

**Dear Members**

**T**his is the first edition of the newsletter for 2011. It contains some important notices for members. For your information, the first meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is scheduled for 13 March, 2011. Included in this edition is the Schedule of Meetings for 2011.

We would like to thank our members for their support and look forward to meeting with them at the forthcoming meetings.

ACHS Council

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**

The next meeting of the Society is the Annual General Meeting to be held at

**2.30 P.M. ON SUNDAY, 13 MARCH, 2011**

**at**

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE HALL, SYDNEY.**

The Agenda will be:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers
- Guest Speaker (Mr. Cliff Baxter, Knights of the Southern Cross)

**NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILLORS FOR 2011**

Please note that all positions on the Council of the Society are declared vacant at each AGM and you are actively encouraged to nominate for a position. Some Councillors are not standing for re-election for the coming year and the good work they have done needs to be carried on as the Society moves into the future. The Society depends upon both the support of its members and on the efforts of its Council. It should be noted that all Councillors are volunteers. As the Council will be seriously depleted after the AGM, Members are urged to consider volunteering to serve on the Council or perhaps asking another person to accept nomination. If you are interested in assisting in this way, please contact ACHS Councillor, Helen Scanlon, on Tel. 02) 9958 6817 or, alternatively, the Society at ACHS, P.O. Box A621, Sydney South, NSW, 1235, NSW.

# Mary Ward Lecture

**O**n Sunday 14 November 2010 Sr. Christine Burke, Australian Provincial Leader of Loreto Sisters (The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary), spoke on their foundress, Mary Ward. The topic varied from that published, being motivated by the recent canonisation of St. Mary MacKillop. Both Mary Ward and Mary MacKillop pursued their missions in the face of great difficulties and, at times, seeming abandonment. They also displayed courage and authenticity and their institutes and work continue in the modern age.

Mary Ward was born in 1585 into a recusant Catholic Yorkshire family and experienced the oppression of Catholics in Elizabethan England. In the Christian World beyond there was often violent dissention between Catholics and Protestants as the Reformation took hold in some European countries and was opposed in others. Religion was an essential part of politics and society and people were passionate about their faith. It was also a period of exploration and colonisation by some European countries. Economic activity increased and the Arts and Science expanded, but some old ways remained. Health was a problem; infant mortality was high; transport was by foot, horse, carriage or boat; and women were subordinate in almost all things. There are some surviving sources which inform us about Mary. Among these are some autobiographical fragments, notes, letters, Vatican archives, an early biography and some paintings.

From a young age Mary felt the call to become a nun. This was initially opposed by her family and even her spiritual director, but in 1605 she entered an enclosed convent in Europe. She felt that she was being called to something other than being a nun in an enclosed convent and left. She returned to England and discreetly, at first, commenced pastoral work. Gradually she was joined by others in that work.

By 1611 her group had also established schools in Europe and Mary attempted to model her group along similar lines to the Jesuits. She also began the process of gaining papal approval. There was initial support from her Jesuit spiritual advisor Fr Roger Lee, but there was also strong opposition from influential clergy and religious groups. By 1615 Mary proposed three principals for her group: freedom to refer all to God; to be passionate for justice; and to display integrity. In 1620 she accompanied a small group who walked to Rome

to further press for official approbation, but continued to face resistance and opposition. Her sisters were denigrated as “galloping girls” and “Jesuitesses”. The idea of women undertaking apostolic work was opposed as, it was asserted, they were not capable of this. Despite official opposition, the work of her sisters flourished. By 1630 they had begun schools in Cologne, Munich, Rome, Naples, Pressburg and Prague.

In 1630 the formal suppression of her Institute began. In 1631 she was imprisoned in Cologne and her sisters were turned out of their houses. A Papal Bull of suppression was also issued. Mary was released from prison and summonsed to Rome where she was cleared of heresy, but her Institute remained suppressed and watched by the Inquisition.

In 1637 a small group returned to England where they operated, under private vows, a school in London which moved to York during the Civil War. In her last years, Mary suffered poor health and died in 1645. She is buried in a church yard at Osbaldwick, outside York.

Mary’s way involved a number of qualities: a deepening relationship with God; an adult engagement with her faith; encouraging others to work with her; a belief in the ability of women; a reconciling and forgiving approach based on respect for others; maintaining hope and a cheerful mind; and an enduring conviction that she was engaged in God’s work.

In answering questions, Sr Christine mentioned that Jesuit-based Constitutions were granted in the 1980s, after the renewal of Vatican II. However, approval for the Institute as a religious congregation, but not according to Mary Ward’s outline for it had been given earlier – 1749.

*Geoff Hogan, ACHS Councillor.*



Mary Ward, Foundress, The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary Ward Portrait © Geistliches Zentrum Maria Ward Augsburg, Foto Tanner, Nesselwang

# The 2010 Society Christmas Lunch

**O**n 11 December, 2010, around 40 members attended the Christmas Party at the Castlereagh Club (formerly known as the Catholic Club), 99 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. In the absence of the President, Howard Murray, Margaret Zucker welcomed the guests and introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. John Carmody. Margaret had organized a most delicious menu, which was thoroughly enjoyed in the Club's very attractive Function Room.

In his paper entitled, "Perceiving Christmas through its Wrappings", Dr. Carmody provided some interesting insights into the diverse ways in which Christmas is celebrated in Germany and other European countries. He explained that he had spent several periods of professional work in those countries, during which he had been able to observe their Christmas celebrations. Dr. Carmody pointed out the ways in which their different languages and cultures are reflected in the

subtle variations in emphases in their distinctive Christmas celebrations, including the timing of gift exchanges and the significance accorded to the feast of the Epiphany.

*Images courtesy Helen Scanlon, ACHS Councillor.*



Brian and Beth McAteer.



Mr John and Mrs Anne Taylor.



Gabrielle McDonough, Sister Moira O'Sullivan, rsc and Father Michael O'Sullivan



Brother John Luttrell, fms and Margaret Zuckerm



Shirley Storrier, Helen Barrie and Joan Unwin;

## Membership Renewals

Renewal subscriptions were due on 1 January, 2011. To check when your subscription is due, please check the date on the printed address label on your newsletter envelope. If the date is 1 January, 2010, this will be your last newsletter until a further subscription is received from you.

## New Chaplain

We are pleased to announce that His Eminence, Cardinal Pell, has appointed Father George Connolly as Chaplain to the Society.

## Welcome to New Members

Dr. John Carmody

Ms. Patricia McGill

## Obituaries:

We regret to report the deaths of the following members:

Rev. Father Tom Boland (7 December, 2010)

Rev. Father Cyril Hally (18 May, 2010)

## Forthcoming National Museum of Australia Exhibition

### THE IRISH IN AUSTRALIA

NOT JUST NED: A TRUE HISTORY OF THE IRISH IN AUSTRALIA

17 March to 31 July 2011

The above exhibition will open at the National Museum of Australia on St. Patrick's Day, 17 March, 2011. The exhibition will cover the Irish presence in Australia from the day of the arrival of the first Fleet in January 1788 to the continuing arrival in our own time of young Irish backpackers. This exhibition promises to provide new insights into the history of the Irish in Australia, which will be of great interest to the Society's members.

For full details see the Museum's Website: [http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/irish\\_in\\_Australia](http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/irish_in_Australia)

**Entrance Fees:** Adults \$10 Children \$5  
Concession \$8 Family \$22

The Museum is located in Lawson Crescent, Acton Peninsula, Canberra and is open daily from 9am-5pm.

## ACHS Journal Editor

Unfortunately, the Journal was not issued during 2010 because the position of Journal Editor has been vacant since the retirement of Brother John Luttrell 12 months ago. The publication of the papers presented by volunteer speakers at the Society's monthly meetings is extremely important so that all Members and other interested parties can share the information provided by those speakers. The Council would be most grateful if Members would consider undertaking this important role or providing the names of others who may be willing to do so.

## ACHS Newsletter

Members are reminded that the aim of the Newsletter is to provide members with notices of the Society's monthly lecture programme and summaries of those lectures; notices of forthcoming events and news of particular relevance to the ACHS. The current voluntary Newsletter Editor has encountered some difficulty in sourcing suitable articles for the Newsletter and would appreciate any assistance that can be provided by Members in that regard.

## 2011 LECTURE PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at St. Mary's cathedral College Hall and commence at 2.30 p.m.

Date	Speaker and Topic *(Actual title to be decided.)
13 March	Cliff Baxter, Knights of the Southern Cross *
10 April	Alison Healey: <i>"The Grail – 75 Years: an international women's movement and the Australian Church"</i>
15 May	David Bollen, Institute of Counselling*
19 June	Sr. Margaret Ghosn, <i>"Marionite settlement and Institutional development in Australia"</i>
17 July	Anne Henderson, <i>"Faith and Politics: Dame Enid Lyons"</i>
14 August	Vince Crow, <i>"Secular and Religious Firsts of Haberfield"</i>
11 September	Excursion to Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount Street, North Sydney, NSW – Chapel, Museum, Talk
9 October	James Dominguez, Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta *
13 November	Jane Carolan, Catholic Church Insurance Centenary*
10 December	Christmas Lunch. Venue to be advised. Speaker, Father Jim Boland, <i>"Religious Services at Sydney Olympics"</i>