

PROCEEDINGS
OF
BRISBANE
CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Brisbane Catholic Historical Society

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Volume 17 of the Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society. As usual, when I come to write introductions to our Journal, I am surprised at the scale of the various developments that have taken place in the life of the Society since the appearance of the last volume.

The current occasion presents an even more memorable series of events. When I last wrote, in 2016, we had just survived as an historical society by the “skin of our teeth”. Our funds were almost exhausted and it was only as a result of the generosity of our Patron, the Archbishop of Brisbane, Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, that we were able to find a new meeting venue, after the demise of our former room in The Irish Club. At the end of 2020, the Society will have been meeting in The Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre for five years. We have become accustomed to one another.

Then came COVID 19 and global events were disrupted on a scale not seen since the two world wars and the 1918-19 Spanish flu. Thankfully, despite the quarantines, lockdowns, social distancing, and other measures, we have only had to cancel one meeting, that of April 2020, when even Easter ceremonies were restricted to live streaming.

The Society has been saved by a process of diversification in both our means of communication and the content of our material. The Society's website, launched in 2018 has proved of great assistance in this regard, supplying newsletters and other material. For those who have forgotten, as well as those who missed the original website launch, I repeat its address once more: www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au

To this has been added an application known as "Zoom". Thanks to the effort of our Secretary, Sister Anne Hetherington, we have been able to stream three of this year's meetings. This has not been totally free from faults, but, as music teachers in former days used say: "Practice makes perfect." Zoom offers us 2 advantages: 1) People from outside the Hanly Room throughout the State can access meetings; and 2) For some time there has been a difficulty regarding meeting times – now our speakers can be seen from the surroundings of their own homes.

Finally, inspired by COVID 19, some of our members have written books. Mr. Ignatius (Ian) Bonacorso has produced *Davadi. Fruit, Wine and Religion*, a biography of Fr. Jerome Davadi "Father of the Fruit and Wine Industry of Stanthorpe." To commemorate 150 years since the end of the First Vatican Council in 1870, the completion of the Unification of Italy and the Fall of the Papal States (*XX Settembre*) the Archbishop, in August, launched my book *The Catholic Church in Colonial*

Queensland 1859-1918. This book is an attempt to provide a history of the Queensland Catholic Church, our way of doing things as distinct from those of Sydney or Melbourne. (Reviews of both books will be found later in this Journal.) A third book by Dr. Marie Ganley is due to be launched at our December meeting. It is entitled: *The Long Road to School: Sea Pictures of a Convent Boarding School*. We look forward to hearing more of this later.

Within the pages of this Journal, readers will find articles directed towards various aspects of Queensland Catholic life. Sister Anne Hetherington recounts the story of St. Stephen's School, in the heart of the city. Dr. Liz Hampson walks us through the history of Rosalie Parish, now absorbed as part of the more expansive Jubilee Parish. Drs. Robin and Rodney Sullivan take us on an illustrated journey, which looks at various Irish Catholic Monuments in South-East Queensland.

A series of biographical papers is included in this volume also. Mr. Paul Dielemans examines the career of architect Frank Cullen, brother of Fr. Jim Cullen and nephew of Sir James Duhig. Dielemans describes Cullen's architectural style as "moderately modern". Mr. Peter Mylne analyses the career of Patrick William Shannon, his early years and his role on the Land Court.

One of the Society's former Patrons, Emeritus Archbishop John Alexius Bathersby, died on 9th March 2020, following a stroke. Archbishop Bathersby was

always interested in local and family history. This was revealed in an episode of the BBC produced series *Who Do You Think You Are?* A brief Valedictory is found later in this volume. John Bathersby's funeral, on 16th March, also proved to be an occasion of note. He was buried with his predecessors in the crypt of St. Stephen's Cathedral – it was the day the COVID 19 lock down began.

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

Rev. Dr. Chris Hanlon

President,

BRISBANE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONTRIBUTORS

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MR PETER MYLNE is a Brisbane barrister who is researching the story of his grandfather Patrick William Shannon, a former member of the Land Court.

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