



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

# NEWSLETTER

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## ACHS Program for November and December 2013.

(These details are correct as at 28 October 2013, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances).

November 17	<i>The Passing of the English Christendom and the future of the Anglican Communion</i>	Rev. Dr Bruce Kaye. Editor: <i>The Journal of Anglican Studies</i>
December 7 12:00 pm (Saturday)	<b>Christmas Lunch.</b> <b>Venue:</b> MacKillop Centre North Sydney <b>Cost:</b> \$50. Booking is necessary. A form is being mailed with this Newsletter.	<b>Speaker:</b> Fr George Connolly. <b>Topic:</b> Catherine Connolly, Governess, Wife: a Catholic Family, Carcoar, 1868. <b>Enquiries:</b> Secretaryachs@gmail.com

## Program for first three presentations in 2014.

(The full program for 2014 will be published in the February 2014 Newsletter)

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 16 <u>*Note: 2:00 pm start for this meeting.</u>	<b>The Annual General Meeting</b> and <i>God in the Lodge: Religious beliefs of Australia's Prime Ministers</i>	Roy Williams. Lawyer and author of international best-seller: <i>God, Actually.</i>
April 13 (Palm Sunday) <u>*Note: change from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to Easter.</u>	<i>A restless and contrary man: the life and journeys of Jeremiah O'Flynn.</i>	Dr Paul Collins. Broadcaster and author: <i>Mixed Blessings; Burn: The epic story of bushfire in Australia; The Birth of the West</i>
May 18	<i>Winners are Grinners: A curious tale of Episcopal One-upmanship.</i>	Rev. Dr John De Luca. Historian, musician and former PP of Maroubra.

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

## Membership subscriptions for 2014 due by 1 January 2014. (Form included with this newsletter)

<b>Individual</b>	\$45	<b>Family:</b> all persons at the one address in Australia	\$50
<b>Overseas</b>	\$50	<b>Institutional:</b> a congregation, school, library, etc. at the one address in Australia	\$50
<b>Student.</b> (This is a new category introduced for 2014)			\$25

## TWO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**A big THANK YOU to Anthony Restuccia** for his very generous donation of \$1000 towards the cost of advertising ACHS meetings in the Catholic Weekly.

**Congratulations to Helen Scanlon** on receiving a Royal Australian Historical Society Achievement Award on the basis of her considerable contribution to the ACHS over many years and in many roles. Her nomination for this award was unanimously endorsed by the Council and General meetings of the ACHS in September 2013.

## Reflections on 2013

In any year there is continuity and change. As people interested in history we note the continuities, record the changes and critique both. In the context of the Catholic Church there was a significant change in 2013 in the stepping aside from the Papacy of Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis, but within that there was also continuity. Within the ACHS there was a change of meeting locations from the St Mary's

Cathedral College hall to the Crypt of the historic St Patrick's Church at Church Hill. There was continuity with our program of high quality speakers and topics continuing. Indications are that the change of venue and the speakers program have been successful as the attendance at meetings has increased significantly. There was also the development of the Melbourne

Chapter where a group of members in Melbourne, coordinated by Rev Dr Nemer, met for the first time.

We need to acknowledge and thank our President, Dr John Carmody, for seeking out and negotiating arrangements for the new meeting venue when we were required to vacate the previous one, for his efforts in securing the excellent and diverse range of speakers for our program and his cooperation in setting-up the Melbourne Chapter.

In 2014 a reduced fee for students who join the Society will be introduced. Please assist in promoting membership of the Society and its program, particularly to younger people.

The President and ACHS Councillors thank members for their continuing support and participation. We also thank the many people who assist the Society in various ways. We look forward to your continued support and participation in 2014 and subsequent years and wish you a very happy and holy Christmas.

(Geoff Hogan. Editor)

### **Sunday 18 August 2013. Spying for the Holy Office: a Sydney story. Emeritus Professor Fr Edmund Campion.**

The renowned Catholic Church historian, Fr Edmund Campion held a record attendance spellbound when he addressed the August meeting of ACHS on Spying for the Holy Office: a Sydney story. He revealed that he has been doing research on the voluminous papers of the controversial Sydney priest, Fr Terry Purcell (former PP of St Benedict's, Broadway), which are held in the State Library of NSW. He mentioned that of 43 archive boxes, only 3 are currently open to researchers: so he not only enthralled his audience with the story that he could tell (and, typically, he told it masterfully), but left them wondering what the other 40 boxes, which are still "closed" might contain.

Fr Purcell, who for many years held responsible positions with the Council of Priests in Sydney (it was set up following the decisions of the Second Vatican Council), engaged in activities which might have shocked his fellow clerics. He deluged the Vatican with correspondence and documents which denounced those whom he considered "heretics", "dissenters" and in other ways doctrinally unreliable or suspect. At one point, when he suspected the reliability of the registered postal service which he had been using, he abandoned that method. "In future," Fr Campion said, "he preferred to entrust them to a man he described as his 'senior Acolyte' at St Benedict's, a Qantas

employee, who would deliver them in person." Who were the subjects of this "espionage" from afar? According to Fr Campion's research they included Bishops, future Bishops (or possibilities for that role), priests, lay staff of St Patrick's Seminary at Manly and other laity who came to his disapproving attention.

His reports were robust and confident and he sought to go to "the top". One document noted, "I have supplied Cardinal Ratzinger with extensive files on most of the foregoing over a number of years." He would write things such as, "I have just received damning information about Bishop-elect's [name specified] Eucharistic teachings..."; various members of the Manly faculty were "dissenting staff". They should be dismissed, along with the Rector of the seminary". In 1998, for example, with Cardinal Clancy's retirement imminent, he sent a warning to the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, "Do not think of appointing any of the following to Sydney" and provided a long list of eminent names; one Bishop-elect who somehow slipped through his net was "heretical". His diligence seemed limitless.

If this story was a window onto Sydney's past, part of Fr Campion's message was that it was, really, a very recent past. (JJ Carmody, President)

### **Monday 26 August 2013 First meeting of the ACHS Melbourne Chapter**

Fr Larry Nemer reported that a small but committed group met on Monday 26 August 2013 at Dorish Maru College and launched the Melbourne Chapter of the ACHS. Dr Katharine Massam of the United Faculties of Theology presented a paper: *"Writing a Missionary Vocation: Spanish Benedictine Missionary Women in Western Australia"*. She pointed out that it is a work in progress. A lively discussion followed. Some of the points covered included: using letters as a sometimes reliable, yet always enriching source in doing historical research; the neglected story of women in the history of the missions in Australia; and the context in which the

women were writing their letters. The participants were encouraged by the potential of this group to grow as a number of people indicated support and interest, but tendered apologies for that day.

The next meeting of the Melbourne Chapter is planned for Monday, 3 March 2014, at Dorish Maru College from 2 to 3:30 PM. The topic for the presentation is to be decided. Fr Nemer is coordinating the group. His contact details are: 100 Albion Road, Box Hill 3128. Ph: 8892 2603. Email: [nemerlarry@gmail.com](mailto:nemerlarry@gmail.com)

**Sunday 15 September 2013. *You just did your best, that's all, and hoped for the best.*' The Sisters of Mercy and Catholic education in far Western NSW. Dr Megan Brock**

Dr Megan Brock RSJ is a Consultant psychologist who was commissioned by the Sisters of Mercy to interview sisters who had taught in schools in the far west of NSW. These interviews were the basis of a book she wrote on the experiences of these Sisters. The book, *In their own words: a narrative history Wilcannia-Forbes congregation Sisters of Mercy*, was published in 2012.

Dr Brock gave some narrative accounts of how individuals were drawn to their vocation and how they adapted to their situations. The stories showed a diversity in the backgrounds and the experiences of the sisters. Some had strong family encouragement and personal commitment to enter the convent, others less so. One stated: "I thought it would be fun". Some had a close connection with the sisters; a few had little initial connection. One got to know the sisters through a friend and another was initially an Anglican.

There were many stories of teaching and of the conditions that were endured, including "the oppressive heat of summer" and "the piercing cold of winter". Dr Brock gave examples sisters being encouraged to develop particular skills, e.g. in music, and to attend university. The impact of Vatican II and the Wyndham Scheme in NSW schools was also mentioned. Dr Brock's topic title was a good summary of how they adapted to the challenges faced in often remote and isolated areas: '*You just did your best, that's all, and hoped for the best.*'

Two of the Mercy Sisters, who taught in western NSW and who were interviewed by Dr Brock were present at the talk. During questions time they endorsed the points made by Dr Brock in the book and in her presentation.

(Geoff Hogan Vice President)

**Sunday 20 October 2013. "Captains of the soul": chaplains in the Australian Army, 1913–2013. Dr Michael Gladwin.**

Dr Michael Gladwin is a Lecturer in History in the School of Theology at Charles Sturt University, Canberra. His presentation related to his recently published book "*Captains of the Soul: A History of Australian Army Chaplains*". Michael also referred to others who had had touched on this topic including Michael McKernan who spoke to the Society in 2012 on the topic of "*Churches at War: then and now*".

Michael briefly mentioned a Catholic chaplain in the Boer War, Father Timoney, who comforted, consoled, and instructed soldiers in his care. He also sent news reports from the front and was often openly critical of certain events, something of a "whistle blower", which was not appreciated by some in authority, but he was well regarded by many soldiers.

Michael proceeded to consider the evolving role of chaplains, often called "Padres", in the Australian Army from World War I through to the current involvement in Afghanistan. He mentioned that in WWI there were 414 Australian Army Chaplains and in WWII there were 750. Aspects of the evolving role included: religious ministry, pastoral care, social welfare of soldiers and their families, education and training and also providing advice to officers and staff.

He spoke of individual chaplains; their strong personal conviction and selfless devotion to the difficult and sometimes paradoxical task of bringing humanity to inhuman situations and drawing soldiers to an awareness of the presence of God. Some were not successful in this role, but just a few.

The interactions of the chaplains with soldiers often had a profound impact in the many difficult situations in which they were located. One set of accounts were of soldiers who were prisoners of war of the Japanese in Malaya, Singapore and the River Kwai. The padres often brought meaning to the prisoners in these desperate and inhuman circumstances. In one camp the Japanese guards were bewildered by the chaplains, with many chaplains being singled out and subjected to brutal treatment as the guards misinterpreted their actions and role. Eventually this changed and the guards began to treat the chaplains with a degree of respect. They were given green arm bands to wear with black Japanese writing on them. After the war a translation was sought. This indicated that the guards had developed an understanding of the role of chaplains. The translation was: "Captains of the Soul".

(Geoff Hogan Vice President)

**175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity in Australia**

The Sisters of Charity of Australia are currently celebrating the 175th anniversary of their arrival in Australia. A book on the works of the Sisters has been compiled by Sr Moira O'Sullivan RSC: *Sisters of Charity of Australia 'Impelled by Christ's Love - 175 Years Serving in Australia'*. Further information and contact details: Telephone: (02) 9367 1222 or Email: [congregation@rscoffice.com](mailto:congregation@rscoffice.com)

### Historical Edition of Perth's "The Record"

The Record, the weekly newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, in partnership with the Archdiocesan Historical Commission recently published a Historical Edition (2 October 2013) which provides many articles on the rich history of the first 50 years of the Catholic Church in Western Australia. The articles have been written by a group of Catholic Church historians from diverse scholarly backgrounds including academia and religious life. Odhran O'Brien, a winner of the 2012 ACHS James MacGinley Award, is a Contributing Editor of the Record and has kindly provided the Society with a copy of this edition in which he wrote an article on Bishop Martin Griver, the second Bishop of Perth. Biographies of Bishop Martin Griver and Archbishop Patrick Clune will be published later this year by St Pauls Publications in Sydney. The Record, established in 1874, is Australia's oldest weekly newspaper. It has a special focus on the life of the Catholic Church in Western Australia. Further information Email: [office@therecord.com.au](mailto:office@therecord.com.au). Website: [www.therecord.com.au](http://www.therecord.com.au)

### History of the Catholic Church in the Macleay Valley

The Society has been asked to mention that a book "*The History of the Catholic Church in the Macleay Valley*" by Bruce Cain is about to be printed. It is 300 A4 pages in length and will be available in hardback and soft cover. Pre-orders, up to 31 December 2013, are requested. It is anticipated that this will be launched on 4 April 2014. Further enquiries: [cathkemp@midcoast.com.au](mailto:cathkemp@midcoast.com.au)

### Medical History Library

The ACHS has been contacted by David Russell who is the History of Medicine Librarian at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in Sydney. The library holds approximately 40,000 items including: monographs, journals, artworks, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence and antique medical instruments. Much of the material is rare and unique.

The library caters for a range of users including: historians, genealogists, authors, journalists, students, fellows of the college (doctors), medical researchers and lawyers. The library offers its services free of charge and is open to the public by appointment. Access is also available to a well-appointed reading room. Books from the library are also available through local libraries through interlibrary loans.

From the perspective of Australian Catholic history, David mentioned that there are "considerable holdings on Catholic hospitals in Australia, Catholic doctors and nurses and connections between the UK /Irish medical world and Australia, as well as religious beliefs as they relate to medicine in the past".

Contact details and location.

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Phone: [+61 2 9256 5413](tel:+61292565413) Mobile: 0417693794. Email: [David.Russell@racp.edu.au](mailto:David.Russell@racp.edu.au)

Websites: <http://www.racp.edu.au/page/library> and <http://www.racp.edu.au/>

**A postscript.** In its recent newsletter there is reference to a biography of Mary Glowery (1887-1957), a remarkable Australian missionary nun and medical doctor who worked in India. Interestingly, Mary Glowrey needed papal permission to practise medicine as a nun. This was granted by Pope Benedict XV. Later Pope Pius XI bestowed a special blessing on her medical mission work. She thus became the first nun-doctor missionary. Before leaving for India Mary had played a leading role in founding the Catholic Women's League in Melbourne. She has been named a 'Servant of God' in the process of seeking her Beatification.

### Fr EMMET COSTELLO SJ. Rest in Peace.

Fr Emmet Costello died on 15 October 2013 aged 89. An obituary for Fr Costello, written by ACHS member Michael Costigan, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 25 October 2013. Another obituary, written by Prime Minister Tony Abbott, a former pupil of Fr Costello, was published in The Australian on 22 October 2013. A further report is on: [http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest\\_news/2013/20131017\\_1648.shtml](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2013/20131017_1648.shtml).

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