



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

NEWSLETTER

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NOTICE OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

1.30 PM ON SUNDAY, 24 March, 2019.

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

The Agenda:

- Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Election of Office Bearers for 2019
 - 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 8 February 2019.

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2019

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 24 March will be given.

Sr Rosa MacGinley RIP

Sr Rosa MacGinley PBVM OAM died on Sunday, 11 November 2018. Sr Rosa and her family have long been connected with the ACHS and are well revered. While based in Sydney Sr Rosa was an active member of the ACHS and was Vice President and Journal Editor. The ACHS James MacGinley Award was established by a benefaction of the MacGinley family and named in honour of her father James. Sr Rosa was also a foundation and active member of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society and was a highly regarded historian, scholar and teacher of history.

REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership of ACHS for 2019 was due on 1st January. If you have not renewed your membership for 2019 please do so ASAP. 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.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Program for 2019 Sydney Meetings.

This information is correct as at January 2019, but changes may occur.

***Note:** 24 March and 28 April are the fourth Sundays of the month not the third Sunday when we usually meet.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
17 February	<i>Laudato Si'</i> : a case for action or wasted opportunity?	Professor Neil Ormerod FACTA Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University.
*24 March 1:30 pm start for this meeting	1:30pm Annual General Meeting 2:00pm Presentation. Continuity and Change: Contexts and Meanings in some Spanish Liturgical Chant Manuscripts in the Rare Books Collection of Fisher Library	Dr Jane Morlet Hardie FAHA Medieval and Early Modern Centre University of Sydney. Formerly: Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

*28 April	St Michael the Archangel, Wollombi: the Church that moved and was paid for three times.	Gael Winnick Co-author (with Alison Plumber) of the history of St Michael's Church.
19 May	The cultural patronage of Archbishop John Bede Polding, 1834-1877.	Assoc. Professor Peter Cunich: Department of History University of Hong Kong.
16 June	'Pauper, Servus, et Humilis'?: The 'special destiny ethos' and Irish Catholic Identity in the 20 th Century.	Professor Irene Whelan: Professor of History and Irish Studies Manhattan College Purchase, NY, USA.
21 July	"Humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God": Patrick McMahon Glynn -- from Irish Lawyer to Australian Statesman.	John Kennedy McLaughlin AM <i>Formerly:</i> Associate Judge Supreme Court of NSW
18 August	Fiction and the moral imagination	Robin Hughes AO Writer and producer for radio and television. <i>Formerly:</i> Chair, Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. <i>Latterly:</i> Pro-Chancellor, ANU (Canberra)
15 September	Faith at "World's End": Father Angelo Confalonieri and the first Catholic Mission to Northern Australia	Professor Mark McKenna: Department of History, University of Sydney
20 October	Developments in Mariology since Vatican II: a global perspective	Professor M Isabell Naumann ISSM President: Catholic Institute of Sydney
17 November	Disentangling the McGirrs of Colonial NSW	Rev Dr Colin Fowler OP <i>Formerly:</i> Parish-priest (2004-2013) and historian St Bede's, Pyrmont. NSW
14 December	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.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au>].

Melbourne Chapter Meeting for 2019

March 4: Katharine Massam will speak on the Benedictines of Western Australia

Other meetings: 3 June, 2 September and 11 November 2019. Speakers and topics for other meetings TBA

Location: Meetings will be held at the Yarra Theological Union Study Centre, 29 Albion Street Box Hill.

Information: Matthew Beckmann, OFM. Email address: mbeckmann@franciscans.org.au

Note from the President

I recently read reviews of four books which have made me wonder whether I understand the real reason for the so-called "revolving-door" phenomenon which has recently characterised the disposal of Australian Prime Ministers.

Three of those books deal with Emmanuel Macron, the "philosopher-President" of France (and the influence of Paul Ricœur on him); the fourth is Julian Jackson's "A certain idea of France: The life of Charles de Gaulle". The reviewer of Jackson's biography wrote, "To understand de Gaulle, in sum, is to appreciate what it means to be French, both intellectually and emotionally." And the reviewer of the books about

Macron began by saying, "The French take philosophy seriously. The opinions of their philosophers are listened to, and anyone who matters is expected to have some grounding in the subject."

It is quite the reverse in Australian society and, perhaps, that was never truer than now. Could it be that the ousting of those Prime Ministers occurred because, though the population may recognise it only inchoately, none of them had any sense – or, at least, not such as could be overtly shown -- of what it really means (or should mean) to be a contemporary Australian? Do *any* of us? Perhaps those politicians recognised our materialism; or our increasing propensity for self-

indulgence; though not the deep social unease which exists alongside (and perhaps because of) those unworthy traits.

A nation without a philosophy or a soul is, surely, a nation without a worthwhile future. Our continent has, for over 60,000 years, been a refuge for migrants, though since 1788 the notion of “who we are” has never been really clear. The reflex truculence of “We will decide” is a poor substitute for philosophical reflection, glib *clichés* about “multi-culturalism”,

notwithstanding. A deficit of historical knowledge probably contributes significantly to that moral or existential *lacuna* and that is why, I believe, the existence and flourishing of ACHS are so important – not just to ourselves, but also to the community in which we all seek to live meaningfully.

I wish every member of ACHS a personally and intellectually satisfying 2019, especially with good health. (John Carmody President)

ACHS Melbourne Chapter meeting: Monday 12 November 2018

Topic: *Monsignor George Talbot, an Anglo-Irish convert clergyman and advisor to Pope Pius IX, and his influence on Church affairs in Australia.* **Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Chris Dowd, OP

Chris gave a masterly presentation on Monsignor George Talbot, his family background, his move from being an Anglican to a Roman Catholic and his time in Rome with Pius IX. Chris did not have time to deliver his entire paper, but he hopes to have it published in the Society's Journal. A number of those present had done some research on Talbot and there was a very lively discussion about his role in influencing Pope Pius IX, especially with regards to the Church in Australia.

After the talk and discussion there were drinks and nibbles to celebrate the five years of the Melbourne Chapter in which members enjoyed one another's company and were enlightened and stimulated by one

another's research. There was also a farewell to Fr Larry Nemer who will move to the Retirement Home at the Divine Word Missionaries Centre in Marsfield NSW.

Mary Ryllis Clark mentioned that she had a new book published, and Chris Power mentioned that ANU Press has agreed to publish Katharine Massam's book on the Missionary Sisters in Western Australia.

Matthew Beckmann reminded the group that the 2019 meetings will be held in the Yarra Theological Union Studies Centre and mentioned that one could either park in the YTU Parking Lot or on Bedford Street. (Fr Larry Nemer, SVD)

Sydney meeting: Sunday 18 November 2018.

Topic: *In Paradise, under the sun: Francis McGarry and the rewards of missionary work in 1930s' Alice Springs* **Presenter:** Dr Charmaine Robson: 2017 Australian Religious Fellow of the State Library of NSW

Prior to the presentation and in introducing Charmaine aspects of the Australian Religious Fellowship of the State Library of NSW were mentioned by Dr Carmody and Fr Campion.

Charmaine's presentation focused mainly on Francis McGarry's work as a lay missionary in central Australia from 1935 to 1942, and also touched on his life before and after this period and, after his death, moves to seek his beatification.

Francis was born in Wagga Wagga in 1897 but the family moved to Manly after the death of his father in 1903. He was taught by the Good Samaritan nuns in Manly and the Marist Brothers at Darlinghurst. On leaving school he worked in a warehouse. In 1917 he enlisted in the army, served in France, was discharged in 1919 and returned to work. In 1922 he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society in Manly and took up charitable works including visiting leprosy patients at Little Bay Lazaret.

Charmaine mentioned a number of influences on Francis including his Irish-Australian Catholic family, Catholic Action, MSC priest Fr (later Bishop) Gsell and Fr Moloney.

In 1935 Francis went to Alice Springs to assist Fr Moloney in establishing a mission to the local Aboriginal people under that patronage of St Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower, on whose feast day the mission was established. Charmaine mentioned many aspects of Francis's work, as described in his many letters. They included giving school and catechism lessons, and the provision of food and healthcare. Francis believed that as a layman he had a role to exercise in all of these activities and he derived great satisfaction from his work with both children and adults at the mission. However, he had no training in these areas or in missiology. He relied on advice from senior missionaries and his own “observation and experience.” Prayer was also essential to his life and work. Francis admired the Arrernte people and their disposition towards being positive and happy.

Recent criticism of Francis included the suggestion that he was instrumental in destroying the Arrernte people's use of their language. Charmaine was doubtful about this since the use of their language was only forbidden for a few hours a day in school for the purpose of teaching the children English. He did not discourage the local language at other times.

The mission was moved to Arltunga in 1942 and in 1944 Francis resigned and joined the Northern Territory Native Affairs Branch. In 1948 he resigned

from there and returned to Sydney. He died in 1955. Following his death there were moves to seek his beatification but these stalled.

This latter point was explored, along with other matters, during the Q&A session which followed Charmaine's presentation. It is interesting to note that scholars have been drawn to examine Francis and his work and that biographies have been written on him. In many ways he was an ordinary man doing extraordinary things. *(Geoff Hogan Editor)*

Saturday 15 December 2018 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 15 December. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Brian Lucas. During the homily he mentioned that the Gospel reading was from Matthew's Gospel and recounted Jesus' discourse with the disciples after the Transfiguration in which the disciples had not understood aspects of the coming of the Messiah. Fr Brian went on to mention some of challenges modern disciples face particularly in many areas we refer to as Missionary countries.

Following the Mass was an excellent lunch. The after-dinner speaker was Howard Murray, currently an ACHS Vice President and former President who spoke on *Annulment: A Catholic Divorce?* Just a few points.

Howard mentioned Catholic teaching on the nature of marriage. He pointed out that an Annulment is a Canon Law matter. It reflects Catholic teachings on marriage and essentially looks at issues leading up to the marriage which may have breached Church teachings on the nature of marriage and the conditions for a marriage to be valid or invalid. An annulment

effectively rules that the marriage under consideration never existed. Divorce is a civil law matter, looks at the situation at the end of a marriage and does not have the same Church perspective on the nature of marriage. Howard expanded on a number of the Church's teachings and canonical issues related to marriage and annulments and gave some examples of where annulments were granted and why. He also gave examples of where annulments were declined. He illustrated this by referring to some historically significant cases and some cases which involved recent "famous" people.

A short Q&A session followed in which some points were explored and clarified including when were the Church tribunals established in Australia and that some cases are referred to Rome.

Before, during and after the lunch there was considerable interaction between members and from all accounts the function was a great success. As in previous years a number of members mentioned that the venue was most suitable for this event.

(Geoff Hogan Editor)

Some anniversaries in 2019

In 1819 Fr John Therry and Fr Philip Conolly arrive in Sydney and Fr Therry opens the first Catholic school in Parramatta

In 1919 Knights of the Southern Cross founded for Catholic men over the age of 18

Some Centenaries in 2019: St Joseph's Belmore and All Hallows Five Dock.

St Kevin's Church at Eastwood was built in 1919 as a part of Epping Parish. In 1929 the Parish was established in its own right. At 5:30pm on Saturday 2 March 2019 there will be a Mass to celebrate these events at St Kevin's

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