



CATHOLIC
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CTC Community News

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June 2020

Learning in a time of crisis

Imagine the reaction when it was suggested to the English Fellows of Oxford University in the summer of 1939 that classes may have to be suspended due to the impending outbreak of war in Europe!

One of those English Fellows, C. S. Lewis, who had himself served as an officer in the trenches of northern France during the Great War, knew better than most the trauma and life-changing disruption such a crisis could generate. Preaching in St Mary's Church Oxford on 22 October 1939, just after England and its allies had declared war on Nazi Germany, Lewis challenged his hearers to reflect on what it meant to pursue their studies in a time of international crisis. 'How can we continue to take an interest in these placid occupations when the lives of our friends and the liberties of Europe are in the balance?'

Lewis encouraged his students to learn from history. In every age, human society and endeavour has been vulnerable to disruptions and crises. 'Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice,' he said. If people 'had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure the search would never have begun.' Indeed, many of the greatest achievements of humanity have emerged from the most terrible of events and circumstances.

So the greater the crisis, the more vital it is to carry on in the pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and beauty. And that means the unexciting, day-to-day effort of learning. Lewis recalled thinking when he joined up for World War I that soldiers must spend their entire day thinking about the war and fighting. How surprised he was to find that daily life in the trenches was full of talk about ordinary, mundane things! A time of great crisis, a global war or pandemic, is a time to focus on the daily, ordinary tasks that improve our lives and build up society.

In fact, the crisis makes clear what is always the case. Our lives and our circumstances are precarious and uncertain. We are profoundly vulnerable to our environments and dependent on one another in all aspects of our lives. And death will come to us all, whether unexpectedly in war or plague, or longed-for after a long life. What gives our daily tasks their real purpose and quality, Lewis urged, is that whatever we do, we work at it 'as for the Lord' (Col 3:23).

So a time of crisis raises particular challenges for those dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and learning. Ours is not the front-line contribution of those working in hospitals and clinics, serving food and cleaning streets, responding to emergencies and protecting neighbourhoods.

Learning in a time of crisis cont.

But the search for truth, goodness and beauty must yield its own contribution to the strengthening of the human spirit and the good of society. And we must put all our efforts into making that contribution. This is the vocational dimension of the academic life. 'The intellectual life is not the only road to God, nor the safest, but we find it to be a road, and it may be the appointed road for us.'

Lewis offered his hearers three strategies from wisdom of the Christian life to help them negotiate the turbulence descending on their lives. These strategies may be useful for us in this time of pandemic.

First, *don't be distracted* by the continuous and ever-present attention focus on the crisis. There is always another news report or notification or website update we could be distracted by. Digital and broadcast media thrive on creating a sense of urgency and 'breaking' news in the 24/7 cycle. But isn't every day of academic study a struggle with distractions of one kind or another? When you find yourself absorbed in thoughts of the crisis, gently return your attention to today's tasks.

Second, *don't put off till tomorrow...*The severity of restrictions and uncertainty about the future we are all enduring at present can cause an attitude of 'I'll do it later' or 'I'll wait and see' about our daily tasks. If we are perfectionists, we don't want to produce work while feeling stressed, without full access to every resource, and isolated from our usual supports. When there is a task to be completed, just do it!

Third, *don't let fear take over*. Lewis alerts us to the 'illusions of the imagination' that lurk in our hearts and minds in a crisis. Certainly, we are surrounded by scenes of great suffering and sadness around the world; locally, many people are struggling with loss of work and income, caring for children and older relatives, or pressures on mental health. But fear can feed on these scenes, grip our hearts and paralyse our efforts to keep living productively. Better to name the fear and release its hold on our hearts, so we can get on with the job of caring for one another and putting our best efforts into our daily work.

Lewis encourages all involved in the vocation of learning to make the most of the opportunity this crisis presents. 'If we thought that for some souls, and at some times, the life of learning, humbly offered to God, was, in its own small way, one of the appointed approaches to the Divine reality and the Divine beauty which we hope to enjoy hereafter, we can think so still.'

The text of the sermon by C. S. Lewis, 'Learning in War-Time', can be found at <https://bradleyggreen.com/attachments/Lewis.Learning%20in%20War-Time.pdf>

Graduation

On Friday 27 March 2020 the University of Divinity gathered, for the first time in its history as an online community, to witness the graduation of 346 students.

The public ceremony, planned to take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, was cancelled, and an innovative online ceremony was held at which the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor formally graduated students across the University.



An online community more than 1,500 strong participated, with friends and family of graduates from around the globe sending congratulations and support. The University facilitated an early posting of academic documents, enabling many Australian-based graduates to receive their papers on the day of the ceremony.

Many of the graduates and staff of the University watched the ceremony at the scheduled 7:30pm AEST ceremony commencement time, joining in some online fun on social media by posting “celebration selfies” with regalia and documents. [University medals were also awarded for the first time](#), to two PhD graduates.



To conclude the formalities, Professor Peter Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor, gave a short address to graduates encouraging them to “discern the times and to use your imaginations, as you seek out ways to serve others”.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration is planned for graduates of this ceremony to attend at a

future date to be confirmed once it is safe to do so.

To watch the online ceremony, go to: <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/news/2020-melbourne-graduation/>

PhD Graduates

Daryl James Barclay, Doctor of Philosophy, CTC

Thesis: *The Multivalent Moment in Jean-Pierre de Caussade's L'abandon à la Providence divine and Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway*

Supervisors: Reverend Professor Austin Cooper and Reverend Professor Gerald O'Collins

This thesis analyses and compares a total of 200 references to the word 'moment' in Jean-Pierre de Caussade's 1861 spiritual treatise, *L'abandon à la Providence divine*,

and Virginia Woolf's 1925 novel *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Significant conceptual overlap was established between the texts in the categories of transcendence, epiphanies, eternity and self-abandonment.



2020 University Medal Citation

Dr Daryl James Barclay has completed a doctoral thesis of exceptional quality which makes an original contribution to both literary and theological studies. Through a well-executed methodology, his thesis, *The Multivalent Moment in Jean-Pierre de Caussade's L'abandon à la Providence divine and Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway*, weaves together complex ideas which culminate in a scholarly and multi-disciplined development of the presenting concept of 'moment'. Dr Barclay has excelled in his engagement with current and past scholarship, and mastery of the French language, with his dissertation demonstrating a high level of academic acumen.



Richarda Margaretha (Rina) Madden, Doctor of Philosophy, CTC

Thesis: *Living Between: Exploring a Framework of Spirituality for Students and Teachers in Catholic Schools*

Supervisors: Reverend Dr Kevin Lenehan and Professor Didier Pollefeyt

This thesis proposes a comprehensive, relatable, theological heuristic for Christian spirituality grounded in four paradigms of human experiencing:

Vulnerability, Responsibility, Commitment and Fulfilment.

This framework of spirituality provides a dialogical and theoretical lens through which to come to theological, pedagogical and strategic recommendations around religious education in Australian Catholic schools.

Mannix Library Services

Request & Collect Service

- From Monday 25th May Mannix Library will be offering a “Request & Collect” service to all staff and students of the University of Divinity.
- To request items for pick up simply click on the “Collect from CTC foyer” button on the item record in the [Mannix Library catalogue](#).
- You will be notified when items are available for pick up (generally next day).
- Items will be available from a table in the foyer at Catholic Theological College, Monday to Friday between 12 noon and 2 pm.
- Do not come to the College if you are unwell or self-isolating for whatever reason. Physical distancing and safe hygiene practices continue to be observed and you are required to complete the building’s attendance register.
- There is no need to return items at this stage as all loans have been extended until 30 June 2020. We will contact you if someone else requests an item that you have on loan. Please be mindful of other borrowers and only request items you need.

Please email mannixlibrary@ctc.edu.au if you have any queries or require further assistance.

We hope this service assists staff and students with their preparation for final essays and exams.

Library Services for HDR Students and Academic Staff

To provide additional research services to support academic staff and higher degree by research students in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the University of Divinity announced a number of measures in April 2020:

- A \$10,000 grant to the School of Graduate Research for the purchase of eBooks and digital resources required by HDR students, to be made available via the [Library Hub](#).
- A virtual document delivery service to provide scanned copies of journal articles or chapters which are not available digitally but are held in the print collections of participating libraries, for research purposes only and subject to copyright requirements.
- A grant of \$1,000 for the provision of document delivery and interlibrary loan services for resources held in library collections in Australia or overseas.
- An e-consultancy service for academic staff and HDR students to navigate electronic resources and to assist with access to print collections.

Mannix Library staff continue to co-ordinate these services, with the assistance of ten participating libraries. More detailed information about all of these services is available at: <https://divinity.libguides.com/covid-19/research>
Requests for eBooks can be made by completing the [HDR eBook Request Form](#).

Virtual document delivery, interlibrary loan and e-consultancy service requests can be made by emailing libraryassist@divinity.edu.au

Mannix Librarian on International Board of Directors

In February 2020 Mannix Library Manager Kerrie Burn was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of Atla (formerly American Theological Library Association). Atla members elected four candidates to serve a three-year term from 2020 to 2023. This will be the first time someone from outside of North America has been elected to the Board. It's a both an honour and an opportunity.



About Atla

Established in 1946 as the American Theological Library Association, Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology.

Atla's membership includes more than 800 individuals and libraries at academic institutions from diverse religious traditions and backgrounds. As a community of collectors and connectors, Atla works to promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.

Kerrie is the Library Manager for Mannix Library at Catholic Theological College at the University of Divinity in Melbourne, Australia. She serves on the [International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force](#) and is a member of the [Roman Catholic Denominational Group](#). She currently is a member of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission, Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

On why she initially joined Atla, "The University is an institutional member of Atla, and recently became the first institution outside North America to contribute to [Atla](#) Digital Library. Engaging more with Atla arose from my desire to contribute to projects with international colleagues, and was based on the belief that theological and religious studies librarians around the world share many of the same concerns and aspirations."

Catholic Theological College congratulates Kerrie on this great honour.

New faces



**Rev. Dr Anthony Ngoc Dung Nguyen SDB.
Systematic Theology**

Rev. Dr Anthony Ngoc Nguyen SDB is a lecturer at Catholic Theological College and a member of the Systematic Theology Department. He lectures on the Sacrament of Confirmation and Penance, and is the Formator at Don Bosco House, Clifton Hill, Melbourne.

He has taught Research Methodology, Ecclesiology, Trinity, Fundamental Pastoral Theology, Family and Personal Ethics. Religious Ethics and Social Ethics at the Don Bosco Center of Studies in the Philippines and has taught Anthropology, Eschatology, Sexual Ethics and Theological Synthesis at the Rinaldi Institute of Theology, Vietnam.

His current academic interests are: Love in Plato's Philosophy, Sexual Ethics – Theology of the Body and Trinity in the Teaching of John Paul II.

His recent publications are: "*God as Father and Don Bosco as Father*" in Lantayan Theological Journal (2018–Philippines); "*To be human is to be holy*" in Damihí Animas Theological Journal (2019–Vietnam); *Foundations for Mission in Vatican II* (Presentation to a Seminar on Mission organised by Pontifical Mission Society, July 2019–Vietnam).

2020 SRC

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the College's Student Representative Council for 2020.



**Oliver Bajon
President**



**Guido Sitanggang
Vice President**



**Ezekiel Hangan
Treasurer**



**Michael Gaikwad
Secretary**



Terry Maher



**Anthony Holligan
OH&S Rep**

Vale Kay Cole

In late February, the College community was saddened by news of the death of Mrs Kay Cole. Kay was the Librarian of the Corpus Christi College Library in Clayton, now the Mannix Library, during the 1980s, and her warm personality and attention to the needs of staff and students are gratefully remembered by those who studied at Catholic Theological College and Corpus Christi College at that time.

Requiem Homily/Eulogy for Kay Cole at St. Dominic's Church, East Camberwell, February 28, 2020 by Fr Austin Cooper omi.

Today we recall with affectionate gratitude the life and work of Kay Cole; we give thanks to God for the many ways in which Kay enriched our lives and we pray that God may welcome her into the heavenly homeland.

Kay loved words. Blessed with an easy command of the language, Kay had a natural graciousness in the way she could use words to communicate with others. Kay also loved lots of words gathered together into books! And after all, books are written by people and for people and most often about people. Kay caught many a flash of what C.S. Lewis called 'God light' in the numerous books she read and pondered and in many instances prayed through. Being an intelligent reader she thought about what she read, and one cannot doubt that at its highest stages her reading gave way to a contemplative dimension to her life. Even the casual visitor to Logan Street could not fail to notice the pile of 'books on the go' stacked at Kay's elbow: and what a wonderful breadth of literature captured her interest. And I might add that Kay was always assiduous in reading things published by friends, so people like Brenda Niall, Brendan Byrne, Mark O'Brien and many others present today, can take encouragement from that. As we look at Kay's life we can detect some of the factors which shaped the gracious, intelligent human being we remember. Kay came from the Wimmera. Farming in Australia calls for a tough and realistic attitude to life. And a hardy Irish Catholic faith flourished in that oft challenging environment: it ever remained part of the Kay we all knew. But a whole new world opened up for Kay when she and her sister Fay went off as borders at Sacré Coeur Convent in Burke Road. When Kay was at Sacré Coeur she was told she should be mindful of how she lived, as people would be greatly influenced by her. How perceptive those Sacré Coeur women were! Kay responded to that ethos and could always voice a word of criticism when appropriate.



Vale Kay Cole cont.

This wonderfully varied formative period enriched Kay and prepared her well for her first job: at the State Library of Victoria. After some year at the State Library, Kay was appointed Librarian for Rio Tinto at their Melbourne headquarters.

All of us are also aware that Kay was Mrs Kay Cole. In 1970 Kay and Michael Cole married. Anyone who was a guest at Logan Street will remember two charming people of wide interests, were well read and possessed an inexhaustible fund of interesting experiences.

This year would have marked their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Sadly Michael died in 2009 and Kay remembered him with a sparkling eulogy at his Requiem here at St. Dominic's. After their marriage Kay and Michael moved to England and settled in Benson, some 15 km from Oxford, in a cottage next to the home of Michael's mother.

During their 13 years there, Kay was Librarian at St. Catherine's College, Oxford. To me, that sounds much more 'Kay' than Rio Tinto.

Michael and Kay returned to Australia in 1982. Shortly after her return Kay was appointed Librarian at the Seminary, Corpus Christi College. Kay retired from the Library in the early 90s mainly to be able to spend more time with Michael in his retirement. But Kay retained her love for learning and College life and enrolled in post graduate study.

In 2000 I was privileged to have a small graduate seminar which met in my office once a month: Kay was one of the group, Clare Pettigrew, who arranged the flowers today, was another, and the third was Fr. Werner Utri, now Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who is concelebrating here today. At some stage we four decided to go out one day for lunch. That was repeated a month later. This quickly developed into a delightful monthly practice which has lasted nearly 20 years. Our last lunch was just a few weeks ago when, because of her frailty, we met at Kay's place.

On Tuesday of last week the thought suddenly crossed my mind at 4pm that I should take Holy Communion to Kay. It was, of course, a prompting of the Holy Spirit. When I approached Kay there was no sign of any awareness; no warm greeting, no easy flow of words. It would be true to say that Kay was losing her grasp on reality. Was she? Really? When I quietly mentioned that I brought her Holy Communion she was certainly well aware: very gracefully the hand was extended to receive. In a sense 'reality' as we know it, was fast receding, and something else was happening: another Word was at work, another Book might hold the key. Indeed the Word was at work: 'Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.' In that confident faith we commend dear Kay to the boundless mercy of God. May the loving embrace of the Heavenly Father take her safely home.

So may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Austin Cooper omi, 28/02/20

Research students wanted!

GENERATION X RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION

Christina Westmore-Peyton is a Doctoral student at the University of Divinity who is doing a research project investigating Generation X and their relationship to the Catholic Church. Generation Xers were born between 1965 and 1980, now aged 39 to 54 years of age.

The people that Christina would like to interview grew up in a family where both parents were active and participating Catholics, and regularly took their children to Mass. They would have been to Catholic schools for most of their schooling. They may or may not be Church attenders now or may have become completely disaffiliated from the Church. She wants to find out about their spiritual and religious journey.

Christina is hoping to interview about 20 - 25 Gen Xers. Are you in this age-group and interested in participation? If so, Christina would be pleased to hear from you, and will provide further information about the study to anyone interested in taking part. The parents of Gen Xers are welcome to pass on this information to their adult children or other people in this age group whom they think may be interested in this valuable research.

Christina believes this project is important because it may help explain why the majority of Gen Xers no longer practise their faith in the way that their parents did. All possible steps will be taken to ensure strict confidentiality, and interviews will take place in a safe environment chosen by the interviewee and take between 1-1.5 hours.

Further information from Christina:

0407 689022 or christinawestmore@bigpond.com

CTC Facebook



Catholic Theological College now has its own Facebook page.

Be sure to check it out for all the latest news and events surrounding CTC and don't forget to like and share!

www.facebook.com/catholictheologicalcollege





Front cover image

Top row from left to right: Rosemary Canavan, Sarah Styring, Phillip Gleeson

Middle row left to right: Kevin Lenehan, Max Vodola, Jill Doncovio

Bottom row left to right: Catherine Playoust, John Bartholomeusz

Image taken during a CTC meeting on Zoom