

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LITURGY (NSW CHAPTER) CONVENOR'S COMMENTS



An occasional newsletter

Issued: 31st January 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Continuing the tradition established by Andrew Doohan, I am pleased to present the first edition of *Convenor's Comments* for 2006.

The year promises to be an important one for the Chapter! Firstly, with changes at the Liturgy Office at Lidcombe, we must reinvent our meeting format. Secondly, the revival of the Chapter's meetings as a forum for the presentation of scholarly work needs continued support. Thirdly, we have an opportunity to expand the "4 C's" of the Academy – communication, collaboration, cooperation and coordination – with the new Members' Area of the Academy's website. Fourthly, we will need to look at better ways of involving our country members. Finally, as the year progresses we will need to prepare for the Adelaide Conference, to be held in January 2007.

As always, if you have something you would like to advertise to the membership of the NSW Chapter, you are most welcome. Please feel free to drop me a line and I will do my best to assist.

All the best,

Paul Mason

1. NSW CHAPTER MEETINGS – REINVENTION OF MEETING FORMAT FOR 2006

As you will recall from David Orr's email of December 2nd 2005, this year we will not have the space at Lidcombe available for our meetings. Therefore we needed to re-invent our bi-monthly meeting format.

I am pleased to advise that we have been offered meeting facilities in a central location, not that far from Lidcombe. Rev Peter Williams has confirmed the availability of meeting facilities at St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta. Off-street parking is available from Victoria Road.

The next meeting of the NSW Chapter of the Australian Academy of Liturgy will be convened at **4:30pm on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2006** at the **Parramatta Cathedral Centre (Marist Place, Parramatta)**. The meeting will conclude at 6pm and will be followed by a light meal – please remember a small donation to the kitty if you intend to stay for the meal.

Those members who are intending to attend the meeting please RSVP to me via email to paul.mason@optushome.com.au, or to the contact details below, by **5pm on Tuesday 14th February**. **There is a definite need to RSVP so that appropriate preparations can be made – if we don't hear from you, we will assume that you are not attending.**

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2. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2006

The following meeting dates are proposed for 2006, to be ratified at the first meeting:

Date	Venue	Presenter
Wednesday, February 22 nd	St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.	
Wednesday, April 26 th	St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.	
Wednesday, June 28 th	St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.	
Wednesday, August 16 th	St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.	
Wednesday, October 11 th	St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.	
December TBA	TBA	

This table will appear in all future issues of *Convenor's Comments* with necessary updates. Please ensure you check for any subsequent changes (particularly with regard to venues and dates).

3. CONTINUATION OF ACADEMIC FORMAT FOR MEETINGS

In 2005 we sought a return to the roots of the Academy's mission and a chance for the deepening of our knowledge and appreciation of liturgy, both from our own respective traditions and from the traditions of our fellow members. This was largely successful thanks to the level of preparation and involvement of a number of members. This year we again ask for volunteers to make keynote presentations at our bi-monthly meetings. Express your interest now, at the start of the year! Email me with a proposal at paul.mason@optushome.com.au.

4. NEW INTERNET-BASED FACILITIES

The Australian Academy of Liturgy has recently upgraded its website, www.liturgy.org.au, by adding an interactive "Members' Only" Area. The Academy hopes that this addition will help substantially in achieving its general aims and objectives, i.e. the understanding and development of liturgy in the Australian context.

The "Members' Only" Area offers the possibility to significantly improve communication, collaboration, cooperation and coordination among members. It offers a readily accessible means of networking and general discussion among members who have access to the Internet.

In particular:

- It provides a significant expansion of channels for mutual professional assistance and for sharing of methods and resources;
- It facilitates exchange of information concerning recent developments in liturgical matters;
- It provides a standard means to communicate information concerning research projects and activities of its members;
- It can help foster liturgical research, publication, and dialogue at a scholarly level;
- It can be used to assist in coordinating Conferences and publishing the Australian Journal of Liturgy.

Features of the Members Only Area include:

- Member listing and email directory;
- Calendar of events;
- Bulletin Board for general discussion, networking, current projects (e.g. Conference 2007);
- File Cabinet for shared files, photos, multimedia etc;
- Academy Focus Forums for ongoing discussion of key aspects of the Academy's mission;
- Academy Administration Support Areas (for Council and Executive Members, and the Journal Editorial Panel).

I am inviting you to be a part of this new phase in the development of the Academy. In fact, without your involvement the possibilities I have outlined above will remain just that – mere possibilities. I am asking you to do four things:

- Firstly, register! You can register immediately by clicking on the following link: <http://www.liturgy.org.au/forums/register.php?do=signup>
- Secondly, let everybody know who you are! Go to the “User CP” page and set up your individual profile; include something in each area of the profile; let us know your birthday; upload a recent photograph of yourself; personalise your signature on messages by including your favourite quote; add a visual identifier to your posts, by choosing from the list of Avatars provided.
- Thirdly, have a look around! Particularly, think about how you can use this facility instead of current means of communication; what are the new possibilities? Post your feedback and suggestions in the General Discussion area of the Bulletin Board.
- Fourthly, come back again! Make a habit to login to the Members' Area on a regular basis.

I believe this new facility will help invigorate our activities this year and look forward to your participation in this new phase of development for the Academy.