

NEWSLETTER

Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Sydney meetings and program for 2023

This information is correct as at 11 January 2023, but changes can occur.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
19 February	The Church changes its mind – An Australian History	Professor Fr Edmund Campion , Emeritus Professor of History, Catholic Institute of Sydney
19 March *1:30 pm start	*1:30pm Special General Meeting 2:00pm Presentation: My family and my mission to Papua New Guinea	Mary Mennis (née Eccles) , Historian and Author Brisbane and Papua New Guinea
16 April	Catholic Action, Sydney style: Catholic lay organisations from friendly societies to the Vice Squad	Professor James Franklin , ACHS Vice-President and Editor, “ACHS Journal”, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics (University of NSW)
21 May *1:30 pm start	*1:30pm Annual General Meeting 2:00pm Presentation: “Milk of Paradise” Reflections on Family, Church and Media --1935-2023 [Acknowledging the final line of Coleridge’s Kubla Khan]	Patrick Kirkwood , Formerly: Head of Religious Program (Radio and TV) and Director Catholic Audio-Visual Centre (Homebush)
18 June	From Taproot to Rhizome: what you never knew about women religious' lives: 1968-2008	Sr Dr Catherine Thom rsj , Formerly: academic (History and Theology) in Australia, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Lithuania
16 July	Catholic “Culture wars”	Andrew West , Presenter: Religion and Ethics Report ABC Radio National. Formerly: NSW State Political Editor, <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
20 August	Resolving Catholicism’s Dichotomies	Dr Paul Collins , Freelance religious affairs commentator. Formerly: Head, ABC Religious Broadcasts
17 September	“Wise as Serpents, Innocent as Doves”: Navigating a Broken World with a Catholic Purpose	Professor Francis Campbell , Vice-Chancellor University of Notre Dame Australia
15 October	St John's College: on the way to a history	Dr Peter Cunich , College Historian, St John’s College (University of Sydney)
19 November	A panorama of Australian religious poetry through reading it	Dr Stephen McInerney , Campion College, Sydney
9 December 11:45 am	Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch	MacKillop Chapel and Place Mount Street North Sydney

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. Visit the ACHS website [<http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au>] for **diverse information and features.**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

1:30 PM ON SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill, The Rocks.

The only item of business for this meeting is consideration of a change of wording in two clauses of the constitution, substituting the words 'financial review' for 'audit'.

Background: The auditors we have used for the past 5 or so years charged a very reasonable fee, but they have declined to continue. Securing an equivalent Audit and Financial Report would cost \$3000 – more than 25% of our income. An alternative to an audited financial report is an independent Financial review, which it seems entails less exhaustive cross-checking of documents and can be done by accountants who do not have 'Certified Corporate Auditor' qualifications. I have received a verbal quote for an independent Financial Review of \$250.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission requires only that a charity of ACHS's size undertake a Review of our finances, unless required by the constitution do an audit. Alas, our constitution does require that Council 'Appoint an Auditor' (Clause 5. C i) and for the Treasurer to present to the AGM an 'audited statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet' (Clause 8e). So, if we do a financial review, not an audit, we do not comply with ACNC requirements. ACHS Council proposes that we amend the Constitution - so that we can do a financial review, in lieu of an audit - with the following wording:

'Clause 5 c) The Council:

- i. May appoint a Patron or Patrons
- ii. Shall appoint a Public Officer and a Financial Reviewer, who need not be members of the Society nor members of Council.'

'Clause 8 Finance:

e) The treasurer shall present to members at the AGM of the Society a statement of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet prepared by a Financial Reviewer.'

Dr Lesley Hughes, ACHS Councillor

NOTICE OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACHS

1.15 PM ON SUNDAY, 21 MAY 2023

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

- **The Agenda:**
- **Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting**
- **President's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Election of Office Bearers for 2023**
- **Items of business and motions of which due notice had been given.**
- Agenda items must reach the Secretary by Friday 21 April 2023.
- **Register your intention to attend** via email giving your name and contact details:
secretary@achscouncil.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.

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Payment of fees for Membership of ACHS for 2022 will be due on 1st April 2023 and must be paid by 1 July 2023. 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 2022 ACHS Journal

The latest edition of the Journal, vol 43, 2022, was delivered to members in January. It is also available on the ACHS website (<https://australiancatholichistoricalandsociety.com.au/journal/>).

MacGinley Award

The MacGinley Award is open for applications and the deadline is extended to 31 March 2023. Further details can be found at: <https://australiancatholichistoricalandsociety.com.au/awards/>

Deaths of Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Pell

The ACHS acknowledges the deaths of Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal George Pell. May they rest in peace. Cardinal Pell was a past Patron of the ACHS.

President's Message

For the Classical Romans, the start of each year was a time for looking both backwards and forwards; accordingly, the first month was named to honour their god, Janus, the protector of gates and doorways, who possessed both of those extremely useful skills. I should follow their example.

Survival, being true achievement, we should celebrate the fact that ACHS is still "here" as are we its individual members and that we can look forward to enjoying our activities in 2023. This time last year, there was no guarantee of that. Indeed, we should also lament and remember the members whom we have lost -- Richard Connolly, Allan Hogan and Michael Kelly being particularly notable amongst them -- as well as celebrate the fact that such people have graced our meetings.

The composer, Nigel Butterley, the jurist, Sir Gerard Brennan (a parishioner of St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay),

and the broadcaster, Caroline Jones (a parishioner of St Joseph's, Neutral Bay) were other distinguished Australians to have left us in 2022. Though Caroline was not a member of ACHS, I know how much she was looking forward to Professor Potts' talk on the ABC's religious programming, a presentation which she did not live to enjoy.

And, of course, Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal George Pell --- who will be remembered rather differently -- have also died recently.

We, who soldier on, have much to enjoy and be grateful for and -- apart from relishing that gift of life -- we can, this year, look forward to grasping the opportunity and the responsibility of voting in the "Voice" referendum and, thereby, of seizing the privilege of ending over two centuries of dispossession and exploitation.

John Carmody (ACHS President).

Report of Sydney Meeting on 20 November 2022

Topic: Like symbols and rituals, buildings are emotionally important to the residents of every city and location.

Speaker: Mgr Tony Doherty

In an inspiring address to ACHS on 20 September, the greatly loved and admired Mgr Tony Doherty -- priest, poetic author and story-teller -- reminded his audience of that potent truth when related the innumerable and often unknown (or forgotten) historical details of the completion of the southern (ecclesiastically, "western") spires of Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral a decade or so ago.

Tony had become Dean of the Cathedral in June 1995 when a great deal of pressing maintenance and conservation work was undertaken, necessarily involving the NSW Government. Soon enough, the question of completing the spires arose: like other aspects of the building, they had been abandoned in 1928 on account the need for it to be open for the Eucharistic Congress that year. As then, money was a stumbling block in the 1990s.

In 1999, with the Olympics and all of the associated costs looming, the Archbishop (Cardinal Clancy) discussed the possibilities with the Government. Promptly, "a meeting was held in Premier's office in the company of ten other interested Public Service chiefs -- the NSW Architect, State Projects and others. Premier Carr spoke at length and claimed that -- no matter how important the project was for Sydney -- there were NO funds available to assist the Cathedral. However, in the last sentence of the fifteen-minute

speech, the Premier conceded the decision was, in the last instance, up to the NSW Treasurer."

That sentence convinced David Murray (CEO of the Commonwealth Bank and Chair of the Cathedral Conservation Fund) that subvention would come and eventually \$5 million was provided. Planning and fund-raising began almost immediately: apart from that huge government commitment, contributions were mostly relatively small and from individuals. (In fact, one of our members, Diana Tolliver, brought to that ACHS meeting her own donor's documentation.)

To the surprise of some, the tender of a relatively small local firm (Waller Brothers' Constructions) was chosen from about 10 submissions. The great advantage of their proposal was that the sandstone would be affixed to steel, conical frame, in 12 distinct segments, which, fabricated off site in Auburn by Lifese Engineering (and having, thereby, minimised prolonged disruption to the activities of the CBD which, the alternative --- a large crane -- would have produced), could be precisely lowered, in segments, onto the incomplete towers by helicopter. A powerful Russian machine was sourced for the purpose and that remarkable technical feat was achieved on 29-30 May 1999, with hundreds of Sydneysiders there to see it: it was great "Saturday afternoon entertainment for spectators gathered in

Hyde Park and other vintage spots around the city. The biggest media outlets in TV and print regarded this event as the headline of the day. The State Premier, Cardinal Clancy, senior members of State Projects, significant donors and members of the clergy and Federal and State parliaments were invited to view the aerial display from the top floor of the Australian Museum in College Street, providing a dress circle viewing of the dramatic display.” Wallers brought the project to a conclusion “on time and 5% under budget.”

Is the lively and engaged discussion time which followed, Erin White asked a nettlesome question about the extent that, at the time, the moral question was canvassed about balancing the great cost against the Church’s obligations to the poor and needy of the

Archdiocese. Tony conceded that, in retrospect, this consideration was probably inadequate, but he did mention that Fr Ted Kennedy had pursued that question vigorously and that, in justifying the expenditure on “art and beauty”, he (Tony) had felt very uncomfortable about crossing swords with Ted, in the public media.

There was a large attendance at Mgr Tony’s talk and the general feeling was that it concluded the Society’s year marvellously: he was in great demand over the tea, coffee and home-made biscuits which followed.

John Carmody (ACHS President).

Report of Sydney Christmas Function on 10 December 2022

Topic: Researching the life of Herbert Moran

Speakers: Anne Thoeming

ACHS members gathered in the Mary MacKillop Centre North Sydney for our 2022 Christmas Mass and lunch. In his homily Monsignor Doherty covered a number of points including a contrast between the style of some Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist and Jesus. He pointed out that the Gospels contain many accounts of Jesus having meals with people and also feeding them. He was frequently in the company of people, reaching out to them and telling stories. Monsignor Doherty mentioned that these points are relevant as the ACHS gathers as a group to enjoy a meal, to listen to stories and to record and pass them on.

Anne Thoeming was the after-lunch speaker. She was invited to talk about the challenges of completing a “mid-life” PhD, which she did late last year. Anne told how her father had copies of Herbert Moran’s three books and after reading them much later in life, decided to take up post-graduate tertiary studies to learn more about Australian history. She then commenced a PhD researching the life of Herbert Moran. Professor Julia Horne was her supervisor. Moran had studied medicine at the University of Sydney and was a long-time member of its football club. One of the challenges in starting the work was devising a way to write about Moran that engaged with Australian and international history. The period from

Federation until World War 2 was a period of substantial change in Australia, and Moran was involved with some of these changes.

Moran was also an aspirational Irish-Catholic who loved Italian culture. Archives were an important source of information about Ireland and Italy as well as Australia’s newspaper, magazine archives and Trove. Anne was able to obtain images and information from other sources about Moran’s participation at the 1922 Irish Race Congress held in Paris where he represented Tasmania and met key Irish leaders who later fought against each other in the Irish civil war. She visited archives and museums in London and Rome to find out more about his visits with Benito Mussolini and service in WW1 and WW2, and from a range of archives and other published materials discovered how Italy successfully used marketing and public relations to affirm the importance of Italy and Australian links in the lead-up to WW2.

Anne said she very much enjoyed the thesis journey, despite the tight timing that the PhD required. She is keen to turn the thesis into a book and hopes that one day, more people will be about to read about Moran’s fascinating life.

Anne Thoeming, Historian, and Geoff Hogan, ACHS Councillor

All correspondence for the newsletter to: PO Box A621, Sydney South, NSW 1235. © 2022 Australian Catholic Historical

<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>
---	--

Society. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part may be reproduced without written permission from the Secretary.
<http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au>.