



Tolle Lege, April 2018

Master's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the new academic year at CTC. If this is your first time studying with us, I extend a particularly warm welcome and I look forward to meeting you in person.

I hope that you are now well settled in your classes. If you haven't already commenced working on your first essays, I'm sure that will happen very soon! You will see that many of our classes have large enrolments, which is very encouraging. I hope that the months ahead are a time of learning, stimulation and growth for you.

A couple of weeks' ago, nearly 100 CTC students graduated at the University of Divinity's annual Melbourne graduation ceremony, which was held this year at St Michael's Uniting Church in Collins St. Many attended in person, and it was a great celebration of their achievements.

I wish you every blessing for the Easter season and for all that lies ahead in the 2018 academic year.



50 years of Religious Profession

The Deputy Master, Dr Frances Baker RSM

January this year marked the 50th anniversary of the religious profession of Sr Frances Baker as a Sister of Mercy. Frances was originally from Lismore in the Ballarat Diocese and received her secondary education at the long-established Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy. After her profession Frances was assigned to the Mercy ministry of education. Her appointments were firstly North Melbourne, then Wodonga and for two years Frances was R.E. Coordinator at Geoghegan College (now Penola) Broadmeadows (1978–79). In September of 1980 her next appointment was as Principal of St Aloysius College, North Melbourne, a position which Frances held for twelve years (1980–92). During this time, in addition to the

demanding role of College Principal, Frances was a part-time student at CTC completing her BTheol and also her BEd(postgrad) at the University of Melbourne. From September 1992 Frances attended the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome completing both her Licentiate and her Doctorate in Sacred Theology, specialising in Moral Theology. With her wide experience as a teacher and impressive academic qualifications, Frances was in great demand upon her return to Australia, teaching at ACU from 1999–2007 and also being on the Faculty of Jesuit Theological College, Parkville from 1999–2003. This latter appointment also meant lecturing at the then United Faculty of Theology. At CTC we were fortunate in having Frances undertake some part-time teaching here from 2003, and in March 2007 the CTC Senate elected Frances to the very significant position of Deputy Master. This appointment saw Frances come to CTC as a full time member of the Faculty.



Listing these appointments and academic credentials hardly does justice to the role Frances has undertaken at CTC. Members of faculty, administrative staff and the student body all know of her ready availability around the campus, her interest in people and her compassion for any needing help and encouragement. Her contribution to CTC as a Sister of Mercy, calls not only for hearty congratulations on a fine record as an academic and teacher, but also warm thanks for the enrichment and service Frances has brought to the CTC community.

Graduation 2018

A joyous celebration of academic achievement, the University of Divinity graduation ceremony, took place at St Michael's Uniting Church, Collins St, on the evening of Friday 16th March. It was standing room only for the family and friends who came to congratulate the graduands.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer, hymn and



scriptural reading, followed by the awarding of degrees by the University's Chancellor, Dr Graeme Blackman AO.

Catholic Theological College was very well represented, with nearly one hundred degrees/diplomas being conferred upon its students, many of whom attended in person. In addition, Sr Melanie Edwards MGL was announced as CTC's Vice-Chancellor's Scholar for 2018. Ecumenical cooperation was on full display as graduands of the eleven member colleges of the University came forward to be greeted by the Chancellor.

An honorary doctorate was also bestowed upon Dr Julia Baird, the Sydney-based journalist, broadcaster and author, for "her sustained and distinguished contribution to critical debate about religion in Australia as a journalist, historian and author."



At University! Doing what?

'So you are at University! Doing what?' If this question was posed to an undergraduate at Oxford or Cambridge (or perhaps at prestigious Harvard or Princeton) the answer would invariably be 'I'm reading Theology' (or Law or Literature or Philosophy or whatever).

The inquirer might be slightly confused. Understandably so, as most people expect a University to provide lectures which are informative, scintillating and (hopefully) also enthuse undergraduates with an ideal for the future: serving the community through a really professional exercise of one's expertise. And people assume that students write interesting essays galore. But why would anyone simply describe the task as 'Reading Theology'?

It might come as a surprise to many that the age-old adage at great universities has been that a student should do some three hours of reading for every hour of input. That ratio of 1:3 still holds and is promoted in many places. This would mean that for a unit at CTC a student should engage in nine hours of 'reading' each week, including the time invested in preparing for assignments and exams.

Becoming a diligent reader is not a charism one discovers has suddenly engulfed one. It requires a firm decision and the undertaking of a discipline. But once embedded in practice, it is surprising just how much more valuable lectures become and how much greater is both the ease and enthusiasm for writing. Why? Because for the diligent reader 'listening' and 'writing' are taking place in a context of being immersed in one's subject. Some of us remember University days when a delightful meal meant a sharing of one's reading: the sharing of the 'discipline' can transpose it into an enjoyable social activity. A further outcome of a commitment to reading is invariably a genuine love for one's area of professional interest and commitment. All that should surely match what a place like CTC is all about: that our 'Reading of Theology' should mean an ability to spread the Good News through the ministry of preaching, teaching, writing or just simply through a life well lived.

Anyone who might be in any doubt about the value of a commitment to wise and consistent reading would do well to look at a Youtube presentation by Bishop Robert Barron: a very well read, humane Christian: a great modern evangelist.

May your time at CTC with its great resources, be well used – and in the end very enriching and rewarding.

Acting Academic Dean

Doctor Rosemary Canavan commenced a period of sabbatical leave at Easter and is currently in Jerusalem. In her absence, Dr Phil Gleeson SDB will undertake the duties of the Academic Dean. He will be working from the office of the Academic Dean until mid-June.



New Faces

Towards the end of last year Vi Panganiban replaced Karen Crook as Facilities Operations Officer at the Thomas Carr Centre. Vi is now well established in her role and brings a wide range of skills gleaned from careers in teaching and IT to the position. Her warmth and friendly smile mean all visitors to CTC feel very welcome and students and staff are grateful for her competence and organisational abilities.



Fr Jake Mudge will join the lecturing staff at CTC in the Department of Pastoral and General Studies this year, as well as becoming a member of the formation staff at Corpus Christi College. Fr Jake, a former student of CTC, has an impressive list of qualifications including a Bachelor of Science, a Master's degree in Health Science and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He is currently completing his doctoral studies and will submit his thesis later this year. After finishing his schooling at St Liborius' Eaglehawk and Catholic College Bendigo, Jake trained as an osteopath in Melbourne and worked locally and overseas before entering the seminary in 2002. He was ordained a priest for the Sandhurst Diocese in 2008 and has worked in the parishes of St

Joseph's Benalla, Sacred Heart Wodonga, and St Kilian's Bendigo, before commencing studies in fundamental theology at the Gregorian University in 2013. His academic interests include Lonergan studies, theological method, and Christian formation. He enjoys golf, running, reading, and spending time with family and friends. He will join former CTC student and occasional lecturer during last year – hence not a completely new face – Dr Simon Wayte MGL, who is lecturing in Systematic Theology. We welcome them both and wish them many years of fruitful and enjoyable teaching.



Former CTC Student to head ACBC's Pastoral Research Office

Congratulations to Trudy Dantis who is the new director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Pastoral Research Office, which has moved from Melbourne to Canberra. Trudy obtained her PhD in 2015 while working for the Pastoral Research Office on the *Building Stronger Parishes* project. She is well-equipped by both experience and study to make a fine contribution to the life of the Church nationwide. Read more: <http://cathnews.com/cathnews/31181-pastoral-research-office-on-the-move>



Russia, Revolution and Refugees

Have you ever noticed the rather small icon which is attached to a wall space punctuating the circle of windows on the upper floor of CTC? It sits there, quietly and mostly unnoticed. It has a small votive lamp nearby and some days ago a light was flickering in the lamp stand. Someone must have noticed!



The icon was a gift from John Davis who was one of the participants in a CTC Study Tour entitled 'The Bible and Byzantium'. John wished to give a gift to the College to mark the occasion of the relocation of CTC to the Victoria Parade site. John spent a remarkably generous amount of money for this icon, purchasing it from the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. All they could tell him about it was that it belonged to a emigre family who fled Russia during the Communist Revolution of 1917 and they probably (one imagines very reluctantly) sold it to buy necessities of life as they struggled in a very turbulent part of the world. Palestine was then part of the disintegrating Ottoman Empire.

When the icon was cleaned it was decided to leave the damage marks as a reminder of the suffering experienced in those days of revolution, persecution and displacement.

SRC News

The Mass marking the opening of the Academic Year was celebrated on Friday March 2nd in the Knox Room.

SRC President for 2017 Kitichai (Jack) Saisawang SDB welcomed the large number of students and staff present and thanked his fellow student representatives for their help and support throughout the year.

The Master of the College, Fr Shane Mackinlay, presided

and in his homily made some useful and occasionally humorous comparisons between the story of Joseph (the first Reading of the Mass) and the life of a student at CTC. Mass was followed by refreshments and a chance to meet and greet each other.

The new Student Representative Committee for 2018 consists of: President: Christian Elters OP; Vice-President: Shehan Fernando MGL; Treasurer: Fady Ghanem; Secretary: Thuan Bui omi; An Le (CCC); Daniel Rafanomezantsoa (Salesians); Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud OFM Conv.; Alexandra Wedd.



Photo Courtesy Russell Kenner

Knox Lecture 2018

The First World War and the Catholic Church in Australia

This year's Knox Public Lecture commemorating the life and work of Cardinal James Knox, the founder of our College, will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, and will be held on Wednesday 16th May at 7.30pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, Victoria Pde., East Melbourne. It will be given by Dr Jeff Kildea, historian, author and adjunct professor in Irish Studies at the University of New South Wales.



A Joyous Easter to All



This mosaic of the Resurrection is in the small monastic chapel of Hosios Loukas, in a mountainous area of Greece, west of Athens. It dates from about 100 years after the settlement of the Iconoclastic Controversy at the General Council, Nicaea II in 787. In the Eastern Tradition, the Resurrected Christ is always depicted raising Adam and Eve. The two stately figures to the left are two kingly prophets of the Old Testament who foretold the Resurrection, David and Solomon.