



# BRISBANE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Under the patronage of Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane

Volume 24, No. 1, June 2024

Dear members and friends

Communications from the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society have been as scarce as hen's teeth this year, and we apologise sincerely for this. The Society has undergone a difficult transition to new management. Fr Chris Hanlon, our dedicated President for over two decades, retired from his position, and it took some time to fill his shoes. At the Society's Annual General Meeting on 22 February, no nominations were received, and so—after heroic work by then-Secretary Luke Preston—an Extraordinary General Meeting was held by Zoom on 26 March. At this meeting, a slate of office-bearers (informally agreed after the AGM) was declared elected. The new Committee has since been working to develop a program of speakers for the latter half of this year, and we can now announce below our first two events for this year. The Committee has also resolved to experiment with different times and venues for our presentations, to suit particular topics and in the hope of greater participation.

A second reason for the absence of communications since the election of the new committee has been a problem with our email system, arising from system changes made by Google. We had hoped to resolve these quickly and get a newsletter out to you, but the resolution is taking longer than expected. Hence we have temporarily reverted to the gmail address previously used by our secretary Sister Anne Hetherington, and this newsletter is coming to you from [secretarybchs@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybchs@gmail.com) (rather than from [secretary@brisbanecatholichistoricalociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@brisbanecatholichistoricalociety.org.au)). (We are still receiving emails addressed to [secretary@brisbanecatholichistoricalociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@brisbanecatholichistoricalociety.org.au), but cannot reliably send from that address.)

## New Committee

The new committee of the Society, as elected on 26 March, is as follows:

**President: Michael Halliday.** Michael is a retired Judicial Officer (Magistrate and Coroner) and Barrister who has a keen interest in history, especially ancient classical history. Michael presently holds the positions of: Deputy President, Friends of Antiquity, University of Queensland; Convenor, Science and Philosophy Interest Group, The Queensland Club; and Convenor of History and Public Interest Group, Tattersalls Club. Former positions held include that of Vice President, Royal Historical Society of Queensland and President, Cook Society of Queensland. Michael is an active member of St Thomas Aquinas Church St Lucia, and Coordinator of Catholic Religious Instruction at Ironside State School.

**Secretary: Patrick O'Neill.** Patrick came to Australia in 1994 to study archives management. He worked at the National Library, Parliamentary Library and Australian National Audit Office, before moving to Brisbane in 2021 and becoming Joint Archdiocesan Archivist in 2022.

**Treasurer: Luke Preston.** Luke is a Brisbane solicitor specialising in construction law, and has been a member of the BCHS Committee since 2021. To complement his post-graduate qualifications in law, Luke is presently completing a Bachelor of Arts in the Classics. With a particular interest in ecclesiastical and mediaeval history, Luke has spoken internationally on the parallels between the design and erection of Europe's Gothic cathedrals and problems encountered in modern construction law. Locally, he is currently finalising a paper on construction and design elements of the three St Mary's Churches in Ipswich.

### **Committee Members**

**Ignatius (Ian) Bonaccorso.** Ian holds a Master of Education (Hons) from UNE Armidale NSW. He is the author of two published books significant to Queensland history. He is a long-term member of RHSQ and in 2021 was awarded the Centenary Medal by the Society for his contribution on the Queensland Italian diaspora. Ian has been an ongoing member of the BCHS Committee for the past seven years.

**John Browning.** A retired educationalist, John has an MA in Modern History from Oxford University. He is the author of *Always Mindful – A History of Catholic Education in Central Queensland 1863-1990* and *Welcome Learning – A brief history of Goodna's Catholic School*, as well as many articles and some books on railway history. He is a member of the Governing Council of Good Samaritan Education, a Ministerial Public Juridic Person.

**Dr Neville Buch.** Neville is an expert on histories and historiography of big belief and doubt. He has been a Q ANZAC Fellow at the State Library of Queensland (2015-2016), and a speechwriter and higher education researcher, working with four Vice-Chancellors. He is well-published and recognised for his contribution in the histories of both Catholic secondary and state primary education in Queensland, as well as histories in the cultural and religious shaping of Protestant and Catholic organisations.

**Judith Gardiner.** Judith has had a career in non-government and government education as a teacher and curriculum professional, working for many years in Queensland Catholic Education Commission before taking up a senior role with the Queensland Studies Authority. From 2008 she served as the Executive Officer and company secretary for Mercy Partners, prior to taking a position in the Rockhampton Diocesan Office. She currently serves as a non-Executive Director on two college boards. Judith holds a Master of Theology (UNE), and a Master of Educational Studies (QUT), Judith is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) She joined the Committee of BCHS in April 2023.

### **Thanks for your long service, Fr Chris Hanlon**

Fr Chris Hanlon has been President of our Society for over two decades, and our debt of gratitude to him is enormous. Fr Chris, thank you for your dedicated service! Your contribution to the Society will be formally recognised at one of our meetings later in the year.

## Upcoming Presentations

The Society's 2024 program will begin with two presentations during August:

5.30 pm, Thursday **1 August**: Margaret Begg, "Meanderings of the Catholic Women's League", Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre;

**15 August**, Fr Frank Brennan SJ, "An Historical Sketch of Attempts to Recognise First Australians in the Constitution", *suburban venue to be confirmed*.

**BCHS Presentation**  
**Meanderings of the Catholic Women's League**


**Speaker – Margaret Begg**

**Archdiocesan Patroness of  
Catholic Women's League**

Commencing at 5.30 pm  
Thursday 1 August 2024

Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, next to St  
Stephen's Cathedral.

All members are invited, and you are welcome to bring  
along a friend or two



An email invitation to Margaret Begg's presentation will follow this newsletter.

### **Advance notice of later presentations (further details in due course)**

October, **at Ipswich**: Luke Preston will speak about "Construction and design elements of the three St Mary's Churches, Ipswich".

Saturday 23 November, at the **Hanly Room**: Bishop Ken Howell will speak about the history of the Cathedral.

## Queensland Catholic History Facebook Group

A Facebook Group has been set up to feature aspects of the history of the Catholic Church and Catholic communities throughout Queensland.

Anyone can view and post at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/QldCatholicHistory> and there is no need to join Facebook to do so.

A recent posting features the reflections of our past Treasurer, Maree Ganley, on her forthcoming book on the history of the Diocese of Rockhampton.

## **Cathedral Sesquicentenary**

St Stephen's Cathedral celebrated the end of its sesquicentenary year on 17 May, and the following day Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination. The Archbishop's homilies on each occasion are well worth watching:

- Sesquicentenary, homily at 43 minutes:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaN9Je\\_royU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaN9Je_royU)
- Golden Jubilee, homily at 46 minutes:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X01SWCjrWEQ>

The Archdiocese also produced a 5-minute Youtube video to celebrate the Cathedral:  
*Celebrating 150 Years of the Cathedral of St Stephen - From Its Humble Beginnings to Now*,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fyhl7nNwr9o>

Archbishop Coleridge has also made three short videos on his life:

- Episode 1, The Life of a 68er - Archbishop Mark's Reflections on 50 years of pastoral service, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nanokwwrsU>
- Episode 2, Pastoral Mud on the Boots:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgzFhfl6EN0>
- Episode 3, The Great Awakening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBoirjapNdE>

## **Annual subscriptions are now due!**

Thank you to all members who have paid their subscription fees for 2024. Other members are requested to attend to payment as soon as practicable. The cost of your annual subscription remains at \$35 per person or family living at the same address. If paying electronically, please remember to include your name so that your payment can be identified. If you do not wish to continue your membership, it would be appreciated if you could let the Secretary know and your name will be removed from our mailing list.

Our preferred method of payment is electronic:

BSB: 064786, Account: 047995100 Reference: your name