

## NEWSLETTER

### Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Sydney meetings and program for 2022

*This information is correct as at 22 January 2022, but changes can occur.*

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
20 February	Remembering Timor 80 Years On: The Australian and Japanese Invasions of Portuguese Timor	<b>Sr Dr Susan Connelley rsj.</b> Author of forthcoming book, <i>East Timor, René Girard and Neocolonial Violence: Scapegoating as Australian Policy</i>
20 March <b>*1:30 pm start.</b>	<b>*1:30pm Annual General Meeting 2:00pm Presentation:</b> Cathedral Folly: the origins of the 1960 plan for a vast “Brutalist” cathedral at New Norcia	<b>Dr John Challis</b> Formerly: Dominican theologian, Head, ABC Science Unit <i>and</i> International Relations Executive, ABC
10 April *A week earlier than usual.	Historical perspectives from the newly formed collection of rare books and manuscripts at the ACU	<b>Mr Hugh Myers</b> Special Collections Advisor Australian Catholic University (Sydney)
15 May	Writing Australian Catholic history: A case study – “Riverview”	<b>Mr Gerard Windsor</b> Novelist, literary critic, and essayist. Author of <i>The Tempest-tossed Church</i>
19 June	A place for faith in the public square	<b>Professor Francis Campbell</b> Vice-Chancellor, University of Notre Dame Australia
17 July	Aboriginal religious art	<b>Sr Dr Rosemary Crumlin rsm OAM</b> Artist, art curator, art educator, art historian Author of <i>Images of religion in Australian Art</i> (1988) and <i>The Blake Book</i> (2011)
14 August *A week earlier than usual.	Walking the synodal path of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia - a reflection	<b>Dr Helen Belcher</b> Co-chair the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Pastoral Council
18 September.	Champagnat Marists in Australia: 1872-2022	<b>Br Dr John Luttrell fms</b> Author of: <i>Norman Thomas Gilroy: An obedient life</i> ; Formerly: President ACHS and Editor <i>ACHS Journal</i>
16 October	Heavens Below: Religion on ABC Radio from the 1940s to the Present	<b>Professor John Potts</b> Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature, Macquarie University
20 November	The story of St Mary’s Spires – the completion of Polding’s dream	<b>Mgr Tony Doherty.</b> Former Parish Priest of Rose Bay and former Dean of St Mary’s Cathedral (Sydney) Co-author of <i>The Attachment</i>
? December	Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch.	Details to be advised.

**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: [jjcarmody@gmail.com](mailto:jjcarmody@gmail.com)

#### ACHS Melbourne Chapter meetings

**Location:** Yarra Theological Union Study Centre, Classroom 1. 98 Albion Street Box Hill,

**Time and Dates:** 2:00 PM on Mondays 7 March, 6 June, 5 September and 14 November at.

**Topics:** to be advised. **Contact:** Matthew Beckmann, OFM. Email: [mbeckmann@franciscans.org.au](mailto:mbeckmann@franciscans.org.au)

## NOTICE OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

1.30 PM ON SUNDAY, 20 March, 2022

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

- **The Agenda:**
- **Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting**
- **President's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Election of Office Bearers for 2022**
- **Items of business and motions of which due notice had been given.**
- Agenda items must reach the Secretary by 28 February 2022.
- **Register your intention to attend** via email giving your name and contact details:  
ACHSmeetings@gmail.com

### NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS

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.

### ACHS MEETINGS and COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

#### Sydney Meetings: conditions and procedures to be followed.

- If you have any symptoms associated with the COVID-19 Virus or are unwell you must not attend.
- The seats will be separated to comply with requirements for social distancing.
- Those attending will need to record their attendance in the official ACHS register and comply with venue registration procedures.
- Those attending must sanitise their hands on entering the crypt with sanitiser
- **FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN.**
- At the end of the meeting the chairs and tables must be sanitised prior to stacking them against the wall. Sanitising materials will be provided.
- Link to NSW Government COVID-19 rules: <https://www.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules>

#### Change of ACHS email address

The new email address for general contact with the ACHS has been changed from secretaryachs@gmail.com to achscontact1@gmail.com

#### REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Payment of fees for Membership of ACHS for 2022 will be due on 1st April 2022 and must be paid by 1 July 2022. Application/Renewal forms are included in the envelopes with this Newsletter. A form will also be available on the ACHS website. NB Fees remain the same as last year.

#### Publication of 2021 ACHS Journal

The 2021 issue of the *Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society* is available on the ACHS website (<https://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/journal/>). Hard copies will be posted to members with this Newsletter. Also included in the envelope will be a nomination form for positions on the ACHS Council and a 2022 membership form.

#### President's message

Pope Francis turned 85 on December 17. In that respect, this remarkable man is like us: he is younger than *some* of us but older than others. More importantly, it means that – like ourselves – he has a sense of the complexity of life and recognises that we all depend on one another if we are to achieve *anything*. None of us is – or *can be* – an “island”.

In his first leading article for 2022, the Editor of *The Tablet* reflected on that very point: “The Covid pandemic has lit up deep fissures in modern society which might otherwise have remained hidden.” That is

also true of Australia, especially “the fact that many workers essential in providing healthcare are amongst the least rewarded.” There are, in Australia, other shamefully-forgotten people too: and, if it did nothing else, the farce of our Government's mishandling of the “Djokovic case” has reminded us of our imprisoned refugees, some of whom shared the Serbian star's “Quarantine Hotel” in Melbourne and have been there for years.

Ironically, there was an inspiring photograph on the page opposite that editorial in *The Tablet*: it was of the

Pope and a group of refugees whom he has resettled in Italy at *his* expense. When they helped him celebrate his birthday, one of them (an African boy) told him: “You saved us.”

We do not need to look far to find people to save and we can do that in several ways. Being aware of what our nation is doing – and is making a shameful part of our history -- is the first step of that journey, because our own day-to-day actions, or inaction, soon enough *become* our history, which is nothing less than our documentation of who we are.

### Melbourne meeting Monday 8 November 2021

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Dr Austin Cooper gave a presentation on Wilberforce and John Newman.

### Sydney meeting: Sunday 14 November 2021 (Conducted via Zoom)

**Topic:** Catholic archives: are they history?

**Speakers:** Dr Odhran O’Brien Archdiocesan Archivist Perth and

Dr Colin Barr School of Divinity, History, Philosophy & Art History University of Aberdeen

Vice-President Jim Franklin opened this final 2021 Zoom event and remarked that it will go down in ACHS history as the first paper jointly presented by interstate and internationally located speakers to a mostly Sydney audience. With an intriguingly ambiguous title, the two speakers discussed the role of archives and responsibility of archivists in ensuring the preservation and availability of primary source material about our past. Dr Colin Barr from the University of Aberdeen provided a global overview of the opportunities that Catholic institutional, religious, and lay archives provide for our understanding of general and Catholic history, while Perth-based Odhran O’Brien spoke about local and practical issues of Catholic archive maintenance and access.

Using the experience he gleaned from researching *Ireland’s Empire: The Roman Catholic Church in the English-Speaking World, 1829-1940* (2020), Dr Barr alerted guests to the challenges faced by archive keepers and users. For this book, he surveyed over 100 archives in about a dozen countries and found archives in all types of conditions. They ranged from dust encrusted brown-paper-packaged parcels lying forgotten under institutional staircases, to more pristinely preserved and catalogued documents held in official repositories. While opportunities abound for the digitisation of archives and the discovery of more primary source material about Catholic history, especially that relating to the European middle-ages, Barr noted the challenges that inadequate funding and resources pose for smaller collections particularly those in parishes or poorer countries, and under institutional care. The selection of relevant material, the cost of completing the digitisation process, and the operational and administrative tasks of ensuing continuous access rely on the expertise of archivists, whom Barr said provided an essential and important service to our

And, by the way, our first *colloquium* for 2022 – the presentation by Sr Susan Connelly *rsj* on “Remembering Timor 80 years on: the Australian and Japanese invasions of Portuguese Timor” (on February 20) should be reminder, both good and bad, of what we Australians are capable of.

And part of that example-driven education might come from the inspirational 85-year-old Pontiff.

*John Carmody (ACHS President).*

Catholic life. Dr Barr praised Australia’s approach to archive management and noted the need to Catholic archivists to work collaboratively and pro-actively to preserve Catholic history material and assist those who lacked the resources to do so.

Odhran O’Brien is an historian and archivist who works with the Archdiocese of Perth. He provided a practical overview of archive management with reference to the requirements of Canon Law and state legislation. With reference to Canon Law (Can. 486) that all records relating to the parish and the diocese ‘must be protected with the greatest care’, O’Brien alerted the audience to the collaborative partnerships that existed throughout the Australian church to ensure standards and requirements were met. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of some religious orders in preserving their documents and noted a good policy framework underpinned the success of archive management, and that sharing as well as collaboration were important. With these elements, he said, Catholic archives would not become “history”, but be history.

In responding to audience questions about Australian Catholic archives, O’Brien noted the sensitivities that existed in matters of privacy and the ‘sanitising’ of archives and said a range of approved archival provisions were available such as limiting access for a specified period. He also noted the difference between secular and church entities in the maintenance of archives and the release time each may determine, as well as the rich field of research opportunities that Australian Catholic archives offered to historians. He noted that funding for the digitisation of archives is a problem in Australia and elsewhere, although Trove’s digitisation of Catholic newspapers has been very valuable.

Dr Carmody closed the presentation and thanked both speakers for their informative contributions. He also thanked ACHS members for their support and participation in Zoom events over the year and said he looked forward to the resumption of face-to-face meetings in 2022. (*Anne Thoeming*),

### Bicentenary in 2022

Fr Philip Conolly arrived in Hobart in 1821. In 1822 he arranged for a chapel to be constructed on the corner of Brisbane & Harrington St, near the present site of St Mary's Cathedral. Also in 1822 Fr Conolly established a Catholic School in Hobart.

### Sesquicentenaries in 2022

**The Marist Brothers (FMS) arrived in Australia.** On 26<sup>th</sup> February 1872 four Marist Brothers, led by Br Ludovic, arrived in Australia from France to establish a school. On 8th April 1872 the school open in Harrington Street in the Rocks. The school was named St Patrick's Church Hill and initially enrolled one hundred and thirty primary school boys. By 1875, Brother Ludovic had opened a High School at St Patrick's. Over the years, St Patrick's, Church Hill served as a Primary School, High School, Intermediate School, Business College and Evening College. With diminishing numbers of residents in the inner city, it was decided to move the campus to Dundas in 1962.

**Excommunication of Mary MacKillop lifted.** On 23 February 1872 Bishop Sheil, removed the excommunication on Mary MacKillop. This was later confirmed by an Episcopal investigation.

### Centenaries in 2022

**St Michael's Parish, Lane Cove.** The centenary of the foundation of St Michael's Parish, Lane Cove and the appointment of its first Parish Priest, Fr Hugh McGuire, in September 1922 will be celebrated in September 2022. There had been a Catholic presence in Lane Cove and surrounding areas for many years and a small church had been erected near the corner of Dorritt and Little Streets which was blessed and opened by Archbishop Kelly on August 24th, 1919, but this was linked to Naremburn Parish. (Source: Lane Cove Parish weekly bulletin for Sunday 16 January 2022).

**Michael Sheehan becomes Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney.** In February 1922 Archbishop Michael Sheehan arrived in Sydney to be Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney with the right of succession.

He resigned as Coadjutor Archbishop and returned to Ireland in 1937. It has been claimed that the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Giovanni Panico had pressured Archbishop Sheehan to resign as Coadjutor Archbishop as there was a move to "Australianise" the Church in Australia and appoint Australian born priests to the Australian Catholic Hierarchy.

**Salesians arrive in the Kimberley region.** In 1922 a group of Salesians arrived in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. They were led by Bishop Ernest Coppo. In addition to Bishop Coppo there were four priests and three brothers. The Salesians left the Kimberley region and moved to the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 1927. Bishop Coppo returned to Italy and semi-retirement.

**Cardinal Achille Ratti elected as Pope Pius XI.** On 6 February 1922 Cardinal Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti was elected as Pope, becoming Pope Pius XI and on 11 February 1929 Pope Pius XI became the sovereign of Vatican City when it became an independent state.

**G. K. Chesterton converts to Catholicism.** Gilbert Keith Chesterton, philosopher, poet, and writer, converted to Catholicism in 1922.

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