

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1837- 4123 (print) ISSN 1837- 4131 (Online)

Vol..XXXVIII N o. 3. August 2024

Australian Catholic Historical Society Inc. Sydney meetings and program for 2024

This information is correct as of 2nd August 2024, but changes can occur.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
18 August	The decline of Australian Catholic intellectual life	Gerard Windsor , Novelist, essayist and review Author of the tempest-tossed Church
15 September	Catholic-mindedness in the Catholic doctor: the Sydney Catholic Medical Guild of St Luke: 1933-1935	Dr Anne Thoeming , Independent Scholar and former member of the ACHS Council
20 October	The St John's College Act of 1857 -the legal antecedents and historical context	Kyle Oliver , Barrister at Law, Sydney
17 November	The Guild of St Pius X – its people and achievements in the liturgical life of Australia from the 40s to the 70s	Patrick Kirkwood , formerly: Head of ABC Religious Programs (Radio and TV and Director, Catholic Audio-Visual Centre, (Homebush, NSW))
7 December	11:45am Annual Mass and Christmas buffet lunch at Mackillop Place and Chapel"	Fr John Boyle, Speaking about Domus Australia in Rome

Location, time and contact: Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm (unless otherwise stated) in the Crypt Hall of St Patrick's, Church Hill [corner of Harrington and Grosvenor Streets. Admission is free and does not require membership of ACHS. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. **Visit the ACHS website** <http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au> for diverse information and features.

Report of Sydney Meeting on 19th May 2024

Topic: St Patrick's Estate, Manly -then and now

Speaker: Br Brian Lucas

Fr Brian, who was just voted in as president of ACHS, began his talk with an outline of its structure: Irish and English influences and Australian priests. The complete article will appear in the journal later. Following this plan, Fr Brian noted that a need arose for a nationalised approach to clergy training. Cardinal Moran, who arrived in NSW in September 1884, inspected what was then the quarantine station and fund raising began. It was Moran's intention that Manly become the national student seminary. However, locals in Manly wanted access to Shell (later Shelly) Beach. Cardinal Moran looked favourably on a land swap which enabled a parcel of land to be cut from the grant of 60 acres and secured its isolation. The building that went up was for 200 seminarians. There was a solemn Opening Mass, and a vocational call was made for more Australian men to swell the ranks of the priesthood. In 1929, the Rector of St Patrick's suggested the need for a chapel. A national appeal was launched for the building of the Cerretti Chapel, and its internal architecture followed

the style of choir stalls. It has become a popular place for weddings.

A new approach to seminary education arose, with lay students included and a change from monastic isolation to greater engagement with the world. However, it was growing obvious that seminary education needs to move from Manly. There was a period of consultation about the re-use of the buildings and the generation of revenue for the Archdiocese. In 1987, there was a rezoning of some land for residential development. There was concern about endangered bandicoots (albeit a small number) and this was solved by a regulation on corridors to allow movement of these bandicoots. The International college of Management Sydney (ICMS) applied to become the lessee of the property and being well connected politically, they were able to get approval. In 1996, the Diploma of Hotel Management commenced. In addition, one of the lease holders of property along the waterfront questioned whether they could buy shorter leases and stay in their family homes. This provided a good solution for the Archdiocese and

for the tenants. In 1998, the parcel of land called the Grotto was proposed to become the site for the Bear Cottage Children's Hospital and the opening was on St Patrick's Day, 2001. Public funds were raised so that children with cancer could go there without cost to their families.

At the conclusion of the talk there was a lively discussion. Di Carmody remembered seeing Bear Cottage's support for families. There were many members who remembered processions at Manly

College, with benediction in the place called the Grotto. One member said that the Cerretti Throne (from the Chapel) was saved by the Knights of the Southern Cross and now is placed on the sanctuary at Rookwood. Thirty years of ISCM has seen its appeal to international students. Famous ex-students of St Patrick's include Thomas Keneally, two of whose books include memories of St Patrick's.

Anne Power, May 2024

Report of Sydney Meeting on 16th June 2024

Topic: Sevenhill – a living archive

Speaker: Dr Julie Thorpe

Among her other achievements, independent scholar Julie recently published a book about the history of the Aquinas Academy spanning 1945 to 2015.

Julie started her brief talk about Sevenhill's history from 1848, when Austrian Jesuits and Silesians travelled to the South Australian Clare Valley to escape European religious persecution. The property was established as a Jesuit Mission to serve immigrants from Europe. It was named after the seven hills of Rome and initially a novitiate and scholasticate, Julian Tenison-Woods among those educated there. By 1851 its winery was established, initially to produce altar wine then later also table wine.

These days, Sevenhill includes a community of four Jesuits and attracts thousands of visitors annually. Julie listed its three core ministries of winery, parish and retreat centre. She also highlighted its connections with the Ignatian Spiritual exercises, a 'composition of place' theme, the circular nature of pilgrimage which involves both departures and arrivals, and its being a meeting place of both interior and exterior movements. Besides

also manifesting the 'integral ecology' of which Pope Francis speaks.

It is also located near Penola and the Mary MacKillop Museum.

Julie complemented her talk with related slides sampling that countryside, Sevenhill's built environment, archive, and pioneers' graves. Like Francisca, who was schooled by the Ursulines, Daniel Corry, originally from County Clare, his wife Elizabeth Moroney and their nine children, and Austrian Fathers Johannes Palhuber and chaplain Father Aloysius Kranewitter.

Julie also alluded briefly to a personal family connection, one of her great-grandmothers having been baptised by one of the Austrians. Her slides also displayed the creative textile outputs of many women; some five hundred objects from the Austrian archive were displayed in 1915 in Vienna. There were ecclesiastical vestments and embroidery within that beautiful fold.

Michael Cullen, June 2024

Report of Sydney Meeting on 21st July 2024

Topic: Crossing the Tiber: Australian Anglican clergy converts to Rome from the 1840s to the 2000s

Speaker: Dr David Hilliard

This was a very interesting talk with many rich details of conversions. Commencing with the Oxford Movement of 1840s when Newman sought to return the Church of England to inherent Catholicism. The speaker, Hilliard, explained that the theology of the Oxford Movement spread quickly in the religiously mixed society of NSW. Sconce and Makinson were ministers of St Andrews. While Makinson was teaching from 1858, Hilliard was at pains to describe his conversion as a personal pilgrimage. There were certainly cases of publishing why conversion occurred. Archibald Mills founded a quarterly paper and books such as *From Shade to Substance* appeared, there was a trickle of converts in the 1960s. The Anglican clergy who converted retained a strong sense of priestly vocation. Three were ordained together in WA in 1969 and another in 1984. The issue that brought serious concern was the ordination of women in the Anglican

Church. This came down to a question of authority, about who has the right to decide. The Anglican National Synod in 1992 allowed dioceses to make their own decision. Some 40 Anglican clergy were received into the Catholic Church.

John Fleming wrote *Convinced by the Truth* and in 1987 he was received into the Catholic Church, ordained in 1955. Another book – *Down in Adoration* Falling-brought into focus areas of tension. There was significant parishioner discomfort. In 2009 the Vatican issued a Special Ordinariate; but the majority of the Anglo Catholic Church in Australia resented Rome's refusal to recognise Anglican Orders. At the same time, there were economic issues. Clergy who became Catholic lost their source of income. When the Anglican clergy were married, there was a significant change for the wives. In the Anglican situation, wives played a central role in the social life and outreach of the clergy.

In the lively discussion that followed this talk, it was pointed out that Scott Cardell left because of Sydney evangelicalism. Once again Hilliard emphasised that these conversions were personal pilgrimages. It was a

talk that gave much food for thought. As always, the full recording of the talk is available, courtesy of John Kenny's work.

Anne Power, July 2024

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS 2024

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON has been a continuous member of the society since 1991. At that time, she was planning to write a biography of Eris O'Brien and did much important primary research which she now has made available to some future historian. Elizabeth first joined Council in 1992 as the Research Officer and became Vice-president in 1995 and President in 1996, following Brian McAteer, a role she held until 2001. Elizabeth was also Newsletter Editor for many years. She has truly served the Society and is a very worthy recipient of Honorary Life membership.

GEOFFREY HOGAN first joined ACHS in 2004 and became a Councillor in 2006, Vice-president in 2011 until 2017. He was responsible for starting the Newsletter in the format we now receive and initiated eNews. Geoff was significant in the development of the new Constitution, and he has always been the one to design the forms used, membership and others. Geoff has been a stalwart member of the Society in critical times during the past years and his wisdom and life experience have guided the Society since he joined the Council. He has stepped down from Council now but still has much to offer.

JOHN CARMODY became President in 2012 at a critical period in the Society's history. With his wide interests and many contacts, we have been rewarded in the past 12 years of his presidency with a very diverse range of speakers at our meetings. He has helped to raise the profile of ACHS and guided the Council in its decision making. He was able to secure for us the use of this Crypt, a far more satisfactory venue than the foyer of the St Mary's School. With Jim Franklin as Journal Editor and the webmaster, Jack leaves the Society in good hands. We wish him well for his future years.

ACHS COUNCIL FOR 2024

President: **Fr Brian Lucas**

Vice-presidents: **Dr Jim Franklin, Dr Lesley Hughes**

Secretary: **Helen Scanlon**

Treasurer: **Dr John Scahill**

Council: **Michael Cullen, Dr Janice Garaty, Dr Robert Gascoigne, Odhran O'Brien, Dr Anne Power, Christine Riley (Spiritual Guide), Chris Worthington**

Report of the Melbourne Meeting on 3rd June 2024

On 3 June, Rev. Dr Christopher Dowd OP gave a fascinating presentation to the Melbourne chapter of the ACHS on Pope Pius IX and the development of the railway network in the papal states. Historians often quote Gregory XVI's antipathy towards the railways and the play on words (*chemins d'enfer/chemin de fer*). Pius IX was not only enthusiastic for railways but ensured that the papal states became a serious 'player' in this development of the industrial revolution that brought promise, progress, efficiency and wealth to Europe.

One month after his election in 1846, Pius IX appointed a consultative commission to investigate the development of a railway network. Funds were required from banks and pious societies in addition to papal subsidies. Engineers were required from across Europe, tracts of land needed to be acquired and technical aspects of this task were entrusted to the Ministry of Public Works under the leadership of Monsignor (later Cardinal) Giuseppe Milesi.

In time, railway lines were created from Rome to Civitavecchia, Frascati, Ancona and Bologna. Progress was slow given the need for numerous tunnels, bridges and viaducts with works sometimes done in the shadow of potential military incursions. New railways brought economic advantages and an increase in pilgrims to Rome in support of their spiritual leader who had become 'a prisoner of the Vatican'. Pius IX used the railways to regularly inspect progress but to also make pastoral visits to the largely Italian workforce.

Christopher Dowd shared many wonderful images of the new stations, the festive occasion of a station opening, and the ornate papal carriages fit for a travelling monarch such as the pope until the fall of the papal states in 1870. It was fascinating to see the cover of the newspaper *La Locomotiva* published by the papal government to arouse enthusiasm and interest among the faithful.

Rev Dr Max Vodola, Convenor

English Catholic Historical Society and the Australian Catholic Historical Society Zoom Event.

On 21 September at 5 pm AWST(Perth) via Zoom the English Catholic Historical Society and the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be co-hosting their first shared event on Zoom which will be a presentation by Fr Robert Cross, Director of Heritage for Geraldton Diocese, on Mons John Hawes, the priest-architect, who designed and built a series of churches throughout the mid-west of Western Australia. Sydney (7pm AEST (UTC +10)) London:(10am BST (UTC +1)). Please RSVP to archivist@perthcatholic.org.au to receive the zoom details.

FINAL PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FROM JOHN CARMODY, SUNDAY 19 MAY 2024

It is an immutable rule of nature that *nothing* — whether good or bad — can endure indefinitely.

Thus, after a decade or so as the President of ACHS, I must regretfully advise you all that — after what was, probably, an undesirably protracted term in that position -- I must now relinquish the role. This will, therefore, be my last presidential report because my current health is, simply, not good enough to allow me to pretend to the members (or myself) that I can, any longer, adequately discharge its protean responsibilities.

However, I am enormously confident that we have secured an outstanding successor in Fr Brian Lucas. He brings great personal poise and diversely invaluable professional experience to the task and his list of professional “contacts” – so different from my own – should advantageously refresh our programming.

As I have said in some previous reports, the presidency has brought far more to my life than I could possibly have envisaged when I was invited to take on the task by Helen Scanlon and Geoff Hogan. Those benefits have been more than the intellectual ones associated with assembling our annual schedules. Mostly they have involved appreciating the generosity of those who volunteer time and expertise to ensure that the Society continues operating. They include: our Vice-President, Dr James Franklin, who also edits our outstanding *Journal* and cares for our ever-informative web-pages; Dr Lesley Hughes who, despite ardently wishing to retire, has soldiered on in the unglamorous position of Treasurer; our indefatigable Secretary, Helen Scanlon, who — apart from organizing and producing the Minutes of the meetings of our Council (not to mention our Christmas lunches and Masses) -- has the all-essential “steel-trap” memory and discretion to remind the President of his tasks and duties; former Vice-President, Geoff Hogan, whose knowledge of the ACHS and its numerous legal obligations -- as well as his innate sagacity -- hold the Society together; Sr Helen Simpson, our quietly pious Chaplain — the first woman in that role — made a great contribution through her vast experience, together with her all-too-easily underestimated personal character; and John Kenny whose excellent recordings of our meetings greatly assist in bringing reality to our aspiration to be a national

organisation. In that respect, I must also acknowledge the numerous contributions of the Perth Archdiocesan Archivist, Dr Odhran O’Brien, which modern technology has facilitated. If I do not mention other Councillors by name, it is certainly *not* because I have not appreciated their individual contributions.

Unsurprisingly, my tenure had its challenges. The first was when I heard nothing from Helen and Geoff for several days after the meeting at which they proposed to me; in fact, I had to ring them about it. It turned out that, at the meeting a cleric had sought election to the Council while awaiting sentence for several charges of sexual abuse, divulging none of that history. We soon solved that problem, but another arose from it. Some weeks later. I was phoned by an ABC reporter who told me that, while they were aware of his identity, they wanted my confirmation, notwithstanding that a suppression order had been imposed by the Armidale court. I refused to tell them anything and was shocked that the head of the ABC Legal Affairs Department was completely unfazed by my protest that one of their people was encouraging me to break the law. I also failed utterly in my attempt to contact Heads of History at several leading Catholic schools: we hoped to attract younger members but not a *single* one of my letters evoked a reply.

However, the greatest challenge was the “Covid” pandemic. On the advice of several medical colleagues, I controversially cancelled our “face-to-face” meetings (rather in advance of governmental edicts). We moved to Council meetings by “Zoom” and, eventually -- but, by good fortune, only briefly -- to on-line meetings of the Society. I gave the first of those because, as my long-suffering and loyal wife insisted, in such circumstances the President “must lead from the front”.

I leave a society that is, I think, in good condition—financially and in its spirit -- but which can remain that way only with an influx of new members and participants who are willing to volunteer to run it. The challenge is *yours*; it can no longer remain the task of those who currently carry that responsibility.

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