



# *Tolle Lege, December 2017*

## CTC's OPEN DAY

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, CTC held its annual Open Day in anticipation of the 2018 academic year. As usual, two sessions were offered to accommodate prospective new students. Each session included a warm welcome to the College from either the Master or the Deputy Master followed by lively descriptions of student experience presented by two members of the SRC, Analiz Deganos and Br. Joshua Nash OMI while a reflective account of a lecturer's perspective on College life was offered by Dr Birute Arendarcikas RSM. The Academic Dean, Dr Rosemary Canavan introduced participants to the 2018 College Handbook, pointing out especially pertinent sections before a guided tour was provided by some of the MGL brothers. The sessions concluded with a fitting example of CTC hospitality in the form of afternoon tea in the Knox Room. We had considerable interest from the community with a total of 21 prospective students in attendance.





## CTC SENATE DECISIONS

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, the CTC Senate held its third meeting of the year, and made a number of significant decisions.

### **Academic Dean and Associate Dean, 2018–21**

In June, the Senate had appointed a nominations committee to recommend on the appointment of an Academic Dean and Associate Dean (Postgraduate & Research) for 2018–21. The Committee was chaired by the Master, with Em. Prof. Anne Hunt OAM (Senate), Rev. Dr Chris Monaghan (YTU) and Dr Catherine Playoust. It conducted extensive consultation with staff, the Academic Board, CTC's affiliated seminaries, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, and the SRC President. After considering the Committee's report, the Senate decided to appoint the current Academic Dean and Associate Dean for a further 4-year term:



Dr Rosemary Canavan  
*Academic Dean*



Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan  
*Associate Dean (Postgraduate & Research)*

### **Additional Members of Senate, 2018–21**

The Senate is made up of the bishops and provincials of affiliated seminaries, along with the Master, Deputy Master, two representatives of Academic Board and up to six appointed members (increased from three at the beginning of 2017). In October, a nominations committee comprised of the Master, the Vice-Chancellor, and Bishop Terry Curtin (representing Archbishop Hart) considered possible candidates for appointment. As a result, the Senate has appointed two new members:



Ms Audrey Brown  
*Director of Catholic Education,  
Diocese of Ballarat*



Sr Bernadette Keating PBVM  
*Former Congregation Leader of the  
Presentation Sisters & former lecturer at CTC*

### **New Affiliated Seminary**

The Senate also approved an application by the Australian Region of the Salvatorians (Society of the Divine Saviour) for their Alphington Formation House to become an affiliated seminary of CTC. The Salvatorians now join with the eleven other sponsors of CTC, and their formation house will be the eighth seminary currently affiliated with the College.

The Salvatorians arrived in Western Australia in 1961, at the invitation of Archbishop Redmond Prendiville. In 2016, they established a community in Melbourne, so that they could establish a formation house connected to CTC. Fathers Adam Babinski and Krzysztof Gasperowicz are working in the parishes of Alphington and Thornbury East, with Father Krzysztof working in the formation house and already commencing to lecture at CTC.

We will celebrate the Salvatorians' new status at CTC at the annual dinner in June 2018.

### **STUDY TOUR OF BIBLICAL LANDS 2018**



To view flyer: [click here](#) To view proposed itinerary: [click here](#)

Journey with us to the heart of your faith for 27 days: 17 November – 14  
December 2018

- Jordan: three days
- Israel and Palestinian Territories: ten days

- Turkey: six days
- Greece: seven days
- Plus an opportunity to add three days in Rome





## FOUR AUTHORS AND SEVEN BOOKS CELEBRATED

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, in the Knox Room at CTC, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Peter Sherlock, Very Rev. Greg Chambers SDB, Provincial of the Salesians, Very Rev. Anthony Walsh OP, Provincial of the Dominicans, Very Rev. Brian McCoy SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits and a large crowd of friends, colleagues, and fellow academics, notably Assoc. Prof. Mary Coloe PBVM, Rev. Prof. Gerald O'Collins SJ AC and Rev. Dr Andrew Hamilton SJ, tribute was paid to four local scholars of international repute on the occasion of the publication of seven new titles authored by them:

Rev. Prof. Francis J. Moloney SDB AM *Johannine Studies 1975–2017*

*Gospel Interpretation and Christian Life*

*Eucharist as a Celebration of Forgiveness*

*Interpreting the Gospel and Letters of John*

Rev. Assoc. Prof. Mark O'Brien OP *Discerning the Dynamics of Jeremiah 1–25 (MT)*

Rev. Dr Antony Campbell SJ *Genesis Beyond Sources: A New Approach*

Rev. Prof. Anthony Kelly CSsR *Thinking Faith: Moods, Methods and Mysteries*



The Master of CTC, Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay, hosted the occasion, which he called a 'celebration of a generation of scholar priests based in Melbourne'. He paid tribute to the vision of their various superiors and their commitment to supporting these men as young priests and academics. Their gifts were recognised and they were supported and encouraged in their studies. Secondly, he commented on the academic commitment of the four, to rigorous study undertaken



in the midst of commitments to teaching and formation and the way in which their work is by no means academic exercise for its own sake but informs and guides teaching and preaching. He mentioned the vocational nature of the scholarly life and the genuine wisdom and insight that accompanies a lifetime of study and experience, and is evident in these books, particularly in the capacity and humility to listen, reflect and re-think one's view. He noted that each of these books showed the rich insights of a long and dedicated scholarly career.

Rev. Emeritus Professor Brendan Byrne SJ was the guest speaker. What follows are selections from his address.

"This is undoubtedly a very biblical event. The number of works we are celebrating is seven: the sacred biblical number. Moreover, if we think of the traditional division of the Hebrew Bible, the Tanakh to give it its Jewish designation, we have three parts: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Now, if we set aside the Moloney quadrella for a moment, we have the Law in the shape of Tony Campbell's *Genesis Revisited*; we have the Prophets in the shape of Mark O'Brien's *Jeremiah 1–25*; and then, well, we arrive at the Wisdom literature. And, though Tony Kelly's collection, *Thinking Faith* does not precisely fall into the biblical wisdom category, surely, when we think of the poetry in the Psalms and the Song of Songs, and the descriptions of the Sage and the Scholar appearing in the Wisdom literature, we are truly justified in associating Tony with this category of the Tanakh. And, of course, if there is ever a systematic theologian for whom Scripture is "the soul of theology" it is Tony Kelly. And, in fact, Tony has very generously dedicated the work to two biblical scholar friends, Frank Moloney and myself.

Then, of course, we arrive at the New Testament in the shape of the four volumes appearing under Frank's name. Four, perhaps in honour of the four gospels? Not the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, despite the onset of the Spring Carnival at this time. Anyway, let me say something about these worthy contributions in the biblical order to which I've called attention."

After offering all present a taste of each of the new titles together with a warm and incisive assessment of what each scholar has contributed over the years Professor Byrne continued:

"All the contributors whose works we are celebrating this evening are getting on in years—and in this respect I cannot exclude myself from their company. The biblical three score years and ten is already behind us. I think Tony Campbell has already signed off at least on major works of this kind. The others we may hope will continue with pen and sword to banish biblical and theological ignorance for years to come. Nonetheless, the end of a remarkable era in Australian Catholic theology is approaching. All of us, if I may include myself among the *celebrandi* for a moment, are Catholic priests, who entered our religious orders at an early age in the 1950s and who benefited not only from enlightened formation but from early recognition of talent, followed by assignment to doctoral studies at prestigious, academies overseas. We stood on the shoulders of giants who had taught us and often bore the heat and burden of misunderstanding, prejudice and outright antagonism from many in the community at the time. On our return from overseas studies, we walked comparatively freely in the furrows they had ploughed at considerable personal cost.

"We also began our teaching careers—post-doctorate—in the heady post-Vatican II days. We inherited the immensely enriching ecumenical collaboration that is such a feature of church life in Melbourne, its chief academic expression being found in the Melbourne College of Divinity, now the University of Divinity. We also benefited from the influx of laypeople and religious sisters into our courses, alongside and challenging the seminarians who had been the virtually exclusive audience hitherto. That publications—often the fruit of presentations and ministry outside the academies—both scholarly and designed for a popular audience, continued to flow in such abundance is remarkable, granted that almost all the scholars involved, including the four whose work we celebrate this evening were in the meantime called upon by their congregations to be rectors, provincials, principals, consultors, formators, often for long periods. The charge of ivory-tower academics is swiftly refutable. Above all, there has been, if I may employ a favourite Tony Kelly term, camaraderie—celebrated at times with a vitality bordering upon the riotous. There is indeed much to celebrate and much to thank God for—in particular the seven fine works that have been our focus tonight."



Professor Byrne's address was followed by responses from Fr Frank Moloney and Fr Mark O'Brien and a short address by Mr Hilary Regan, of ATF Press which is the publisher of four of the newly launched books.

The occasion was preceded and followed by CTC's customary generous provision of refreshments which enabled all to socialize, reminisce and congratulate the four authors.

## ACADEMIC PRIZES 2018

☞ The Archbishop's Prize (Systematic Theology)
☞ The Archbishop Coleridge Prize (Biblical Studies)
☞ The Baronius Prize (Church History)
☞ The Guilford Young Prize (Liturgy)
☞ The Francis de Sales Prize (Pastoral Studies)
☞ The Austin Cooper Prize (Christian Spirituality)
☞ The Rod Doyle Prize (\$200) (Biblical Studies - undergraduate essay)
☞ The Roma Mitchell Prize - for an outstanding research essay
☞ The Erasmus Prize - for the most outstanding student in Biblical or Ecclesiastical Languages
☞ The Salesian Prize - for the most outstanding English as a Second Language student

Essays should be submitted to the Academic Records Office before the end of December. All eligible students are automatically considered for the research essay and language prizes. Other requirements: page 47 of the 2017 CTC Handbook (page 51 of 2018 CTC Handbook).

## REV. ROMUALD (ROM) BARRY CM: RIP

My personal relationship with Fr Rom Barry was largely limited to his years as a Lecturer in Old Testament here at Catholic Theological College. I say "largely" because I had come to know him quite well at our annual meetings of the Catholic Biblical Association over the 1980s, when Rom was part of the Vincentian presence at St Francis Xavier Seminary in Adelaide, South Australia. I was always delighted to be in his company, and we all enjoyed his presence and his enlightening contributions to our meetings.

Late in the 1980s it became clear that the situation in Adelaide was changing, and this ran parallel with an emerging need for a lecturer in Old Testament here in Melbourne. As Head of the Biblical Studies Department at that time, I approached Rom in 1991, and we began negotiations with the Australian Province of the Vincentians to bring Rom to Catholic Theological College as our full-time Lecturer in Old Testament. He took up residence in the Parish at Malvern, and began his teaching here in the academic year of 1992.

Rom was a delight. In those days, at Clayton, there was no separate common room for students and staff. We all gathered in the one place, and he quickly established a warm relationship with the students. He was an equally affable, and well-prepared, member of the academic staff, generous with his time and his skills. Although he taught across the whole of the Old Testament (always a challenge for any teacher), he had great expertise in the Prophet Jeremiah, and he loved teaching prophetic material. This played easily into the Pentateuch, especially the deuteronomistic traditions. The students of that era were blessed.

Rom was with us from 1992–2003. I had left the headship of the Biblical Studies Department in 1994, when I was appointed to Australian Catholic University. But as everything in those days was in the Clayton/Chadstone region, I continued at Catholic Theological College until I left for the Catholic University of America in 1999. I thus missed the final years of Rom's ministry at CTC.

One thing all students will remember about Rom was his use of the "whiteboard" (the fashion in those pre-electronic days). His enthusiastic teaching occasioned regular dashes to the board, where "matters of crucial importance" would be scribbled down. Minutes later, another dash would follow. And so it went on until, by the end of the lecture, it was quite impossible to decipher anything of those "matters of crucial importance"!

Our College owes a great deal to the skilled and warm presence of Fr Rom Barry, CM. I am certain that I represent all of us who lived and worked at Catholic Theological College with him in thanking the Congregation of the Mission, and Rom himself, for those years he spent with us. May the Lord he loved and served grant him the eternal rest he so richly deserves.

*Francis J. Moloney, SDB, FAAA, AM.*

## 'ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE TANTRIC PATH: CHRISTIANITY AND HINDUISM IN DIALOGUE'

CTC's Rev. Associate Professor John Dupuche was one of the main organisers and contributors for an innovative and significant conference at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, on 17 October, entitled *Enlightenment and the Tantric Path – Christianity and Hinduism in Dialogue*. It was outstandingly successful, and many accolades have been received.



The Conference was conducted jointly by:

- ✧ Gregorian Centre for Interreligious Studies (CSIG)
- ✧ Italian Hindu Union
- ✧ Italian Bishops Conference

Many other groups were also involved as collaborators:

- ✧ Sapienza Università di Roma
- ✧ Religions for Peace
- ✧ Religions for Peace, Sezione italiana
- ✧ Università spirituale mondiale, Brahma Kumaris
- ✧ Chavara Institute of Indian and Interreligious Studies
- ✧ International Institute of South Asian Studies
- ✧ Movimento dei Focolari
- ✧ Camaldolesi Romani



The conference began with a Ceremony of Light, during which the principal guests lit the lamps of a candelabra whilst a flautist accompanied their action with music. Yogis and yoginis of the Italian Hindu Union then garlanded them. Each of the speakers, too, before they gave their paper, was welcomed to the podium by the yogis and yoginis who placed a garland of flowers around their neck and gave them a commemorative plaque.

The Ceremony was followed by greetings:

- ✧ Rev. Nuño da Silva Gonçalves SJ, Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Gregorian University, welcomed the large number who filled the Aula Magna, some 300 participants, who could listen to the papers either in Italian, the language of the conference, or to the simultaneous translation into English (funded by the CSIG). He spoke about the history of interfaith relations, and its importance today in developing friendship and esteem between religions.
- ✧ Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, first extended his greetings to the Hindu Community who would be celebrating Diwali the following day; he then congratulated the many collaborators that had made this conference possible; he spoke of the innovative character of the conference and how well it fulfilled the desire of Pope Francis for openness and appreciation between different traditions.
- ✧ Paramahansa Svami Yogananda Ghiri, Mahant of the Matha Gitananda Ashram and Founder of the Italian Hindu Union, was unable to attend due to illness. In his place, Swamini Hamsananda, vice-president of the Italian Hindu Union, extended greetings and spoke of the sources of tantra, the value of such an innovative conference, and the issues surrounding it.
- ✧ Bishop Ambrogio Spreafico, President of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue of the Italian Bishops' Conference, spoke later in the day, and noted the importance of interreligious dialogue in establishing harmony and peace in the world.

It was a full day, with eight papers in total, four in the morning and four in the afternoon. They were grouped in pairs, with time for comments and questions from participants.

Chair: Prof. Gaetano Sabetta (Pontifical Urban University)

1. Rev. Associate Professor John Dupuche (CTC, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia):  
'Spirit and Śakti: Tantric aspects of the Eucharist'
2. Dr Maria Cristina Kaveri Cantoni (Tathata Vrindham International, Italy):  
'Warp and weft: the role and destiny of the human being in the fabric of the cosmos'

Chair: Prof. Fabio Scialpi (Università La Sapienza)

3. Prof. Dr Bettina Bäumer (Indian Institute of Advanced Study, India):  
'Deification in the Nondual Śaiva Āgamas of Kashmir and Deification in the Fathers of the Church'
4. R. Sathyanarayana (Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, India):  
'Achieving the eternal life based on Śaivasiddhānta doctrine and practices'.

Chair: Prof. Giorgio Bongiovanni (Pontifical Urban University)

5. Dr. Paolo Trianni (Pontifical Ateneo of S. Anselm):  
'Tantra as a locus of dialogue with Christianity'
6. Dr. Dom Thomas Matus OSB Cam (University of Santa Clara, USA):  
'Hindu-Christian dialogue as mutual enrichment: male and female embodiment in the Tantric tradition and Catholic spirituality of the last two centuries'

Chair: Dr. Franco Di Maria Jayendranatha (Unione Induista Italiana)

7. Prof. Raffaele Torella, (Università La Sapienza, Italia):  
'Abhinavagupta and the aesthetics of liberation'
8. Dr Colette Poggi (Lyon Catholic University, France):  
'The Word (vâc): emanation and reabsorption in the teaching of Abhinavagupta, and its resonances in the teaching of Meister Eckhart'

A YouTube recording of the day was taken and will be available on the Gregorian University website. It is proposed that the papers, drawn up in full, will eventually be published both in Italian and in English.

## Background

At the invitation of Dr Fabrice Blée (University of St Paul Ottawa), Rev. Dr. John Dupuche wrote *Towards a Christian Tantra*, which was published in 2009. In 2010 at Shantivanam, Tamil Nadu, at the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Abhishiktananda (Dom Henri le Saux OSB), Dr. John Dupuche suggested to Dr Paolo Trianni that a conference on Tantra should be held in Europe. John again contacted Paolo Trianni who proposed a conference first at Camaldoli in Tuscany then at the monastery of San Gregorio in Celio in Rome. In 2016, John, at the suggestion of Rev. Virgilio Agostinelli dR, who was preparing his licentiate thesis 'Tantrismo in dialogo, liberazione e grazia', met with Fr Bryan Lobo SJ, Vice-Director of CSIG, who had read John's book. Dr Lobo proposed that the conference be held at the Gregorian.

A small committee was then set up, consisting of Rev. Dr. Bryan Lobo SJ, Rev. Virgilio Agostinelli dR, Dr Paolo Trianni, Fr George Nelliyanil OSB Cam, and Rev. Dr John Dupuche. We selected the major themes and speakers. During the months that followed, Fr Lobo invited Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran and Paramahansa Svami Yogananda Ghiri, Bishop Ambrogio Spreafico as VIPs, the professors as moderators, and the wide range of *collaboratori*; Rev. Agostinelli attended to the countless details of the conference.

Two events served as 'tasters' for the major conference in October:

1. On Saturday 13 May 2017, at San Gregorio Magno al Celio, at a late afternoon conference, two papers were presented:
  - ☞ Rev. Dr John Dupuche: 'Tantra: a path to freedom and the fullness of joy'
  - ☞ Dr Gioia Lussana: 'Tantra: una via di conoscenza nell'esperienza non duale dell'essere'

2. On Monday 15 May 2017, at the Gregorian University, John Dupuche gave a paper entitled 'The dialogue between Tantra and Christianity: Possibilities and challenges.' The event was recorded on YouTube and is available on the Gregorian University website.

### **Publications**

*Gesher* 'Art and Religion', vol.5, no 3, 2017, journal of the Council of Christians and Jews, published three poems by John Dupuche:

'How still...' , 'Where are the vines ...', and 'I searched in the dense thickets ...'