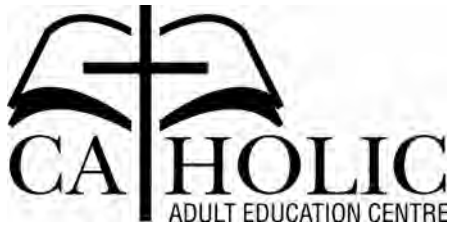


February 2004 SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A SERVICE OF CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS, SYDNEY



Seminar on *Veritatis Splendor*

On Saturday 21st February, the Catholic Adult Education Centre is holding a half-day seminar on the encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, 9:30am - 1:30pm. All are welcome to attend this explanation and discussion of this important encyclical.

The basic program for the day is:

- 9:30am Registration -
Welcome and Introduction
- 10:15 Fr Anthony Robbie -
The significance of *Veritatis Splendor*
- 11:15 Fr John Flader -
Overview of the Encyclical
- 12:45 Peter Holmes -
The Truth will set you free
- 1:15 Open Forum & Closing Prayer

For more information please contact the centre on 9643 3660.

Welcome to Sydney Snapshot

Welcome back to the new year and the first edition of Sydney Snapshot for 2004. The new year continues to bring new initiatives to birth within the Archdiocese. We highlight the first of these, with a profile of the new Academic Research Fellow, Prof. Hayden Ramsay. The internal directory will be available on-line next week. Please continue to notify Sue Hanna [Ext. 300] of any changes or corrections. We also highlight a Census Data seminar, and new courses at CAEC.

Other new staff to begin include:

Sr Giovanni Farquer RSJ - the *Director* of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Helen Philippou, *Coordinator* of the Office for Evangelisation and Renewal. 9752 9686 - coordinator@oer.org.au

Doug Mawhinney, *Personal Assistant* to Bishop Julian Porteous. 9752 9605 - doug@sydarch.org.au

Richard Healey

richard@sydney.catholic.org.au

Profile: Prof. Hayden Ramsay Academic Research Fellow

Dr Hayden Ramsay began work at the start of January as Academic Research Fellow for Cardinal Pell and the Archdiocese. *Snapshot* asked him to introduce himself and talk about what he will be doing in his new role.

I was born in the county of Fife in Scotland in 1964. I studied philosophy at Edinburgh University from 1982-91. From 1986 I taught philosophy at the University, moving to the University of Stirling in 1992. I left Scotland for Melbourne in 1994, taught for 4 years at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities, before beginning work for (then) Archbishop Pell of Melbourne. I served on the Archbishop's staff and taught in the seminary, Catholic Theological College and John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family until January of this year when I moved to Sydney to begin work as Academic Research Fellow.

Well, that all sounds a bit dull but in fact I think I have one of the most interesting jobs in the Archdiocese! My job includes teaching philosophy, in particular ethics, at CIS and the John Paul II Institute; offering short courses at CAEC and Good Shepherd Seminary; undertaking and publishing academic research; publishing in popular and Catholic journals; supporting the work of the Cardinal; assisting certain other agencies; and giving talks to chaplaincies, youth groups, and others. On Saturdays I'll sleep!

Academics sometimes have a reputation for keeping apart from everyday life and practical affairs. That's certainly not a Catholic view of philosophy or academic life.

John Paul II's last Encyclical bore one—*Fides et Ratio*—taught that every person builds a 'philosophy of life' for themselves. Everybody seeks answers to difficult human questions, especially at the hard times in our lives. Philosophers basically teach and write about the questions we all think about, but have the time and background to think fairly deeply and systematically.

Today's world is often described as anti-intellectual, hell-bent on pleasure. Catholic tradition responds to this that doing some thinking expresses human dignity in a special way. And it's also great fun once you've got the basics under your belt.

Professor Ramsay is pictured below.



Polding Centre News New Mass times

Mass times at the Chapel of Our Lady on Level 6 for Thursday and Friday have changed to 12.30pm on both days. New times are:

- Monday - 8.30am
- Tuesday - 8.30am
- Wednesday - 8.30am
- Thursday - 12.30pm
- Friday - 12.30pm

Polding Centre Intranet

The first stage of the new Polding Centre Intranet will be available for you to access early next week. The site initially contains an on-line version of the Internal Directory, last published back in June 2003. Updated Policy documents, and access to the Conference Room bookings will be available soon.

The Intranet will be available from links on the Archdiocese website, and directly at this address: <http://sydarch.org.au/polding>

User name & password will be emailed to you.



Invitation to directors and staff of Catholic agencies and organisations in Sydney.

Diocesan Census Seminar

A seminar organised by the ACBC Pastoral Projects Office will be held to enable participants to understand and use the 2001 Census data acquired for the National Catholic Census Project.

Date: Tuesday, 2 March 2004, 9.30am to 1pm.

Venue: Mary Mackillop Place, 80 William Street, North Sydney.

Who is it for? For anyone in a diocesan office or organisation who needs to know about the Catholic population of their diocese or State. Others who would find it helpful would be diocesan fundraisers and finance personnel, staff from Catholic Education Offices, Pastoral Planning, Centacare, Caritas, Mission, Youth Ministry, and so on.

Purpose: To provide an introduction to the 2001 Australian Census data and to show participants how to use it for the benefit of their office/agency.

Content:

1. What Census data is available
2. Finding the information you want in ready-made reports
3. Creating your own Census reports with free SuperTable software
4. Sharing experiences of using Census data
5. Some limitations of Census data

Resources: Participants will be provided with a CD containing the Census data, free Census software and ready-made Census reports. (One CD per agency/office)

The Census data covers an extensive range of characteristics describing the Catholic population and, in some cases, the total population as well. The available personal variables include age and sex, marital status, educational qualifications, occupation, labour force status, birthplace, year of arrival in Australia, languages spoken at home, proficiency in English, ancestry, change of address since previous Census, indigenous status, type of educational institution being attended and others. We also have a range of family and household variables such as family income, family type, couple relationship and monthly housing loan repayment. All of this data is available through the National Catholic Census Project, which is jointly funded by the ACBC and the State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions.

Cost: \$20 to cover the cost of the venue and morning tea (to be paid on the day). Cheques made payable to *Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Secretariat*.

RSVP: Peter O'Reilly, Pastoral Planning Officer, Diocese of Broken Bay - Fax (02) 9473 4599 or poreilly@brokenbay.catholic.org.au

2004 Calendar

An updated Calendar of events as set by the Holy See, the Australian Bishops Conference and the Archdiocese of Sydney to assist you in your planning is now available on the Archdiocesan website - www.sydney.catholic.org.au/Archdiocese/calendar.shtml

New Appointment

Sr Giovanni Farquer RSJ began her appointment as Executive Director of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations last week. She may be contacted on 9390 5168 (ext 168) or on her new email address: interfaith@sydney.catholic.org.au. A profile of Sr Farquer will feature in next month's *Sydney Snapshot*.

CAEC Lenten Program

COME, FOLLOW ME

This year's Lenten Program, ideal for small group use in schools and parishes, is based on six Lenten themes:

1. The meaning of Lent
2. The importance of self-denial
3. The life of prayer
4. The commandment of love
5. The joy of forgiveness
6. The gift of the Eucharist

It comes as a booklet accompanied with a CD. Each session begins with a prayer and Taizé hymn, followed by a reading from the Gospel passage appropriate to the Lenten theme, a commentary on the Gospel, questions for reflection and discussion, a brief recorded meditation, responsorial psalm and prayers of intercession.



Copies may be purchased by contacting CAEC on 9643 3660.

February events

- 2 Feb - Presentation of the Lord
- 5 Feb - St Agatha, *Virgin & Martyr*
- 6 Feb - St Paul Miki & companions, *Martyrs*
- 10 Feb - St Scholastica, *Virgin*
- 11 Feb - World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- 17 Feb - Servite Order Founders
- 21 Feb - St Peter Damian, *Bishop & Doctor*
- 23 Feb - St Polycarp, *Bishop & Martyr*
- 25 Feb - Ash Wednesday
(Season of Lent begins)
- 29 Feb - Rite of Election (RCIA) - Cathedral
(First Sunday of Lent)

"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful..." (Joel 2:13).

With this exhortation ... the Church begins her Lenten pilgrimage, the acceptable time for returning: for returning to God from whom we have turned away. This, in fact, is the meaning of the penitential journey: to return to the Father's house, bearing in our hearts the confession of our own guilt. The psalmist invites us to say over and over: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love" (Ps 51:1), in the conviction that God the Father, who "sees in secret", goes out to meet the repentant sinner as we return.

Pope John Paul II, *Ash Wednesday Homily, 1999*

