



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

## NEWSLETTER

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### NOTICE OF THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS 2.00 PM ON SUNDAY, 15 MARCH, 2015.

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

#### The Agenda:

- Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2015
- Items of business and motions of which due notice had been given by Friday 30 January, 2015.

#### NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2015

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.** Nomination forms must be completed and mailed to: SECRETARY ACHS, P.O. Box A621, Sydney South, NSW, 1235, NSW. These need to arrive by Friday 6 March 2015. A blank nomination form is enclosed in the envelope with this Newsletter.

**Following the AGM at approximately 2:30 pm** Dr Eugene Stockton will give his presentation.

#### Australian Catholic Historical Society Program for 2015.

*(This information is correct as at 22 January 2015, but changes can occur)*

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 15 <b>2:00 pm start for this meeting.</b>	<b>The Annual General Meeting</b> and presentation: <i>The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry: the urban apostolate.</i>	Dr Eugene Stockton. Philosopher, theologian, priest, archaeologist and author.
April 19 <i>(An RSVP is not required for the book launch).</i>	<b>2:00 pm. Book Launch:</b> <i>The Real Archbishop Mannix: From the Sources.</i> J Franklin, G.O Nolan & M. Gilchrist. <b>2:30 pm. Presentation:</b> <i>The many faces of religious persecution in Asia.</i>	Prof. James Franklin. Co-author. Fr Michael Kelly SJ. Executive Director: Union of Catholic Asian News, Bangkok
May 17	<i>The Australian Bishops and National Media: conflicts and missed opportunities.</i>	Fr Brian Lucas. General Secretary: Australian Bishops' Conference.
June 21	<i>Canon Law on child sexual abuse through the ages.</i>	Mr Kieran Tapsell. Lawyer and author of <i>Potiphar's Wife</i> , a recent study of Canon Law and clerical abuse.
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.

September 20	<i>Nostra Aetate and fifty years of interfaith dialogue – changes and challenges.</i>	Dr Patricia Madigan OP. Executive Director: Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry, Education and Research.
October 18	<i>In Good Faith: Providing religious education for Catholic children not attending Catholic schools in NSW - 1880-2000.</i>	Dr Ann Maree Whenman. Lecturer in Religious Education Australian Catholic University, Strathfield.
November 15	<i>Political machinations and sectarian intrigue in the making of Sydney University</i>	Assoc. Professor Julia Horne. University Historian University of Sydney.
December 5 (Saturday) Mass: 12:00pm Lunch: 12:30pm	<b>Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch</b> at Mary MacKillop Centre Mount Street North Sydney. Cost and booking details are to be advised.	<b>Speaker:</b> Professor Greg Craven. Vice-Chancellor Australian Catholic University.

**ACHS Sydney meetings are held on Sunday afternoons, at 2.30pm, 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 ACHS website: [http://www.australiancatholichistoricalandsociety.com.au].

#### ACHS Melbourne Meetings

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 2	<i>Father Con Reis and the Movement's attempted take-over of the Catholic Immigration Office, Melbourne, 1950-53.</i>	Dr. Val Noone
June 1	<i>To be advised</i>	Dr. Val Noone.
September 7	<i>To be advised</i>	Dr. P. Price
November 2	<i>The impact of WWI on the Catholic Church in Australia</i>	To be advised

**The Melbourne Chapter of the Australian Catholic Historical Society meetings are held at 2:00 pm 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

#### Assistance Requested.

Volunteers to prepare a report on the speaker's presentation at a monthly meeting for publication in the ACHS Newsletter and newsemail are requested. These reports are approximately 400 words long, but may need to be edited to fit into the space available, etc. If you can assist, please send an email to secretaryachs@gmail.com indicating the date, speaker and topic for which you would be willing to prepare a report. If there are more people volunteering for a particular topic, we would sort that out in due course.

#### 2015 Membership subscriptions are now due.

This is gentle reminder to those who may have overlooked renewing their membership for 2015.

If you had not renewed by 10 January 2015, a membership form is included with this newsletter. If you are in doubt about your membership status or if your 2015 renewal has been received please email: secretaryachs@gmail.com or write to: The Secretary ACHS, PO Box A621 Sydney South, NSW, 1235.

#### Membership subscription rates for 2015.

- Individual \$45
- Family \$50: this covers family members at the one address in Australia.
- Institutional \$50: one congregation, school, library etc. at the one address in Australia.
- Overseas \$50.
- Student: \$25

#### ACHS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Project.

Lesley Hughes, Janice Garaty and James Franklin reported to the ACHS Council on the proposed ACHS History project. Expressions of interest in undertaking the project were received from two experienced and well-qualified historians. After the full costs of undertaking the research and publication of the finished history were investigated, the Council decided that the project would have to be delayed to allow for sufficient funds to be raised. A special purpose bank account for this purpose is being established. It would be useful if donations to

this project were received. Unfortunately the Society currently does not have 'deductible gift recipient' status which permits donations to be tax deductible.

An additional impediment is the current location and condition of the archives in the O'Brien Room in St Mary's Cathedral crypt. It is damp, items are affected by mould, it is unsuitable for archival storage and as a workspace for a researcher on health and safety grounds. A suitable space (or spaces) needs to be obtained in which archival materials can be stored and a researcher can work. Suggestions of possible locations are most welcome.

Both these matters which are hampering commencement of the History Project are to be considered further by Council. If you are able to assist or would like to make a donation please make contact by email to secretaryachs@gmail.com. (Dr Lesley Hughes. Councillor)

**Sunday 16 November 2014. Presentation by Richard Connolly**  
**'A funny way to go to Rome': A seminarian on a troopship in 1946**

Richard Connolly gave delightful presentation about his experiences as a member of a group of 18 seminarians travelling to Rome to study at *Propaganda Fide*. The *SS Moreton Bay* left Sydney in July 1946, bound for London via Fremantle, Aden and Naples. The ship had carried troops during the war and on this particular voyage carried a number of RAF men homeward-bound plus some 500 Italian Prisoners of War, confined below deck. Richard described the voyage, his experiences on disembarkation in Naples, a month long vacation at Castel Gandolfo, then a week's holiday in Rome before commencing studies.

On board ship the seminarians made the acquaintance of some Italian officers who were allowed outside. Next day a notice was posted forbidding such fraternisation, signed by an English Colonel, whose existence and authority on the civilian ship was previously unknown. The seminarians and some Italian officers did not take kindly to this directive. Subsequently Richard was invited illicitly to a below-deck concert given by the Italians, later visiting two of the officers at their homes in Rome.

The seminarians disembarked in Naples and enjoyed a 'wonderful' six days there. Highlights included a visit to Pompeii and a ferry trip to Capri - including a swim in the Blue Grotto. However other experiences of life in post-war, post-occupation Naples also made a deep impression. The move to Castel Gandolfo where the seminarians joined others from *Propaganda Fide* College for a summer holiday opened their eyes to the delights of Italian food and the practice of imbibing

wine with meals. They also had an audience with Pope Pius XII and also enjoyed swimming in a pool (built in a bomb crater) - the gift of Cardinal Gilroy.

In Rome, the seminarians saw the sights and were eventually joined by classmates from many countries. Richard noted that being seated next to Chinese students at mealtime was particularly advantageous because they did not drink the wine allocated! However the Australians also learned of the wartime hardships endured at the college, including food shortages, students dying of TB and Australian students saving bread to pass onto escaped POWs. Richard's vivid descriptions of his experiences and reactions as a young 'Anglo-Irish' seminarian reminded us of how culturally sheltered Australians were in the mid-1940s.

(Dr Lesley Hughes)

**An addendum.** In the program published earlier in 2014 Richard Connolly's presentation was to be: *Making hymns with James McAuley: liturgical change in Australian Catholic life*. Richard changed the topic as he had previously published an article on this topic: Connolly, Richard. *Making hymns with James McAuley: a memoir*, Australasian Catholic Record Vol. 72, No. 4, Oct 1995: 387-398.

Many of us are aware of the many beautiful hymns produced through the collaboration between Richard Connolly and James McAuley. Richard also composed the music for *There's A Bear in There*, the theme song for the ABC children's program *Play School*.

(Geoff Hogan Editor)

**Saturday 6 December 2014. ACHS Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch**

The Society's annual Mass was held on Saturday 6 December 2014 at the Chapel of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The celebrant was Fr George Connolly. In the homily Fr George read from a letter sent to St Mary of the Cross by a Presbyterian friend from Adelaide, Joanna Barr Smith.

Following Mass we visited the room where St Mary of the Cross spent much of her time following a stroke and where she died. This fitted in well with the theme of Fr George's homily: "*On the death of a saint*".

We moved to the dining room and enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch. Thanks to all of those involved.

The after lunch speaker was Noel Debien who has had a wide involvement with the ABC TV and radio including the programs: Hymns of Glory, Compass, Life Matters, The Religion Report, The Europeans and Sunday Nights on local radio. He referred to some of these in his talk. Noel is currently involved with the ABC Management and Union Consultation looking at the recently announced restructuring of the ABC.

Among the topics he mentioned was what the ABC does to fulfil its charter obligations. He suggested that the ABC, like many Australian public institutions including the original Australian universities, is secular in orientation and was influenced by the Post-Enlightenment secular culture that existed when these were formed and is different to many public institutions in the UK and some other European countries. The secular orientation of many in the ABC creates tensions for those involved in religious and related programs. He also pointed to the tension between programing to fulfil the ABC Charter obligations and ratings.

Noel mentioned a statement by the British publisher Lord Northcliffe: “*News is what somebody somewhere wants to suppress; all the rest is advertising.*”

An interesting Q&A session followed which took up many of the points Noel spoke about and moved onto the current cuts and the restructuring of the ABC. Some likely outcomes are reductions in locally produced programming, closing of some regional offices, eliminating some current programs and a reduction in staff numbers. (Geoff Hogan Editor).

### Order of Australia Awards: Australia Day 2015.

Anne Henderson, who made a presentation to the Society on Dame Enid Lyons in July 2011, has been made a Member of the Order of Australia. Her husband Gerard Henderson, Director of the Sydney Institute, is an ACHS member. Many Catholics were also included among the recipients of awards.

### Religious History Association Conference 7 July 2015: call for papers

Due: 28 February 2015. Details: <http://therha.com.au/call-for-papers-rha-conference-2015/>

### RIP

**Emeritus Bishop Jeremiah Joseph Coffey** of Sale died on 19 November 2014.

**Brian Madden** OAM, FRAHS, and a member of ACHS died on 14 January 2015. Brian wrote extensively on the history of Canterbury, Kingsgrove, Riverwood and surrounding areas.

### Appointments of Bishops

**Bishop Comensoli** has been appointed Bishop of Broken Bay. **Bishop Curtin** and **Bishop Edwards OMI** have been appointed as Auxiliary Bishops of Melbourne. **Fr O'Regan** of Bathurst will be ordained Bishop of Sale in February 2015. **Archbishop Kassab** retired and **Archbishop Nona** appointed to the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Sydney (Chaldean). **Archbishop Gallagher** who was Apostolic Nuncio to Australia has been appointed as Secretary for Relations with States, sometimes referred to as the Vatican's Foreign Minister.

### Anniversaries

**Australian Catholic University** celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015.

[http://www.acu.edu.au/about\\_acu/our\\_university/mission\\_and\\_profile/25th\\_anniversary](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/our_university/mission_and_profile/25th_anniversary) Prof. Craven, the Vice Chancellor of ACU, will be the speaker at the ACHS Christmas Lunch in December 2015.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference plans to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of **Unitatis Redintegratio** (1964) and **Nostra Aetate** (1965). <http://www.cam.org.au/eic/7-News/Article/14011/Australian-Catholic-Bishops-Plan-for-the-Celebration-of-the-50th-Anniversaries> As a part of the celebrations, a visit by Cardinal Koch (President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) is being planned for about May. Nostra Aetate is the topic for the ACHS meeting on 20 September 2015.

**Australian Catholic Historical Society** was established in 1940 and will mark its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

**Also in 1940** Archbishop Michael Kelly died. Archbishop Gilroy became Archbishop of Sydney and the first Patron of the Australian Catholic Historical Society.

**The Diocese of Bathurst** was established in 1865 and celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

**The Society would be pleased to be advised of notable anniversaries being celebrated this year and in 2016.**

<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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