

Tolle Lege

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Newsletter of Catholic Theological College

Recognised Teaching Institution of MCD University of Divinity

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Message from the Master

I'm delighted to welcome students and staff to another academic year at Catholic Theological College. This year marks the fortieth anniversary of CTC, and the beginning of a new era for our studies, which now take place as part of the first specialised university in Australia: MCD University of Divinity. This very public recognition of the high quality of teaching and scholarship in the MCD comes just before Melbourne hosts an atheist convention which sets out to be "A Celebration of Reason." It is a timely reminder of how important it is for believers to be able to present a reasoned and well-informed account of our faith. This is a core aim of the studies and research we undertake here. I wish you well as you take up the challenges of the year ahead.

~ Fr Shane Mackinlay



Opening Mass

On Friday 2nd March, **Bishop Vincent Long** ofm conv. was principal celebrant at our Inaugural Mass in the Knox Room. In his homily the Bishop reminded us that any ministry in the Church was essentially one involving service to God and others, and not prestige, power or privilege. Mass was followed by supper, one of those important community-building events hosted by the SRC.

An Historic Marker

Saturday 24th March marks the fortieth anniversary of the official Opening Mass for Catholic Theological College in 1972 in the chapel of Corpus Christi College, Glen Waverley (now Police Academy). This is a good time to give thanks for the founder of the College, James Robert (later Cardinal) Knox, fifth Archbishop of Melbourne. The name of our main lecture room and an annual lecture keep alive his memory.

Senior Fellows Appointed

At its meeting on Thursday 8th March the College Senate appointed two new Senior Fellows. This is an honour bestowed on members and former members of the academic staff who have distinguished themselves by their contribution to theological education or who have rendered exceptional service to CTC. Very Rev. Dr Terence Curtin EV and Rev. Dr Paul Connell will be presented with their appointment certificates at the Annual College Dinner in June.

After reading Theology for an MA at Oxford in 1977–79, **Fr. Paul J. Connell** obtained his Doctorate of Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1989. In addition to many academic and pastoral appointments, he has lectured at CTC since 1980.



His confrere, **Fr. Terence Robert Curtin** also obtained his doctorate from the Gregorian, in 1987. Fr. Curtin has long been associated with SCV-ICE (Mercy Campus) and later Australian Catholic University, and in more recent years he has been Master of CTC (2003–10) and President of the Melbourne College of Divinity (2009–10).

Postgraduate Studies

It is good to remember that while most of us are rushing off to classes, others at CTC are quietly working away at research projects, many on doctorates. This can be a lonely task, so the College seeks to ensure that they have a sense of belonging to a community of scholars by having periodic lunch-time meetings. The photo below records those present at lunch on Wednesday 7th March.



Back: Very Rev. Dr Shane Mackinlay, Chris Mulherin, John Duiker, Rev. Prof. Richard Divall AO OBE, Rev. Dr Austin Cooper omi AM, Dr Race Matthews, Rev. Dr Simon Wayte mgl, Gregory Brown, Rev. Phil Gleeson sdb, Dr Callan Ledsham, Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan
Front: Rev. Prof. Gerald O'Collins sj AC, Kathleen McCarthy, Deborah Kent, Rev. Dr Norman Ford sdb, Dr Rosemary Canavan

Here is a brief account of the work being undertaken by several of these scholars:

Chris Mulherin is working on the relationship between science and faith: philosophy of science and philosophical hermeneutics defending ‘fiduciary hermeneutic fallibilism’ which while it doesn’t guarantee certainty, ensures we can nevertheless have confident belief.

Phil Gleeson **sdb** is analysing the theological method of American Jesuit Roger Haight, arguing that the hermeneutical key to his methodology, and the distinctive characteristic of his approach, is his understanding of “today”. A focus on Haight’s Christology will assess the validity and value of his scholarship.

Race Mathews’ thesis is ‘Manning’s Children: Responses to Rerum Novarum in Victoria 1891–1966’. Drafts of the first six chapters are completed with two or perhaps three still to come. Extracts published as journal articles in the hope of feedback have so far not elicited very much response.

Simon Wayte **mgl** is working towards a Christology of presence which places the presence of the risen Lord Jesus with his glorified humanity at the heart of the world. This presence of Christ explicated on a relational foundation provides a new metaphor to connect his once-for-all sacrifice with the men and women of today.

Graeme Pender’s doctorate is focusing on the contribution of Bishop Charles Henry Davis OSB (1815–54) to the Australian colonial Catholic Church. Davis was an important figure in the English Benedictine presence in Sydney.

Gregory Brown’s research ‘Praying Today: The Patients’ Story of cancer, prayer, and well-being’ seeks to identify how improvement in well-being is nurtured by prayer. The grounding of the data is achieved by using the cancer patients’ own stories as they narrated them.

Richard Divall is working on late 18th-century sacred music in Malta involving an edition of the complete sacred works of Malta’s national composer, Nicolò Isouard (1773–1818) who composed in the 1790s for St John’s Cathedral in Valletta.

Steven Tucker has just begun his DTheol on Daniel, using literary criticism on the stories surrounding Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 1–4), to understand how God’s gift of wisdom to Daniel may also come to the king, especially under the theme of ‘testing’.

Chris Ryan **mgl**: “Equipping Youth Ministers for the New Evangelisation”. A thesis in two parts: a training resource for youth ministers on effectively proclaiming the Gospel to young people, and a second part which provides the theological and ministerial rationale that underpins the resource.

Deborah Kent’s thesis is an exploration of the Role of Charism in Sustaining and Developing Catholic Identity.

Student Representative Council

The SRC plays an important role in the life of the College, both in enriching the social life of this scholarly community and also representing the interests of students at meetings of the College Academic Board. While expressing the gratitude of the College to the outgoing SRC, it is good to welcome the new SRC. The new membership is as follows:

Matthew Boland op – President

Peter Hong omi – Deputy President

Dillon Palmer (lay) – Treasurer

Johanna Banks (lay) – Secretary/Liturgy

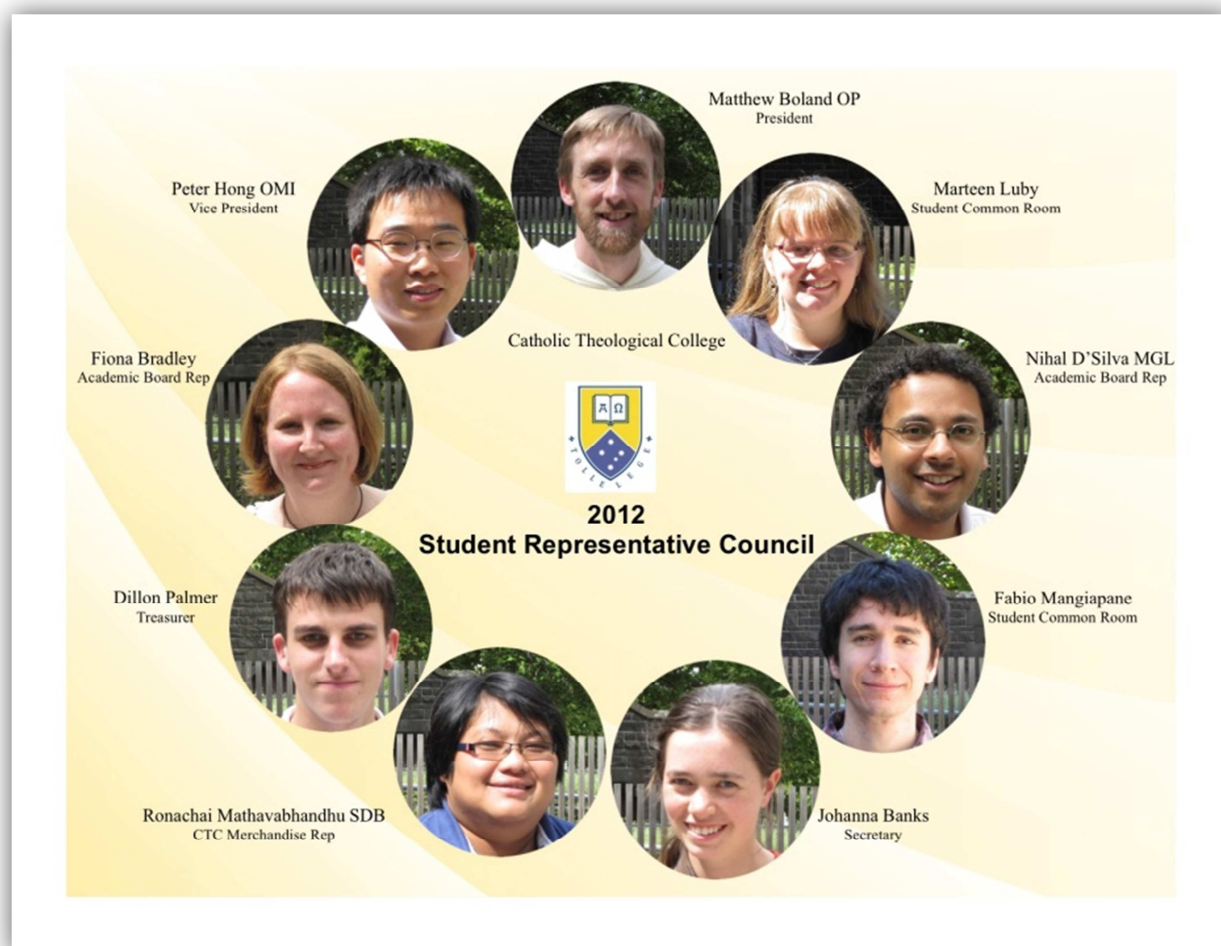
Nihal D'Silva mgl – Academic Board Representative and Postgraduate Representative

Fiona Bradley (lay) – Academic Board Representative and Communications Officer

Fabio Mangiapane (Corpus Christi College) – Liturgy/Milk/Common Room supplies

Marteen Luby (lay) – Milk/Common Room supplies

Ronachai Mathavabhandhu sdb – SRC Merchandise



Change of Classes for Anzac Day

This year Anzac Day falls on a day when classes are scheduled. Fortunately, this situation does not arise in most years, due to weekends and the Easter holidays. Along with other universities, the MCD University of Divinity will not be holding classes on Anzac Day. At CTC, classes which are scheduled for Wednesday 25th April have been rescheduled to **Friday 27th April**.