

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
BRISBANE
CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Volume Eighteen
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Brisbane Catholic Historical Society

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Volume 18 of the Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society.

When the last Volume of Proceedings appeared at the end of 2020, we like the rest of the world, were coming to grips with the Pandemic known as COVID 19. The lockdowns and other restrictions as well as the spread of the illness throughout the community might well have seen the end of societies such as ours.

Instead, the opposite has happened. As the papers presented here demonstrate, the speakers found in this volume have been drawn from across the length and breadth of the state of Queensland. For the first time since the inception of the Society by Rev. Dr. T.P. Boland in 1988, speakers and topics relating to the entire Ecclesiastical Province of Brisbane have been able to be accommodated.

This has been the result of technological advances which have to some extent removed the tyranny of distance that hitherto has existed between us. “Zoom” meetings as well as the Society’s “webpage” have facilitated the communication process. Regular newsletters have enhanced the contributions via the print medium, reviewing the activities of the Society.

Of even more importance, the dedicated and constant service of the Society's Secretary, Mr. Luke Preston, and the members of Society's Executive Committee has borne fruit in the pages which follow. To them I extend my deepest thanks for what has been achieved, together with my earnest hope that this will be just one of many more such attempts to share the story of our Faith in Queensland.

Nine papers from a number of perspectives are presented for your enjoyment. Sr. Anne Hetherington OAM offers an insight into the Potters of Longford and their contribution to the Queensland Church. Dr. Peter Webb tells us the story of Mount St. Bernard College, Herberton, a feature of church life on the Atherton Tableland for the last century. Mr. Damien Morgan presents a history of the 'Gem of the West', the story of St. Joseph's Church, Dalby over the past hundred years. Fr. Chris Hanlon continues his series of studies of pioneer Queensland priests with a look into the life of the Irishman, Fr. Stephen Henry McDonough in Warwick and Central Queensland. Ms. Judith Gardiner looks at the career of Fr. William Hanley, "The Apostle of the Diamantina". The Toowoomba Diocesan Archivist, Miss Gabrielle Saide reveals the career of Fr. Fulgentius Hodebourg on the Darling Downs in the 1860s. (Fr. Hodebourg arrived with Bishop James Quinn in 1861 and left with him when Quinn set out for Vatican I in 1869. Following the delivery of this paper, further material was discovered of

Hodebourg, before and after his time in Queensland – One looks forward to seeing this material on a later occasion). Dr. Rosemary Kennedy presents the story of Elizabeth Lehane (1850-1912), a pioneer Catholic woman. Finally, Miss Cathryn King details the history of Catholic Education in the Bundaberg parish. Bundaberg lies at the heart of many events in the life of the Queensland Church, and this central role is recounted enthusiastically in Miss King's presentation.

I wish you, our readers, many hours of happy reading.

Rev. Dr. Chris Hanlon

President,

BRISBANE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONTRIBUTORS

SR. ANNE HETHERINGTON OAM is a Sister of Mercy and a former teacher who lives in Brisbane. She has done extensive research into the Potter family, both in Ireland and in Australia.

DR. PETER WEBB has taught and studied in Catholic schools and universities in Australia and the United States. He was appointed principal of Mt St Bernard College in 1993. He is currently involved in spiritual direction and supervision, and in parish religious education.

MR. DAMIEN MORGAN is retired and has lived in St Joseph's Parish, Dalby for 24 years. He was a teacher and administrator in Catholic primary and P-12 schools in Victoria and Queensland for 39 years.

REV. DR. CHRIS HANLON is the President of our Society, has a particular interest in Brisbane Archdiocesan history and has authored many publications on the subject.

MS. JUDITH GARDINER, MEd, M.Theol, GAICD lives on the Sunshine Coast, is retired after a long career in Catholic education and Diocesan agencies and is now enjoying her passion of writing family history.

MISS GABRIELLE SAIDE has filled the role of Toowoomba Diocesan Archivist since April 2002. She has a special interest in Church and family history and loves research.

DR. ROSEMARY KENNEDY is a family historian who has researched the achievements and tragedies of her long-forgotten Queensland forebears, the Lehanes and Mulcahys from Ireland.

MISS CATHRYN KING taught in various Brisbane Catholic Education schools for 33 years. In retirement in Bundaberg, and with a Graduate Diploma in Local and Applied History, she answered the call from Fr. Terry Loth to establish an archive for the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg in about 2009.

DR. MAREE GANLEY is currently drawing on the recollections and records of past and current Catholics in central and coastal Queensland to produce a 140-year history of the Catholic Church in Rockhampton.