, *Remembering the Revolution: dissent, culture and nationalism in the Irish Free State* (Oxford University Press, 2015) explores this in more detail.

(Anne Thoeming Councillor)

Golding Centre Colloquia 2016

The Golding Centre for Women's History, Theology and Spirituality at ACU held its 14th annual colloquia at Mount Saint Mary Campus, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield on Saturday 9 April 2016.

The first colloquium was presented by Dr Youssef Taouk. He covered a number of themes including the response of the Catholic Church in Britain during the First World War to a number of issues including Pope Benedict XV's initiatives for a peaceful end to hostilities which were actively opposed by the British Catholic establishment, including most of the bishops. They wanted an all-out victory. The non-establishment Catholics who leaned towards the Pope's initiatives were opposed by the British Catholic bishops. Dr Taouk also mentioned the secret arrangements made with Italy which resulted in the Church being excluded from the Versailles Conference.

The second colloquium was presented by Dr Theresa Angert-Quilter who focused on the contested *Acts of*

Thecla particularly a new, and perhaps more authentic, translation of the text. St Thecla was a colleague of St Paul and while Tertullian and Jerome rejected the works attributed to her as apocryphal she was mentioned in the 4th century writings of Egeria, was widely venerated in the early church and this continues in the Eastern Church today. Dr Angert-Quilter suggested that the *Acts of Thecla* gave examples of women in leadership in apostolic times.

The third colloquium was presented by Dr Melissa Bellanta who spoke on the involvement of George Napier and Helen Birks, from Adelaide, in William Lane's New Australia colony in Paraguay.

Further information on the Golding centre is on: [http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties, institutes and centres/centres/golding_centre/about_the_golding_centre](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties,_institutes_and_centres/centres/golding_centre/about_the_golding_centre)

(Geoff Hogan Editor)

Report on lecture by Professor Salvador Ryan

On Wednesday evening 13 April 2016 at Mount Saint Mary Campus, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield, Professor Ryan of the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland gave a most interesting presentation titled "*Críost Liom*": *Treasures of the Irish Christian Tradition*. Críost Liom translates as "Christ [be] with me".

During his presentation Professor Ryan explored evidence of a number of influences including examples of Celtic texts and artwork which gave an insight into the development of Celtic spirituality which evolved from the early medieval period and through time by

what may be called a matrix of interaction and involvement with Celtic cultural traditions and broader European influences. He also demonstrated some uniquely Celtic spiritual music by singing to a most appreciative audience.

One point of interest to ACHS members is that Professor Ryan mentioned that he is secretary of the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland. This Society was founded in Dublin in 1912 to promote the study of Irish ecclesiastical history and Irish history in general. Institutionally it has been associated with St Patrick's College Maynooth. (*Geoff Hogan Editor*)

An essay by Richard Reid, senior curator, National Museum of Australia

Given the centenary of the Irish Easter Rising and the strong links at that time between Australian Catholics and Ireland, members may be interested in reading the essay written by Richard Reid of the National Museum of Australia on the Irish in Australia.

He mentions statements by prominent Australians who reflected on the Irish and Irish influences on them or on Australia. One is from Henry Parkes, the "Father of Federation" who argued that 'Irish Roman Catholics' were not the 'best people' for the developing colony of New South Wales, and that the numbers arriving at colonial expense should be restricted.

The essay is located on the following

website: http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/irish_in_australia/irish_in_australia

Exhibition at the State Library Victoria 17 March- 31 July

The Irish Rising: A Terrible Beauty Is Born

The exhibition is about the tumultuous days of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, a pivotal moment in the Irish struggle for independence from Great Britain. Presented in partnership with the University of Melbourne, the display includes:

- A copy of the Irish War News, containing Pádraig Pearse's first communiqué from the GPO.
- A 1917 reprint of the proclamation of Irish independence, the only known one in Australia.
- A first edition of WB Yeats influential poem 'Easter 1916'.
- Footage of the 1920 St. Patrick's Day Parade where 100,000 Australians demonstrated their support for Irish independence.
- A portrait of Archbishop Daniel Mannix who played a significant role in the defeat of Australia's 1916 and 1917 conscription plebiscites

Website: <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/irish-rising-terrible-beauty-born>

Parish Centenaries in 2016

In the February Newsletter a number of parishes were listed as celebrating the centenary of their establishment. Two more parishes should be added to that list. Epping Parish now a part of the Epping Carlingford Parish in the Broken Bay Diocese and Banyo Nundah Parish in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

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