

CTC Community News



Tolle Lege



September 2019

CTC farewells Bishop-elect Shane Mackinlay

On 23 July, it was announced that Pope Francis had appointed Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay as the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst, taking over from Bishop Les Tomlinson, whose resignation was announced on the same day.

Fr Shane's appointment as Bishop brings to an end his term as Master of Catholic Theological College, but not his association with the College, which will continue through his membership of the College Senate.

Appointed to the position of Master in 2011, Fr Shane brought considerable gifts and experience at a time when the College's relationship with the University of Divinity continued to develop and become more complex (see Dr Frances Baker's tribute on page 4).

Throughout his time as Master, he also continued in parish ministry, serving as a parish priest in the Ballarat Diocese in addition to his duties at the College. In taking up the role of Bishop of Sandhurst, he looks forward to continuing his ministry in regional Victoria.

"I love teaching and also being involved with people in their local parish communities and I very much look forward to continuing those two ministries in a different way in my new role," he said.

Welcoming the news of Fr Mackinlay's appointment, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge noted his high intelligence, good strategic ability, deep faith and capacity to engage the culture. "All of this will make him a fine Bishop of Sandhurst and a real gain for the Bishops Conference at this important and complex time. I congratulate Fr Shane and look forward to working closely with him in the years ahead."

Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay, Bishop-elect for the Diocese of Sandhurst, will be ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo at midday on Wednesday 16 October 2019. The celebration will be streamed on www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.



A parting reflection

As he prepares for his ordination as the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst, Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay reflects on his years at Catholic Theological College.

My involvement with CTC began over thirty-five years ago. In 1983, I was admitted to Corpus Christi College, and so enrolled in BTheol studies at CTC. In all but eight of the years since then, I've been actively involved in the College, holding most of the roles that are available: student, graduate, alumnus, lecturer, research supervisor, Postgraduate Coordinator, Research Coordinator, Associate Dean and Master. In the future, while I will continue as a research supervisor and will take on a new role as representative of one of the College's sponsors on the Senate, CTC will no longer be one of my primary ministries.

This is a major transition for me, and as I reflect on my time at CTC, I know that I will miss the College very much, particularly because of its students and staff. I've enjoyed teaching enormously, and have been very grateful for the opportunity presented by CTC's small classes for personal engagement with students. One of my main aims is to help students build up a picture that allows them to make sense of what we are studying, and I still relish the 'aha' moment when a student finally sees something that we've been working on

together.

I've been very fortunate that I've been able to combine my work at CTC with ministry as a parish priest. That has helped me keep a healthy balance in perspective, and both students and parishioners tell me that in my lectures and homilies they can often hear echoes of the other part of my ministry. Having a wide range of duties has also meant that I've needed to make collaboration and delegation the normal way I operate, which has only been possible because of the wonderful staff at CTC, and the generous commitment of my parishioners in Bungaree.

CTC has been a very formative place for me, initially as a student, then in teaching, leadership, collaboration and strategic planning. In my work at the College, I have developed many skills, which I'm sure will be very valuable in my new role as bishop. I expect that there will be some similarities with my current ministry, in that there will still be a combination of teaching, pastoral care, administration and leadership. However, there will no longer be an ongoing weekly involvement with a particular class or particular parish community. I think that is one of the things that I will miss most.

In my coat of arms (above), I've tried to include those things that have shaped me most: CTC, reflected in the bible from the College's coat of arms; and my home diocese of Ballarat, reflected in the pick-axes that were the tools



of the gold miners who founded Ballarat (and who coincidentally played the same role in Bendigo). I've also tried to show the combination of responsibilities in which I've been involved, and which will continue to be part of my ministry: both academic and pastoral, both spiritual and connected to the ordinary concerns of life. The objective in taking up and reading (Tolle lege) is not just to enjoy the story, but to inspire action that enriches our life together. Or, as the gospel verse from which my episcopal motto is taken puts it: 'I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

1 The Master in his office. 2 Greeting Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria with other representatives of the University of Divinity in 2017. 3 At the 2017 College Mass. 4 In the Student Common Room, 2011. 5 CTC Annual Dinner 2011. Back row, from left to right: Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay SJ, Rev. Mgr Gerard Diamond, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Rev. Em. Prof. Norman Ford SDB. Front row from left to right: Most Rev. Dr Terence Curtin DD, Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM and Dr Frances Baker RSM.



A colleague's tribute

“For all his administrative and academic talents, Fr Shane Mackinlay is fundamentally that for which he was ordained:
a priest among his people at the service of the Gospel.”

Dr Frances Baker RSM, who served as Deputy Master with Bishop-elect Shane Mackinlay throughout his term as Master, reflects here on his years of service and his significant contribution to the life of the College, the University and the Australian Church.

We congratulate Most Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay on his appointment by Pope Francis as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

In 1998, following the completion of his studies for a Master in Philosophy at the Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven (Belgium), Fr Shane Mackinlay commenced as a lecturer at both Australian Catholic University—Aquinas Campus Ballarat—and Catholic Theological College. Returning to Leuven in 2002, he undertook his doctoral studies, and in 2005 once more joined the staff of CTC.

In addition to his lecturing responsibilities, Shane was a member of the College Academic Board and from 2006 to 2010 was responsible for postgraduate studies under various titles: Postgraduate Coordinator, Coordinator of Research and Postgraduate Studies, and Associate Dean (Postgraduate and Research).

Identifying the changes in the title of the position Shane held in those years is a pointer to the growth and development that was occurring within the College at that time. This was directly linked to changes external to the College that led to Catholic Theological College becoming a member college of the University of Divinity.

The history and development of CTC bears the marks of God's providence in so many

ways. As we reflect on those who have led the college over its almost fifty years of existence, we recognise that the person appointed as Master has been indeed one whose particular gifts have matched the needs of the times.

Fr Shane Mackinlay's appointment was no different. In 2011, the year he was first appointed Master of the College, we were on the cusp of the Melbourne College of Divinity becoming the University of Divinity. From the beginning of 2012, CTC became part of a collegiate university, and this, as it unfolded, had major ramifications for every aspect of the intellectual, academic, religious and social dimensions of the College. Shane's election as Master in that moment gave the College community the benefit of his many gifts. In broad brush strokes, this included: a commitment to the ongoing development of the mission of the College and the Church, particularly in Australia, the Pacific and Asia; a well-recognised capacity for strategic development, both within the College and beyond; the courage to take steps to ensure the ongoing availability of academic staff for the College.

More specifically, through his dedication and hard work, Shane, building on the foundations laid by others, worked with staff to develop the increasingly more complex College structures required by its status within the University of Divinity and the demands of best practice at all levels: academic, pastoral care of staff and students, and workplace procedures and facilities. In this process, opportunities were provided for an increasing number of academic staff to gain experience in leadership at various levels across the College and University.

Shane has always been generous in his acknowledgement of all who have worked with him during his time as Master of the College. As most people are aware, throughout his time as Master, Shane continued also as parish priest of Bungaree in his home Diocese of Ballarat. And yes, there were times when many of us wished he were full-time at the College. We rarely talked of it though, because for all his administrative and academic talents, Fr Shane Mackinlay is fundamentally that for which he was ordained: a priest among his people at the service of the Gospel. As we bid him farewell from the staff of CTC, we know that this call to leadership, as the Bishop of Sandhurst within the Australian Church community, will provide new horizons for Shane's talents and, above all, ever new ways to be a pastor among his people.

We wish him well, assure him of our prayers, and we pray in thanksgiving for all CTC has received through Fr Shane Mackinlay's years of ministry among us.

A new Master for CTC



Congratulations to Very Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan, who has been appointed as Master of the College for a term from 16 September 2019 to 31 December 2022.

Fr Lenehan, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat in Victoria, has been a Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology at the College and, for the past several years, its Associate Dean (Postgraduate and Research). His academic work is in the areas of fundamental theology, theological anthropology, religious education, and Bonhoeffer studies.

Following the appointment of Most Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay as the Bishop of Sandhurst, nominations for his successor were invited from academic staff, affiliated seminaries, the Mannix librarian and the SRC President. The College's Academic Board voted on candidates on 23 August 2019, and

on 30 August the Senate received the result of this vote before undertaking an election.

The Senate expressed its gratitude for Fr Lenehan's readiness to undertake this responsibility and formally expressed its appreciation of the generosity shown by the Diocese of Ballarat in making him available for this position.

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli expressed his "great confidence in the expertise and experience that Father Lenehan will bring to the role, and I look forward to his contribution to Catholic Theological College over the years ahead."

On his first day as Master, Fr Kevin wrote to the College Community expressing his deep appreciation for the gifts and contribution that each person brings to the life of the College.

"I have been greatly humbled by your obvious confidence in me during the election process, and by the many messages of encouragement and support I've received from you in recent days. I am very aware of the responsibilities of the Master's role, and strengthened by the knowledge that there are so many skilled, creative and friendly people working with me to achieve the College's mission."



Welcome to Rina Madden

Dr Rina Madden joins CTC's academic staff, having recently completed her PhD, which presents a comprehensive and relatable theological framework of spirituality as a heuristic for teachers and students to explore religious understandings. While working as Education Officer at Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM), she led the development of the renewed Religious Education Curriculum Framework for primary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and contributed to key strategic documentation for CEM. She is Project Officer for the Victorian Diocesan Project Recontextualising Pedagogies, sponsored by CTC, and will lecture at CTC in Pastoral Studies and Religious Education. She also works in school-based consultancy in religious education with a focus on teacher professional dialogue. Her research interests are in spirituality, Catholic identity and religious education.

Knox Public Lecture 2019: “The Faces of Plenary Council”

The Knox Public Lecture is held annually in honour of the founder of CTC, James Robert Cardinal Knox, fifth Archbishop of Melbourne. It was presented this year by Dr Trudy Dantis, director of the National Centre of Pastoral Research (NCP) of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a doctoral graduate of CTC. More than 170 people gathered at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne on Wednesday 21 August to hear Dr Dantis deliver an engaging and enlightening lecture on how the NCP is contributing to the Plenary Council 2020 process.

Introducing Dr Dantis and welcoming her back to CTC, the Master, the Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay, recalled that in 2016, at another Knox Lecture, Archbishop Mark Coleridge spoke of Pope Francis' inspiring call for a more synodal Church and outlined his own proposal for an Australian Plenary Council. Three years on, Dr Dantis and her team at the NCP are helping to make that vision a reality, as they organise and analyse data collected through the first phase of the Plenary process. Their task has been a daunting one: analysing the responses of more than 222,000 people to the question 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?' and developing six national themes for discernment, which will form the basis of the next listening and discernment phase of the process.

Focusing on the findings of the recently published NCP report [Listen to What the Spirit is Saying: Final Report for the Plenary Council Phase 1: Listening and Dialogue](#), Dr Dantis shared fascinating insights into the changing demographics of the Catholic Church in Australia, as well as some of the questions and challenges faced by the NCP in making sense of the huge body of qualitative data collected through the listening and dialogue process.

Noting that this is the first Plenary Council in the world with an open agenda, and “one that will be informed by lay participants like you and me”, Dr Dantis outlined some of the reasons why the Australian Church might



Dr Trudy Dantis delivers the 2019 Knox Lecture.

benefit from a Plenary Council at this time. She described a Church that is changing rapidly, with those identifying as Catholic decreasing for the first time in the Australian Church's history. The Catholic community is an ageing population, particularly among Mass attenders, but it is also an increasingly well-educated one, especially among women, and there is increasing ethnic and cultural diversity. The Church is also seeing a decline in religious congregations, and the emergence of new ones from overseas, as well as more overseas-born priests. And it is grappling with sensitive debates about same-sex marriage, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and religious freedom, among others. Dr Dantis argued that these are not trends we can just ignore, hoping for the best. What happens now as part of the Plenary Council will have an impact on the Church's future, effecting how we might look in twenty years' time, or even in a hundred years' time.

With the first listening and dialogue phase of the Plenary Council process recently concluded, and as we embark on the next phase of listening and discernment, Dr Dantis reflected on some of the prominent issues and trends that have emerged through the process so far, and discussed the NCP's methodology in identifying the six national themes that will inform the next phase: missionary and

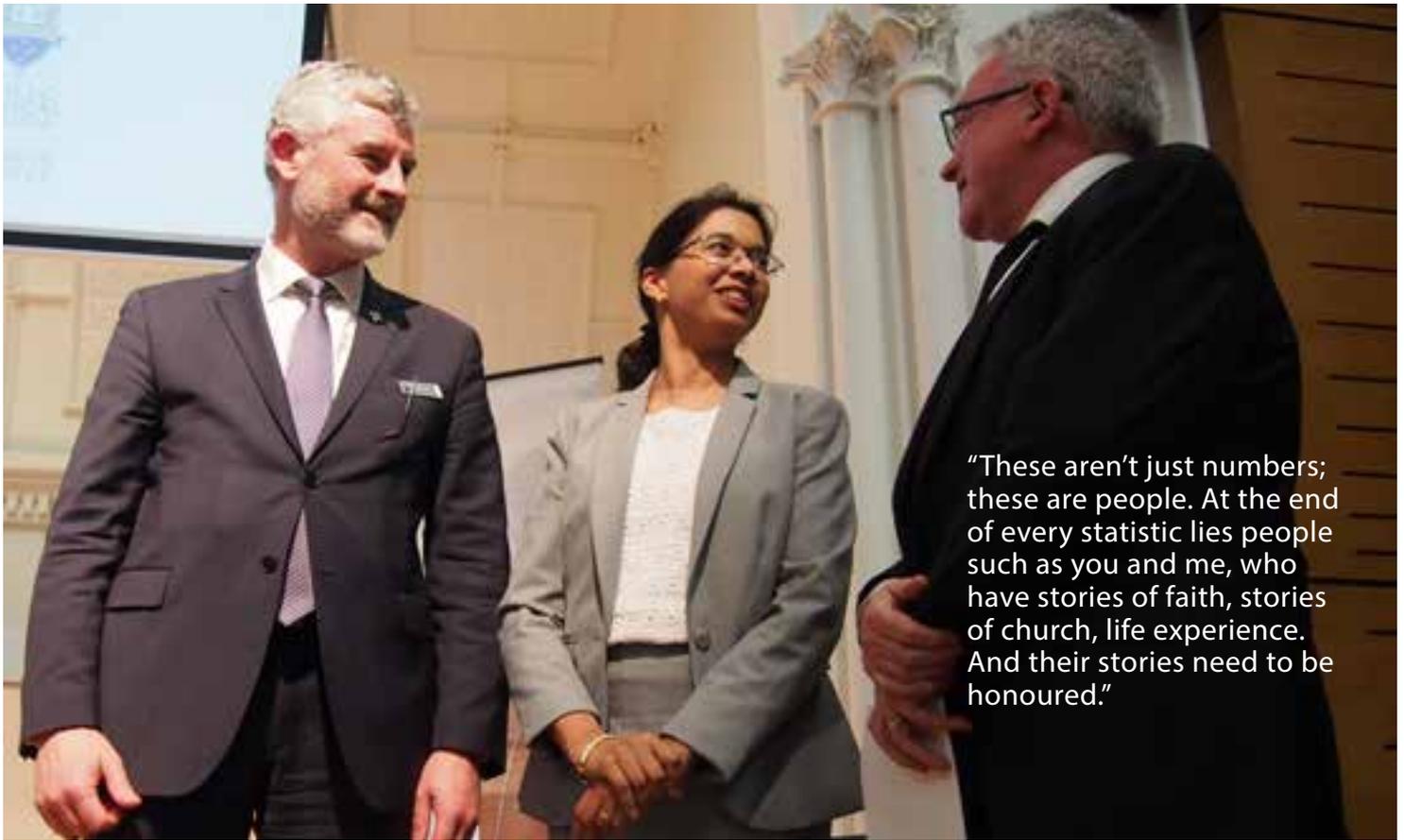


evangelising; inclusive, participatory and synodal; prayerful and eucharistic; humble, healing and merciful; a joyful, hope-filled and servant community; and open to conversion, renewal and reform.

The NCP decided not to weight the data collected in favour of any particular group, reasoning that weighting this kind of qualitative data “had the potential to cause more bias than to reduce it.” Instead, every response was treated equally, whether it came from a diocese, a bishop or an ordinary person in the pew. Similarly, particular well-represented opinions were not given priority over others, given that participants had not been asked to give their opinions on specific issues but were simply asked to respond to an open-ended question.

Dr Dantis explained how the NCP used NVivo software to organise the vast quantity of data, but noted that the process of reading all the submissions and analysing them could not be automated, instead requiring the careful and painstaking attention of human researchers.

Describing the kinds of respondents who had participated in the first phase, she reported that a little over half of them had participated in listening and dialogue sessions, with others responding



“These aren’t just numbers; these are people. At the end of every statistic lies people such as you and me, who have stories of faith, stories of church, life experience. And their stories need to be honoured.”

Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay, Dr Trudy Dantis and Rev. Dr Brendan Reed.

as individuals. Among individual respondents, the age group with the largest representation was perhaps not surprisingly those aged 65–75 years. But those aged 16–19 years were also well represented, reflecting the promotion of the Plenary process within Catholic schools around Australia. Among the individual responses, about 49 per cent were from women and about 29 per cent from men (with the gender of the remaining responses unidentified). About 75 per cent of individual respondents were Catholic, with the remainder identifying as being from other Christian traditions and non-Christian religions, and even as having no religion. The highest number of group submissions came from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

“These aren’t just numbers,” Dr Dantis was careful to point out. “These are people. At the end of every statistic lies people such as you and me, who have stories of faith, stories of Church, life experience. And their stories need to be honoured.”

To do this, the question needed to be interpreted broadly and sensitively. Dr Dantis acknowledged that asking such a big, ambiguous question posed some real challenges when it came to analysing the responses.

“In research terms, it’s almost a crazy

question to ask,” she said. “But this was not a typical research project. It was a very large project that was influenced by so many different groups, that was influenced by theology, by Scripture ... It’s been a very different but a very wonderful project to work with.”

She pointed out that even the word ‘us’, for instance, can be interpreted in many ways, ranging from ‘me’ or my family or local group through to the worldwide Catholic Church. It was very important, therefore, to remember that people responded on many different levels and to take that into account when interpreting the data.

Struck by the huge range of topics covered, the researchers categorised the responses into thirteen main topics and then broke these down into about 120 smaller themes. The broader topics are reflected in the chapter breakdown of the report.

The first chapter, for instance, deals with loving God and neighbour, and Dr Dantis gave examples of many different perspectives on this theme, observing that Mark 12:30–31 was frequently quoted by respondents and that the centrality of Jesus Christ was also a very common motif.

Dr Dantis also noted the theological diversity of the responses, and the importance of incorporating “differing

opinions and opposing voices” in the analysis. She observed that this diversity is particularly evident in the chapter on Mass and the sacraments, with opinions differing on various aspects of the liturgy. There were also sharply divergent views on ordination, with support for women’s ordination and an end to celibacy being countered by other voices supporting the status quo.

Other chapters and themes were influenced by a range of social events and issues, from the Church’s responses to clergy sexual abuse, LGBTI people, refugees, the elderly and the homeless to debates on religious freedom and the right to life.

Dr Dantis acknowledged that due to space constraints and the diversity of topics and opinion, her team often had to prioritise breadth over depth of analysis. But some themes appeared so frequently that they warranted more in-depth treatment, particularly those to do with Church governance and leadership, with strong calls for new leadership models, an end to clericalism, and greater roles for women and the laity.

Dr Dantis said that compiling the report wasn’t an easy task, and recognised that reading it might also be challenging for some people. “Obviously you are going to find themes there that strike you as unusual; you might find themes that make

Knox Public Lecture 2019 (continued)

you angry; you'll definitely find themes where you think, 'But that's against Church teaching.'" Quoting Fr Noel Connelly, she acknowledged that when we engage in this kind of open dialogue, "it may be a little messy and hurtful in the process," and some aspects of the report are bound to reflect this.

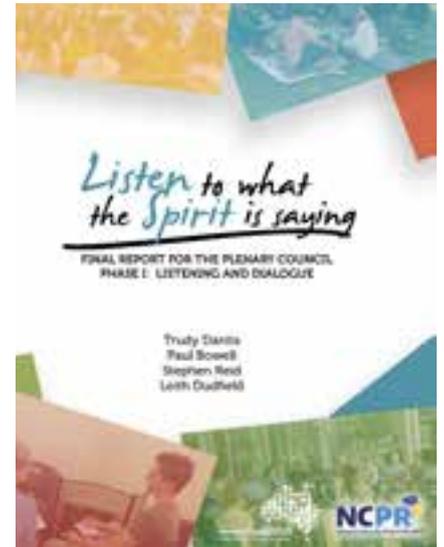
However, Dr Dantis pointed out that the report is not the agenda for the Plenary Council, but just a first stage, and encouraged her audience to continue to engage in listening and discernment around the six national themes that have emerged from the report.

"There is going to be widespread consultation inviting us now to reflect on what has come out in the first stage" she said. "After we've reflected on Scripture, after we've prayed, how do we move forward? What does the Church need to do in practical terms? It's time now to put in our efforts again and really try to grasp the voice of the Holy Spirit through the voices of all the people in our community."

In his response to Dr Dantis' lecture, Rev. Dr Brendan Reed reflected on Pope Francis' call to be a more synodal Church and on what the Australian Plenary process might learn from the experience of the 2013 Synod on Marriage and the Family, noting how Pope Francis was not only willing for debate on sensitive issues to take place but for it to continue and be made public. This emphasis

on open and open-ended dialogue is a model, he suggested, for how the Australian Church might begin to address and hold in tension all the diverse and complex issues it faces.

Dr Dantis responded to a range of questions from the audience before light refreshments were served.



To listen to the whole lecture, go to www.ctc.edu.au/Masters/News/Knox-Public-Lecture.

New library agreement with the University of Melbourne

In her capacity as the current Chair of the University of Divinity's Library Committee, Mannix Library Manager Kerrie Burn recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Melbourne on behalf of fourteen libraries associated with the University of Divinity.

The memorandum establishes reciprocal borrowing rights between libraries of both universities. All members of the University of Divinity are now able to borrow from any library of the University of Melbourne

(including the Baillieu Library). Borrowing privileges do not include access from outside of the University library branches to the University's online databases.

Members of the University of Divinity will need to enrol as borrowers of the University of Melbourne by going to the Baillieu Library and presenting their current University staff or student card. If there are any issues with registering or borrowing, please contact Kerrie by emailing library@ctc.edu.au so that any initial teething problems with the new

arrangement can be resolved.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding between the libraries of both universities represents an exciting new development, which will be of benefit to many staff and students at the University of Divinity.

Open Day



Wednesday 6 November 2019

4.30–6.30pm (afternoon session) or
6.00–8.00pm (evening session)

Catholic Theological College
278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Light
refreshments
will be
served

PROGRAM

- Welcome
- Study options and courses
- Reflections from a lecturer and a student
- Guided tour

RSVP

Friday 1 November 2019

Jenny Delahunt | Academic Records Office | jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au | (03) 9412 3314

Archbishop Goold and the invention of Melbourne

On Wednesday 31 July, at the Old Treasury Building in Spring Street, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli launched both the book and exhibition *The Invention of Melbourne: A Baroque Archbishop and a Gothic Architect*.

The beautifully designed book, published by the Miegunyah Press, gathers the papers presented at a two-day symposium on Archbishop James Goold held in February 2018 as part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant directed by Jaynie Anderson, Shane Carmody and Max Vodola.

The exhibition captures the early history of Goold and the Church in colonial Victoria. It features portraits of Goold, St Patrick's Cathedral, Pope Pius IX and Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Architectural drawings of the cathedral, personal items of William Wilkinson Wardell, and books, vestments and letters from Goold's collection highlight the cultural contribution of our founding bishop and the remarkable transformation of Melbourne from provincial town to major international metropolis.

In his speech, Archbishop Comensoli mentioned that while the book and exhibition focus on Goold, it was also important to acknowledge the 180th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated by Melbourne's pioneer priest Fr Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan in 1839.

The exhibition and the book trace the



history of colonial Melbourne and Victoria, a history that comes alive as we see Goold taking his place in the "invention" of the city. Goold was determined and energetic as he travelled around the colony of Victoria opening churches and schools, celebrating the sacraments, instructing the faithful and constantly fundraising.

On five voyages overseas, Goold acquired an extraordinary number of books, paintings and ecclesiastical fixtures, which adorned his growing diocese. Goold had a fine eye for collecting. Through the book and exhibition, the research team have uncovered new paintings and important details of their provenance, along with interesting books belonging to Goold that were previously unknown.

They have also conducted further research on the relationship between Goold and

colonial architect William Wardell. Despite two false starts, Goold watched as the pile of bluestone on Eastern Hill majestically rose to give us the magnificent neo-Gothic masterpiece of St Patrick's Cathedral, at its opening the largest building in the colony. Thanks to his diaries, we know that Goold was constantly walking around Melbourne, observing and shaping the city.



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- 1 Rachel Naughton views the exhibition.
- 2 Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli speaks at the launch.
- 3 A timeline helps visitors to put the collections in context.
- 4 Rev. Dr Max Vodola, Prof. Jaynie Anderson and the Archbishop examine some of the treasures on display.

The exhibition continues until 2 March 2020 at the Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring Street, Melbourne.
It is open from Sunday to Friday, 10am–4pm (closed Saturdays).

Ordinations

In recent months, we have celebrated the ordinations of twelve CTC students.

- On Saturday 3 August 2019, Rev. William Loh OP was ordained to the Priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.
- On Saturday 31 August 2019, Jithin Anto, Confidence Masvosva and Paul Simon Zaher were ordained to the Diaconate at St Mary's Cathedral in Sale.
- On Saturday 7 September 2019, Simeon Anthony, James Michael Baptist and Jude-Thaddeus Ogechukwu Ezeme were ordained to the Diaconate at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.
- Also on Saturday 7 September 2019 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Rev. Michael Kevin Buck, Rev. Andrew Dongyoung Choi, Rev. Trac Huy Nguyen and Rev. Nathan John Edward Francis Rawlins were ordained to the Priesthood.

- On Saturday 21 September, Denib Josette M. Suguitan was ordained to the Diaconate at Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish Church in Makati City, Philippines.

Warmest congratulations to each of the newly ordained.

Colin Nunis will be ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Robert Rabbat, Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand, at St Joseph's Melkite Catholic Church, Fairfield, on 5 October 2019 at 5pm. All members of the College are warmly invited to attend.

Our prayers and good wishes accompany both the newly ordained and those preparing for ordination.

Joshua Nash volunteers in Lourdes

Spending three months in Lourdes, France, helping young people to engage more with their faith proved to be the perfect way for CTC student and Oblate seminarian Joshua Nash to strengthen his commitment to God and his calling to become a priest.

Joshua volunteered in a pilot project for youth evangelisation being run by YOUCAT (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church), working with six other volunteers from all over the world.

"We are out in the shrine every day promoting the work of YOUCAT and engaging young people in their faith by running workshops, picnics, family days and youth evenings," Joshua told *The Southern Cross* in August. "We are trying to provide opportunities of catechesis for young people to discover more about the foundation of their faith, which then is partnered beautifully with the devotional and spiritual aspects of the shrine in Lourdes.

Joshua hopes evangelisation will be a focus of his work when he is eventually ordained a priest. "I love the many opportunities that I am blessed with as a seminarian to go to and to mission in many different places; from schools and parishes to prisons and even on the streets."

After finishing high school Joshua studied law and international studies, seeking to "help those who were less fortunate than myself". He spent time with the United Nations in South Africa working with refugees, and this, coupled with a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, led him to consider a different pathway.

"This WYD experience came at an opportune time when I was questioning whether to return to law, to move back to Africa, or to work for the Church instead. God appeared in my messiness and showed me the path to follow. It was not a difficult decision to enter the seminary, but it was a big decision to make and I spent an entire year in discernment before I made the final decision. Even my time now in the seminary is a constant time of discernment."

Joshua's advice to anyone who is trying to figure out their purpose in



life? "Firstly, be open to God; let him surprise you and let him take you on an adventure where you would have never dreamed of going. Be open to a journey and be open to a relationship with all its ups and downs. Secondly, I would say pray a lot, attend Eucharist regularly, receive spiritual direction and take some time (days, weeks, even months) out of your regular daily schedule to go to new places and meet new people and see how God is revealing himself to you through those people. Lastly, be courageous and make a commitment. Do not wander and wonder through your whole life. Take a chance on something and give it a try."

This is an edited extract from an article by Lindy McNamara that originally appeared on the news site of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, *The Southern Cross*. It is reproduced here with permission.

SRC barbecue

On Tuesday 27 August, on a late-winter afternoon, the aroma of barbecued sausages and onion wafted from the Junior Common Room as the College community gathered once again for a significant and ancient ritual, as described here by SRC President Vinco Muriyadan.

In keeping with our integrated studies of biblical literature, the Student Representative Council makes a biannual burnt offering to the staff and students of CTC. The second such sacrifice took place towards the end of August this year and there was much rejoicing by all those who attended, though nobody appeared so moved as to imitate the prophets of Baal (cf. 1 Kings 18:28). No doubt Occupational Health and Safety would have had something to say about it if they had. The event is always advertised as a barbecue, but comparisons with ancient near-eastern cultic practice are not entirely ludicrous given the propensity of the rather aged grill to occasionally burst into flames; perhaps Elijah is on our side after all.

Supplementing the carcinogenic contributions of the SRC are the invariably much more delicious and popular samplings of culinary skill provided by various members of the College community. The eclectic mix of salads and savouries were complemented by a selection of desserts; the rum balls supplied by Lisa Gerber deserve an honourable mention for being particularly delicious. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to making the day a pleasant and filling experience for those who attended.



Exploring Judaism at Bat Kol, Israel

In July this year, CTC students Sandra Bishop and Stephen Fernandes spent three weeks in Israel, studying at the Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem. Tolle Lege spoke to them earlier this month about their experiences.

Both Sandra and Stephen were recipients of part-scholarships to study the Book of Numbers at Bat Kol, having heard about the course through their studies at CTC.

Sandra is undertaking a Graduate Diploma of Divinity at CTC to better equip her in her work coordinating the Melbourne branch of the Catholic School of Evangelisation. For her, the prospect of studying in Jerusalem was “absolute heaven”, but the opportunity seemed to come at an inconvenient time. Having recently undergone back surgery, she was flat on her back in hospital when applications were due. But with the encouragement of past Bat Kol participant and fellow CTC student Maryann Payne, she pursued the application regardless, finding to her surprise that not only was her application successful—with part of her costs being met by a generous and anonymous benefactor—but that she was sufficiently recovered from her surgery to be able to make the journey and participate fully. “It was an absolute God-incident, divine appointment,” she says.

Stephen, who is completing a Bachelor of Theology at CTC in preparation to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate, was also helped by a part-scholarship. Like Sandra, he had travelled to Israel before, but the opportunity to study biblical theology there, while gaining credit for his degree, was one he didn’t want to miss.

“This time, going to study there made it more interesting for me,” he says. “I wanted to know more about the Jewish culture

and their way of practising their religion. I had never attended a synagogue before in my life.” Stephen says his experience this time was more of an education, not just a pilgrimage. “When we go as a Catholic, we just visit our Catholic places, but this gave more of the Jewish perspective.”

A brisk walk from the Old City of Jerusalem, the Bat Kol–Christian Center for Jewish Studies is located at the St Charles Hospice but was originally founded in 1983 by Sr Maureena Fritz and Sr Anne Anderson in Toronto, Canada. In 1992 it became a registered non-profit organisation based in Jerusalem. Today, the institute is an international association of Christian women and men who are committed to studying the Word of God within its Jewish context and to incorporating these studies into their Christian self-understanding in a manner that respects the integrity of both traditions.

At Bat Kol, Stephen and Sandra were joined by other students from every part of the globe. Each day would begin with Siddur prayer, followed by Hebrew instruction and a morning lecture. After lunch there was time to go exploring before another lecture at 4pm. The topics of the lectures ranged from an introduction to midrash to various aspects of the Book of Numbers. On some evenings, after supper, there was also an opportunity to experience “Havruta”, the traditional rabbinic approach to studying the Talmud. On Friday nights, they visited different synagogues in Jerusalem, and on Saturdays they celebrated Shabbat at the Hebrew Union College. They also celebrated Mass most days in the little chapel at Bat Kol.

In addition to all the classroom study, they visited many significant sites in and around Jerusalem, including the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall and the Church



Stephen (far left) and Sandra (second from right) with fellow Bat Kol students.



Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman and Rabbi Dr Marcie Lenk explain a Torah scroll while the founder of Bat Kol, Sr Maureen Fritz, looks on.

of the Holy Sepulchre. In the second week, there was a two-day trip that took them to both the eastern and western sides of the Sea of Galilee. And there were excursions to Bethlehem and to the West Bank with their Palestinian taxi driver Magid, who opened up for them another perspective on life in Israel.

For Sandra, the greatest highlight of the trip was undoubtedly participating in the morning prayers. “They were unbelievable,” she says. Each student was given a beautiful Siddur—described by Sandra as a kind of Jewish Missal—in Hebrew and English, with transliterations to aid pronunciation. The prayers were led by Rabbi Dr Minna Bromberg, a talented musician and composer with an angelic voice. “She would lead us through as we chanted the various psalms,” Sandra recalls. “It was absolutely beautiful.” Steve agrees, also nominating the Siddur prayers as the highlight of his trip.

A trip to Yad Vashem, the international holocaust museum and memorial, was another significant experience for both of them. Sandra was especially moved by the Children’s Candle, one of the more striking memorials at Yad Vashem.

“You walk into this place out of bright sunlight, and it’s absolute darkness, and then you’re hearing the names and ages and location of these children. And then you come into a room and there are just the lights for all of the children, like star lights or candle lights. So it’s quite moving,” she says.

Back home in Melbourne, Sandra is completing an assignment on early rabbinic interpretation and is finding that her experiences at Bat Kol have broadened and deepened her appreciation of the Jewish sources. “It’s opened up the Jewish material. It’s really got me into those books that I never really would have been interested in getting into.”

For those thinking of studying at Bat Kol, Sandra says that students who have a solid grounding in Hebrew will get more out of it, but it’s definitely something she would recommend. Stephen agrees. “Go for it!” he says.



Front cover image
Portrait of Very Rev. Assoc. Prof. Shane Mackinlay at CTC

Back cover image
Fr Shane Mackinlay, processing at the College's Annual Mass, 2016