

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LITURGY (NSW CHAPTER)

CONVENOR'S COMMENTS



An occasional newsletter

Issued: 21 June 2004

Dear Colleagues,

My apologies for the delay in getting this edition of *Convenor's Comments* out to you, but the last few weeks have been a busy one – not the least because of the ongoing dramas with insurance companies.

In this edition you'll find a brief summary of our last meeting, as well as details of our future meetings for 2004, National Conference information, and a few other pieces of news that members have asked me to pass along to you. Please read them and make them use of the information as you see fit.

As always, if you have something you would like advertised to the membership of the NSW Chapter please feel free to drop me a line and I will do my best to do so for you.

Pax,

Andrew Doohan

1. NSW CHAPTER MEETING

The last meeting of the NSW Chapter of the Australian Academy of Liturgy took place on **Thursday 3rd June** at the Lidcombe Catholic Centre. We had a very good roll-up with close to twenty members in attendance – including some of our newest members. It was good to see so many of our number turning out to engage in some lively debate and discussion – not to mention the fellowship that came afterwards.

We took the opportunity at the meeting to revisit the timing of our regular meetings. After some discussion the Chapter decided to leave things unchanged for the foreseeable future – that is, the Chapter will meet on the First Thursday of every second month (February, April, June, August, October, December), and will usually commence at 4:30pm.

We received a briefing from Paul Mason about the developments in the Academy's website. It is hoped that this project will still be launched close to the end of June. It was decided that an 'editorial board' would be advantageous in ensuring that the website is a quality production and means of promoting both the Academy and liturgy in general.

We discussed the draft program for the 2005 Academy National Conference. There was a general consensus that the Conference program looked good but some areas (the ritual areas on Tuesday afternoon) needed both expansion (to include things like Institutional Lament and Transition) and explanation. As a Chapter, we decided to work on how to ritualise National Disasters and Institutional Lament – the lists of those who volunteered for each of the two 'task groups' can be found below.

A reminder that our next meeting will take place on Thursday 5th August and will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. We will meet at 4:30pm as usual and hopefully commence with Evening Prayer – stay tuned for further details in the next edition of *Convenor's Comments*.

2. FUTURE MEETINGS

The remaining meetings of the NSW Chapter for 2004, as discussed at our meeting in February, are as below. Please add them to your diary, so that we can make an effort to have as many members present at these remaining meetings.

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Date	Location	Notes
August 5th	St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, Parramatta	
October 7th	TBA – but somewhere out of Sydney	In an act of solidarity with our non-metropolitan members, we're venturing out of Sydney heading towards Canberra. More details to follow (including a possible change of date)
December 2nd	Lidcombe Catholic Centre	

3. CONFERENCE 2005

Another reminder that the next National Conference of the Australian Academy of Liturgy will be held from **Monday 17th to Thursday 20th January 2005** at the University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle WA. Put the dates in your diaries now, and start saving your pennies!

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 'TASK GROUPS'

Listed below are those who appended their names to the two 'Task Groups' covering the areas we have opted to work on in preparation for the 2005 National Conference. If your name isn't on one these lists – why not!?! Seriously, if you would like to partake in the work of one of the two groups, please let me know and I will add your name as appropriate.

Institutional Lament	National Disasters
James MacPherson	Anthony Crook
Tom Peacock	Paul Mason
Michael Jiear	Peter Williams
John Boyle	Andrew Doohan
Gerard Moore	John de Lange
David Orr	Julie Kelly
	Carmel Pilcher

5. DOMINICAN COMMUNITY EVENING PRAYER

You are invited to join the Dominican Community in the prayer of the Church for the many needs of our country and the world. All welcome. Evening Prayer Sunday 27 June, Santa Sabina College Chapel, 90 The Boulevarde, Strathfield, 5.50pm for 6.00pm.

6. UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES

The Centre of Medieval Studies of the University of Sydney will be hosting a one day symposium entitled "Commemoration, Ritual and Performance: A Symposium on Medieval and Early Modern Music" on Wednesday 21st July from 9am to 6:15pm. The day will take place in the Common Room, John Woolley Building (A20).

Within the confines of the Western Church it could be argued that all ritual had a commemorative function, and contained a performative dimension. This Symposium will focus on aspects of commemoration, ritual or performance as they relate to the research of the participants, each of whom will focus on a repertory, a feast, a place, or a region. The papers will be followed by a short concert of music drawn from the research of the participants.

For more information contact Dr Jane Hardie on 9719 8559 or by email on jmh@mail.usyd.edu.au.

7. GREGORIAN CHANT TODAY

ACU National present a conference entitled "Gregorian Chant Today" on the weekend of 9th to 10th July, featuring a keynote presentation by distinguished Chant scholar, Professor Ruth Steiner (Catholic

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University of America). Dr Rachel Kohn, ABC Radio National, "The Ark" program, interviews Steiner on Sunday 27th June at 7:10pm, to be repeated on Wednesday 30th June at 2:15pm. Join us at Mount St Mary Campus for Choral welcome, Ruth Steiner's presentation, and a reception, on Friday 9th July at 6.15pm for 7.00pm (waged \$60, non-waged \$40). For more details contact May Ortiz (02) 9701 4397, m.ortiz@mary.acu.edu.au.

For further details visit: "Gregorian Chant for Today" 9th – 10th July 2004: National Conference http://dlibrary.acu.edu.au/research/theology/gregorian/gregorian_chant.htm

8. AUSTRALIAN CHURCH MUSIC SYMPOSIUM

The Catholic Institute of Sydney will be hosting an Australian Church Music Symposium on the weekend of September 24th to 26th. The Symposium is designed to foster discussion of Australian church music by acquainting music scholars with the music collection of the Veech Library. Australian church music refers to music written by Australians and music written within Australia.

The Veech Library Church Music Collection is a unique collection of Australian church music containing works dating from 1830 onwards. The material is of significant value to scholars of liturgy and history. It indicates the importance of classical works for choirs, with emphasis on masses, oratorios, motets and cantatas. As well it demonstrates choir and parish use of the compositions of Australian composers in the late 1880s and early 1900s. There is valuable evidence of the work in Australia of prominent church musicians and composers, for example, John Albert Delany (1852-1907), Joseph Muset-Ferrer (1890-1957), Paolo Giorza (1832-1914), and many others.

The Symposium will include the annual Veech Lecture on the evening of Friday September 24th, which will be given by Rev Dr Christopher Willcock sj, noted Australian composer, musician, liturgist and theologian. Other keynote addresses will be given by Kit Smith, Dr Jane Hardie, Richard Connolly, and others. A further highlight will be the public performance of a selection of organ, choral and congregational pieces on the Saturday evening under the direction of Br Colin Smith cfc.

For further information contact Kit Smith on 9869-2990 or by email on kitsmith@optusnet.com.au.