

## An historic moment for Indigenous theological learning opportunities

“Our first Aboriginal owned university is born.

- Uncle Ray Minniecon

“For years, [Uncle Ray] has been knocking on the doors of Bible colleges saying, ‘We have this calling, we have this gift that we want to give back to the church, we want to equip our own mob – will you help us?’ And for a really long time, he has had the door slammed in his face, or the door not opened at all. He’s gotten close to an agreement, and then it didn’t happen. So you can imagine what a momentous occasion Saturday was, that there is an institution saying “Yes, we’ll walk alongside you and make this happen. Yes, we believe in you.” It’s the culmination of a really long journey.

- Naomi Wolfe, an Australian Aboriginal woman, lecturer at Australian Catholic University and a NAIITS board member

**Uncle Ray Minniecon, an elder statesman and Aboriginal pastor from Sydney, has knocked on the doors of Australian theological institutions for more than 15 years, asking for a way to teach theology from an Indigenous perspective. This year, his prayers were answered.**

New research study options, offered through Whitley College and the University of Divinity, will allow students to study theology through Indigenous perspectives. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with NAIITS, formerly known as the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies, now a global organisation seeking to create culturally sensitive theological learning opportunities for the world’s indigenous communities.

NAIITS postgraduate-level units had already been taught at Whitley College since 2017. New research options, including a PhD stream, will be offered from this year.

Minniecon says the new study options for “his mob” are a heavy responsibility as he goes about “making sure what we offer our people from a biblical viewpoint fits into our culture and traditions and also makes sure that the message of Jesus is relevant to our people in a deep and profound way.”

This is an extract from an article by Kaylee Payne, Eternity News, and is republished with permission. Read the full article on Vox online. <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/news/breakthrough-on-teaching-theology-through-indigenous-eyes/>

Banner: Uncle Ray Minniecon in the garden at Whitley College.  
Photo: Andrew Hateley-Browne

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# Exploring Indigenous theology as a bridge for moving towards reconciliation

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM  
Acting Vice-Chancellor

The University of Divinity has experienced a rich palette of activities since the last edition of Vox – the articles in this issue will give you a flavour of the year to date. Professor Peter Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor, is on research leave in the first half of 2019 and one particular highlight of the year for me, as Acting Vice-Chancellor, was the recent forum, *Exploring Indigenous theology as a bridge for moving towards reconciliation*.

Indigenous elders speaking at the forum, held on Saturday 6 April, declared that history was being made that evening. In a packed auditorium at UD's Whitley College, speakers praised the ecumenical context of the forum and UD's commitment to Indigenous Theologies. A spell-bound audience of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, with many a moist eye, heard of past failures of the mainstream churches to respond to Indigenous Australians "knocking on the door" and seeking to enrich the churches with Indigenous Theologies. Now, the speakers highlighted, through the UD's new program offered with NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community and a collaboration of Canadian and Australian First Peoples, inclusion of Indigenous Theologies in Australian theological education and research was being realised in an historically significant way.

The speakers were:

- Uncle Reverend Ray Minniecon, Aboriginal Elder, NAIITS Board Member and UD Program Elder
- Reverend Dr Garry Worete Deverell, Aboriginal theologian and Vicar of St Agnes Anglican Church, Black Rock
- Auntie Reverend Patricia Courtenay, Aboriginal Elder and NAIITS international faculty
- Auntie Jean Phillips, Aboriginal Elder and Vision Leader of the Grasstree Gathering
- Brooke Prentis, Senior Fellow, Anglican Deaconess Ministry 2019 and NAIITS Board Member
- Uncle Reverend Dr Terry LeBlanc, Mi'kmaq-Arcadian Elder, Executive Director of Indigenous Pathways and Director, NAIITS: An International Learning Community.

The evening was facilitated by Naomi Wolfe, Lecturer from Australian Catholic University and NAIITS Board Member. The Wandiligong Fund, which was established by the late Reverend Robert Sherwood Houghton to further Indigenous theological education, sponsored the forum.

At the conclusion of the speakers' addresses, the University, Whitley College and NAIITS signed an agreement to advance the Indigenous Theologies initiative. Significantly, the University of Divinity has a major strategic goal: To support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to engage in theological education, scholarship and research.

## University awards Distinguished Service Medal to Major Gregory Morgan

The Chancellor of the University of Divinity, Dr Graeme Blackman AO, awarded the University's Distinguished Service Medal to Major Gregory Morgan at a graduation ceremony held on Friday 30 November 2018 at Immanuel College Chapel, in Novar Gardens, Adelaide. The award was made in recognition of Major Morgan's distinguished service to the University of Divinity as a leader, missiologist, author and teacher.

In presenting the award, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sherlock, praised Major Morgan's service to the University represented in the creation of Eva Burrows College as the national college for the Salvation Army in Australia within the University of Divinity.

## Professor Maryanne Confoy RSC awarded Ignatian Companions Medal

Congratulations to Professor Maryanne Confoy RSC on being awarded the Ignatian Companions Medal on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at the Jesuit Province Gathering in Sydney.

The Ignatian Companions Medal is awarded on occasion to express gratitude to people associated with the Province's mission. Such people are not those who have simply 'done their job' over a period of time but those who have given themselves in voluntary ways beyond the parameters of their position descriptions. They have shown outstanding and generous service to the mission of the Society of Jesus in Australia.



### The citation for the award read:

Major Gregory Morgan has rendered distinguished service to the University of Divinity as a leader, missiologist, author and teacher. He was instrumental in establishing the original collegiate relationship between the Salvation Army and the University of Divinity. He served as the National Training Principal and Head of Eva Burrows College, the Salvation Army's National College and as such provided a valuable contribution to the University Executive. Major Morgan provided significant leadership in the coming together of Booth College and Catherine Booth College to form a new national education and training service for the Salvation Army in Australia and the subsequent collegiate relationship of Eva Burrows College with the University. His legacy is evident in the continuing strong relationship between the University, Eva Burrows College and the Salvation Army.

Major Gregory Morgan at the Adelaide Graduation 2018.  
Photo by Meg Nelson



## University of Divinity still leading positive student experience in Australian universities

The University of Divinity has been recognised for the second year in a row as the leading university in Australia for positive student experience, according to the 2018 Student Experience Survey results, released on Wednesday 10 April, 2019 under the Federal Government's Quality Indicator for Learning and Teaching (QILT) program.

The Student Experience Survey (SES) provides a national architecture for collecting feedback on key facets of the higher education student experience. In doing so, it assembles important data on the experience of current, on-shore commencing and later-year undergraduate and, since 2017, postgraduate coursework students.

The SES measures five aspects of the student experience: Skills Development, Learner Engagement, Teaching Quality, Student Support, and Learning Resources.

The University of Divinity topped the nation with students rating their overall experience positively in both undergraduate (92%) and postgraduate coursework (89%) studies, well above the national averages of 79% and 76%, respectively.

The University particularly celebrates the recognition of outstanding teaching quality, student support and learning resources from both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

**“ The results reflect the dedication and passion demonstrated by our academic staff in providing a vibrant and challenging learning experience, and deep engagement with students' needs made possible by our small class sizes.**

- Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, Acting Vice-Chancellor

Pho

## New ceremony in Perth to accommodate record numbers of degrees and certificates awarded

Founded in 1910 as the Melbourne College of Divinity, the University has a long history of scholarship in theology, philosophy and ministry.

This year, the institution is set to break its own record for the total number of graduating students in a calendar year. With 436 awards already having been awarded across two ceremonies in the early months of the year, the University anticipates awarding more than 500 degrees and certificates to graduates by the conclusion of the year.

The current record was set in 2015 when 460 students graduated with 470 awards, with 416 awarded at the Melbourne ceremony and 54 at the Adelaide ceremony.

In addition to its annual Melbourne and Adelaide ceremonies, the University has added an annual ceremony in Perth, Western Australia.

Once approved to graduate by the University's Academic Board, graduands are now able to select their preference of ceremony date and location, giving choice and flexibility to students living across Australia.

Banner: Amit Kharia, Master of Theological Studies 2019 and a Vice-Chancellor's Scholar, addressing graduates at the Perth ceremony. Photo: Aaron Rebeiro



## Congratulations to all our newest graduates! Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne ceremonies

### Adelaide Ceremony 30 November 2018

On the evening of Friday 30 November 2018, members of the University gathered at Immanuel College Chapel, Adelaide, to witness the graduation of 61 students, as well as the award of the University's Distinguished Service Medal to Major Gregory Morgan.

Following the award, Major Morgan gave the graduation address, encouraging graduates to be ambassadors for Christ—seeking to be active in God's ministry of reconciliation within the world.

### Perth Ceremony 7 February 2019

On the evening of Thursday 7 February 2019, members of the University gathered at The Platform in Perth to witness the graduation of 18 students.

Among graduates from across Australia were five young graduates from Stirling Theological College's Catalyst Program. Designed with school-leavers in mind, the Perth-based program equips those who want to establish a Biblical foundation prior to further study; those who are unsure of their career path; and those who want to take time to explore their gifts and passions.

Co-Director of the Catalyst program, Mr Amit Kharia gave the valedictory address as both a teacher and a graduate himself, receiving the Master of Theological Studies and named a Vice-Chancellor's Scholar.

Associate Professor Frank Rees, Chair of the Academic Board, gave the graduation address, encouraging the graduates to consider how their study has changed them.

“The ceremony of conferring degrees and awarding diplomas and certificates is a time-honoured ritual performed at universities throughout the world. It is the moment when awards are formally made, and is a celebration of the achievements of the graduands. Graduation ceremonies at the University of Divinity celebrate the academic excellence of our students, honour our collegiate structure and reveal the richness of the many Christian traditions which shape our identity.”

- Professor Peter Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor

### Melbourne Ceremony 22 March 2019

On the evening of Friday 22 March 2019, members of the University gathered at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne to witness the graduation of 410 students receiving 418 awards.

Dr Samasoni Moleli, Doctor of Philosophy 2019 and a Vice-Chancellor's Scholar, gave the valedictory address on behalf of the graduates. Having joined the University from Malua Theological College in Samoa, in his address Samasoni paid tribute to his cultural heritage, using the Samoan saying “E au i le tauala, e au foi ile fagota” (translated as “we all get to bear the fish basket, as well as become fisherman too”), to encourage his fellow graduates to continue to develop skills and flexibility.

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, Acting Vice-Chancellor, gave the graduation address, reminding each graduate of the different gifts and abilities endowed upon them and encouraging them to continue to use their talents to serve the community.



## Celebrating the first graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Theological Education

Reverend Dr John Capper  
Director of Learning and Teaching

On Friday 30 November 2018, three members of the University's academic staff were the first to graduate from the University's flagship professional development program.

It is often said that "having a PhD doesn't make you a good teacher". The University's Graduate Certificate in Theological Education is designed to take brilliant knowledge in a discipline and link it with excellent practice in teaching.

Graduating at the ceremony, Reverend Dr Adam Hensley (Australian Lutheran College) said:

“The GCTE provided me with a great opportunity for structured reflection on my teaching. I appreciated how the course was designed to dovetail with my teaching. The course stimulates theological educators to deeper, more purposeful reflective practices in their teaching, provides them with up-to-date research on sound principles of adult education and designing high quality units, and engages them in creatively putting these into practice in their own contexts.

Adam has just completed his second year of teaching at ALC. He was a member of the first cohort of students to undertake the program.

Adam reinforced the connections, saying:

“I especially enjoyed exploring the intersections between learning and teaching theory and the values that characterize my learning institution. The GCTE has equipped me better to engage the ongoing questions that arise for me as a theological educator.

Graduating in absentia, Dr Tom Pietsch said:

“The final unit allowed me to explore and expand into shaping my own practice. The course reinforced the need to have experience and practice connected to theory.

Tom is including this in his own practice in teaching at ALC. His students requested an additional class to further explore Augustine.

Associate Professor Frank Rees, Patron of the Program as Chair of the Academic Board and present at the graduation said:

“A highlight of my first year as Chair of the University's Academic Board was a visit to a class of the Graduate Certificate in Theological Education. I found a room abuzz with energy – that enthusiasm that comes from doing something great and challenging, and the achievement of new things. Present were not just young colleagues, but some who had been teaching – with us and elsewhere – for years. Merryn Ruwoldt and Stephen Haar did what great teachers do: set high standards, showed good practice and provided nurture and support for all participants.

ALC Principal, James Winderlich has said:

“At Australian Lutheran College we have set the GCTE as the standard professional qualification for all of our teaching staff.

The course is a great opportunity for all theological educators to extend their teaching skills to match their disciplinary skills. Members of the University are offered a reduced price for the GCTE. To discuss your study options, please contact Dr Merryn Ruwoldt [(08) 7120 8200] at Australian Lutheran College.

Banner: Graduates at the University Graduation ceremony in Adelaide included GCTE graduates: Rev Dr Adam Hensley (back row, far left) and Rev Dr Jane Lee-Barker (front row, far left).

Photo by Meg Nelson



## Celebrating the first graduates of our Indigenous Theologies program

At the graduation ceremony in Melbourne on Friday 22 March 2019, the University celebrated two of the first graduates of our Indigenous Theologies program.

Whitley College, in partnership with NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community, is offering the opportunity to explore theology, history and the practice of ministry from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and world Indigenous perspectives.

The program is part of a wider growing community of theologians who are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Canadian Aboriginal, Native American and other First Nations and Indigenous peoples. The community is also joined by non-Indigenous theologians who seek to work with, and within, Indigenous theological education.

Aunty Reverend Patricia Courtenay, one of the first graduates of the program, said about her experience:

“I began formal theological education twenty years ago, after my divine calling into the Priesthood. All of my formal studies, theological and academic, have been undertaken in mainstream courses within post-secondary settings. I have always been aware that I came from a distinct Indigenous perspective. However, I have experienced that my Indigenous perspective has not been valued or considered acceptable in past theological studies. NAIITS studies have validated, affirmed and valued my Indigeneity in Christianity. I am grateful that Whitley College and the University of Divinity have been courageous enough to take on these studies, so that everyone in Australia, has the opportunity to learn from an Indigenous theological perspective.

Naomi Wolfe, an academic from Australian Catholic University and a graduate of the program, said:

“As an Indigenous woman, it was an incredible experience to be taught by Indigenous theologians. A long-standing dream has been realised – it was thrilling being in the classroom with Indigenous peoples from around Australia and beyond, all at the University of Divinity, to explore Indigenous theologies.

Study with us:  
**Australian Indigenous Theology**

Culturally relevant to both Australian Indigenous peoples in both content and delivery, the programs are also accessible to Indigenous peoples from beyond Australia, and non-Indigenous peoples, as part of an international Indigenous learning community.

[divinity.edu.au/pathway/indigenous/](http://divinity.edu.au/pathway/indigenous/)

Banner: Aunty Patricia Courtenay (front, centre left) and Naomi Wolfe (front, centre right) with faculty from Whitley College and Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Acting Vice-Chancellor.  
Photo by Andrew Hateley-Browne



## World class research in Religion and Religious Studies

The University of Divinity has achieved a ‘world standard’ rating in the Australian Research Council’s Excellence in Research for Australia 2018 assessment, placing it second equal with three other universities in the field for Religion and Religious Studies in Australia. The Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) assessment is the Government benchmarking of the quality of all higher education providers that receive Government research funding under the Commonwealth Higher Education Support Act.

In the ERA 2018 results recently announced, the University of Divinity received a 3 rating for its entry in Religion and Religious Studies, indicating that its research is at world standard. This achievement provides strong affirmation of the consistent quality of the University of Divinity’s research record in theology and ministry, maintaining its position at world standard from the previous three rounds of ERA measurement.

In the broader field of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the University of Divinity and several other universities dropped somewhat in this round. This is perhaps a reflection of the challenges faced by these disciplines in the higher education sector. The University continues to be strong in research partnerships and industry funding. About the results, Professor John McDowell, Director of Research at the University, said, “The University is committed to excellence in research in theology, and is very pleased to be recognised as a leading institution in Australia for the quality of its research outputs”.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, said:

“ I congratulate and thank the researchers whose dedication to quality scholarship realised the ranking ‘at world standard’ for the University of Divinity.

## Research Day 2019

Research students and staff of the University of Divinity will join together in early June for a vibrant day, exploring the outstanding research and scholarship amongst the University community in theological disciplines.

Research Day will be held at St Athanasius College’s city campus, Eporo Tower. Located in the centre of Melbourne CBD, at 285 La Trobe Street, the venue is easily accessed from Melbourne Central Railway Station and all city trams. Here, modern facilities are compellingly complimented by richly decorated artworks and iconography depicting historical figures of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Plenary Sessions will include:

- Reverend Dr René Erwich: ‘Testing the spirits. The liquid discourse as a test-case for Victorian Baptist congregations’
- Dr Rosemary Canavan: ‘Honoured and remembered: The women of the Lycus Valley’
- Kerrie Burn on library research matters
- Professor Paul Oslington on ERA journal ranking

Some sessions will be live-streamed on Wednesday 5 June. Links to the live-stream will be added on the day of the event to:

[vox.divinity.edu.au/event/research-day/](http://vox.divinity.edu.au/event/research-day/)

## Our newest Higher Degree by Research graduates

Professor John McDowell  
Director of Research

It is the engagement in research and lifelong scholarship that distinguishes universities from other types of higher education providers, and in that regard the University of Divinity has a long tradition.

**The University aspires to excellence in research that can enable it to take a proud place among the very best theological conversations around the world.**

A vibrant research culture is perennially fostered through publications, conferences, seminars and visiting scholars. Many of our graduates have gone on to academic positions in Australia and overseas, and the University can boast a completion rate that is well above the national average.

It is a particular delight to congratulate each HDR graduate, receiving their award during our 2019 graduation season.

### Master of Philosophy

Giuseppe Capuana  
Catholic Theological College  
Thesis: *Rethinking the Western Non-interpolations: A Case For Luke Re-editing His Gospel*

### Master of Theology (Research)

Ruth Ann Fowler, Catholic Theological College  
Thesis: *Recovering Obedience in the Spiritual Path*

Chongdae Kim, Pilgrim Theological College  
Thesis: *The Development of a Relational Masculine Spirituality in the Context of Current South Korean Unemployment Issues*

### Doctor of Philosophy

Geoffrey William Cheong, Trinity College Theological School  
Thesis: *Secularology and Relational Spirituality: Towards an Integral Christian Spirituality*

Stefan Robert Gigacz, Yarra Theological Union  
Thesis: *The Leaven in the Council: Joseph Cardijn and the Jocist Network at Vatican II*

Kerrie Jean Handasyde, Pilgrim Theological College  
Thesis: *Literary Crossings: Nonconformists Writing the Australian Landscape*

Christopher James Luthy, Whitley College  
Thesis: *Rethinking the Acceptable Year: The Jubilee and the Basileia in Luke 4 and Beyond*

Samasoni Moleli, Whitley College  
Thesis: *Jabez in Context: A Multidimensional Approach to Identity and Landholdings in Chronicles*

Christopher Paul Ryan, Catholic Theological College  
Thesis: *The Baptismal Catechumenate as a Source for Youth Ministry in a Secular Age*

### Doctor of Theology

Kezhalezo Angami, Yarra Theological Union  
Thesis: *Cross-Cultural Mission: The Impact of the American Baptist Missionaries on the Angami Naga Tribe*

Paul Raymond Oslington, Trinity College Theological School  
Thesis: *Political Economy as Natural Theology: Smith, Malthus and their Followers*

Heather Mona Weedon, Yarra Theological Union  
Thesis: *The Evolving Missiology of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary*



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## Gender equity researcher appointed

Helen Molyneux  
Eva Burrows College

For the first time, The Salvation Army in Australia has appointed a full-time researcher into gender equity, to be based at Eva Burrows College. Major Christine Faragher took up this appointment on 9 January 2019.

The role (Researcher-Gender Equity) is an initiative being jointly supported by The Salvation Army and the University of Divinity.

“Both the University and The Salvation Army want to see higher level research in this area, so there is good support from both institutions,” said Major Faragher, who has already completed research for a Master’s thesis on the spirituality of The Salvation Army.

“I have been shaped by study in the Arts, Theology, Spiritual Direction, and Supervision so I come to this research with a solid foundation across a number of streams.

The topic of Major Faragher’s research will contribute to a PhD.

The focus of the PhD, which is yet to be determined, will give the research shape, explained Major Faragher. “It will be worked out with both my academic supervisors at the University, and in consultation with The Salvation Army’s Gender Equity Committee, headed by Colonel Julie Campbell.”

The primary starting point is likely to be the experience of women officers. This will not just be an academic exercise but an in-depth look at what the Salvation Army is focusing on as an organisation in gender equity, with the expectation that the research will have practical outcomes in terms of informing thinking, strategies, policy and direction going forward.

“We will also be addressing what has happened in the past, cultural and systemic issues and both the national and international Salvation Army contexts.

“The key now is to refine the PhD. topic, which will continue to be refined as research and discussions continue, into something that is mutually beneficial.

Colonel Julie Campbell, National Gender Equity Advocate, said that it will be of great benefit to have some formalised research and information in this area, both nationally and internationally, after years of discussions and exploration of the topic. She continued:

“It’s a great milestone to think that, after all our work to determine the best way forward, and to identify the issues that have prevented women flourishing in their appointments, that we can be consulted in this research and that the issues we’ve raised will be highlighted and taken into consideration.

“This is an investment for generations to come and will help form and provide greater opportunities for all women in the future.

Major Faragher, who has been a Salvation Army officer for 36 years, has always had a passion for gender equity.



## Fr Shenouda Boutros announced as President of the Victorian Council of Churches

Congratulations to Fr Shenouda Boutros from St Athanasius College on his appointment as President of the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC). The Victorian Council of Churches “is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (VCC – Mission and Vision Statement).

Fr Shenouda is an alumnus of the University, having completed his Master of Arts (Theology) with a focus and interest in moral theology. Fr Shenouda is a member of the St Athanasius College Council and serves the community as a chaplain.

Fr Shenouda will be installed as President of the Victorian Council of Churches on 1 June 2019.

Photo: Present are (from left to right in the photo above) Fr Shenouda Boutros (Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Melbourne), Rev Ian Smith (Victorian Council of Churches), Bishop Gary Weatherill (Anglican Diocese of Ballarat), Archbishop Philip Freier (Anglican Diocese of Melbourne), Bishop Richard Treloar (Anglican Diocese of Gippsland), Lt-Col. Debra Stevens (Salvation Army – Victorian Division), Rev Sharon Hollis (Uniting Church – Synod of Victoria and Tasmania), Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne), Bishop Peter Danaher (Victorian Council of Churches), Lt-Col. Bruce Stevens (Salvation Army – Victorian Division), Dr Rob Nyhuis (Churches of Christ), Bishop Paul Bird (Catholic Diocese of Ballarat), Very Rev Fr Georges Tahan (Antiochian Orthodox), Bishop Matt Brain (Anglican Diocese of Bendigo)

## Safer Churches Conference

17-18 September 2019  
Mercure Hotel, Brisbane QLD

The 9th biennial Safer Churches Conference will be the first conference held by the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Safe Church Program since the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations were released in December 2017. The theme for the conference, *Transforming Cultures: Listening, Reflecting, Acting* will provide the framework across the two-day event.

The University of Divinity is a major sponsor of the conference.

There have been many conferences held since the release of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations, across a variety of sectors. However, the NCCA Safer Churches Conference will focus on ensuring Australian churches are informed by key leaders, who are experts in this area in Australia. Information will be delivered on the implementation of the recommendations as well as the very important process of cultural change, both in our churches and religious organisations.

In addition, there will be opportunities for open, facilitated conversations, with a strong emphasis on promoting deep, cultural changes for the whole church.

[www.transformingcultures.net/about](http://www.transformingcultures.net/about)



## Call for papers: Power, Authority, Love 2019 Feminist Theologies Conference

The Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies network warmly invites scholars, activists, artists and other practitioners to explore and expound feminist understandings of power, authority and love, both as distinct concepts or experiences, and their interrelatedness.

The scope of papers is broad. Diverse contributions will, however, be connected through one of three lenses:

1. “writing”—focusing on engagement with feminist theological work on power, authority or love;
2. “rites”—focusing on ritual expressions of power, authority or love informed by feminist theology;
3. “right”—focusing on getting power, authority or love “right” in practice from feminist perspective.

Presentations of 20 minutes (only and firmly) will be followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

### How to submit a paper

Proposals of 250 words are due by 7 July 2019, to [tfraser@divinity.edu.au](mailto:tfraser@divinity.edu.au).

Please include your name, academic or other relevant affiliation, paper title, and a statement of how the proposal is related to the conference theme.

Acceptance will be advised by 29 July 2019.

Selected papers will be published after peer review in a special issue of a journal and/or a collection of essays arising from the event.

AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATORS IN  
**Feminist  
Theologies**

### 2019 Feminist Theologies Conference

11-12 October 2019

Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville VIC

Confirmed plenary presentations:

- Reverend Dr Seforosa Carroll (Sydney)
- Reverend Dr Sally Douglas (Melbourne)
- Dr Janice McRandal (Brisbane)
- Professor Nicola Slee (Birmingham and Amsterdam)

The conference will include the annual Janette Gray RSM Lecture by Nicola Slee at 7.30pm on Friday 11 October.

### About Feminist Theologies

The Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies (Feminist Theologies) aim to consolidate and energise the University’s commitment to the participation of women and feminist scholars in the academy and for the churches. By fostering and forwarding feminist voice and vision the network aims to promote Gospel justice by addressing issues relating to gender equality, class, race, sexuality and ability.

The network is supported by the University of Divinity under its Strategic Goal 3: Feminist Theologies.

This goal draws on the University’s tradition as the first Australian institution to award a degree in theology to a woman [Winifred Kiek, BD (1924)] and a flagship within the academy for the significant numbers of Catholic women religious, pastoral associates and others not seeking ordination, as well as those women who (since Kiek’s ordination in 1927) have been ordained as Christian ministers in Australia. It aims to grow further the existing network of feminist scholars that seeks to enable a fresh conversation through initiatives in research, publication, mentoring and related teaching.

# Earth@Peace conference

**Emeritus Professor Joseph A. Camilleri OAM**  
La Trobe University; Chair, Earth@Peace Project

**Reverend Dr Gordon Preece**  
Director, Centre for Religion and Social Policy

The Earth@Peace project under the auspices of the University's Centre for Religion and Social Policy (RASP) with partners Pax Christi, Ethos, Australian Research Theology Foundation, Social Policy Connections and several other supporters, reached a significant milestone recently.

The public events of the project, including a two-day conference, an evening public forum and a cultural evening (22-24 April) were a great success with all 240 conference tickets selling out well before the end of the early-bird pricing period. Amongst the 200 attendees at the public forum were Victorian Literary Prize winner Beyrouz Boochani, direct from Manus Island, and Sister Patricia Fox NDS, recently deported from the Philippines.

These events have helped shape an important conversation integrating the thinking of several religions and engagement around issues of peace, justice and ecology, which are often siloed in political, public and academic discourse.

A number of outstanding presentations covered different aspects of the conference theme. Some focused on our dire ecological predicament and its future implications (e.g. Freya Mathews), others on Australia's rich Indigenous heritage (e.g. Bruce Pascoe, Naomi Wolfe), others still on gender and patriarchy (e.g. Canadian eco-feminist Professor Heather Eaton). An artistic edge

was provided at the cultural evening on Anzac Day Eve by William Kelly's Just Art exhibition, poetic responses, Climate Change Angels and other contributions. These will be turned into an accessible artistic book.

All attempted to rethink in dynamic ways what we understand by peace, its close interconnections with justice and care of the Earth, and the place of dialogue in cultivating the qualities and energies needed to respond creatively to the multifaceted challenges we presently face.

Perhaps most pleasing was the participants' widely shared sense that this has been an instructive, in some cases illuminating, and above all inspiring experience, from which we expect a great deal to emerge in the coming months and years.

## Videos of conference sessions

Access to a comprehensive selection of videos covering a diverse array of speakers and topics from the conference and public forum is available on the Earth@Peace website: [www.earthatpeace.org.au](http://www.earthatpeace.org.au).

The website also features abstracts of the presentations, photos and reports of seven working groups on the following topics:

- Developing a culture consistent with a vision of a just and ecologically sustainable peace (JESP)
- Education for JESP
- Addressing situations of conflict and violence from a JESP standpoint
- Peace with the Earth
- A just and ecologically sustainable peace between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia
- JESP in the economy/marketplace
- JESP in the sacred texts.

## The Challenge of Christian Animal Ethics

**What does Christian faith mean for how we treat animals, especially in our use of them for food?**

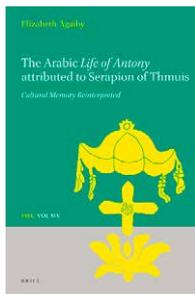
Trinity College Theological School and the Centre for Religion and Social Policy invite you to join Professor David Clough for a discussion of his new and groundbreaking two-volume work *On Animals*

**Wednesday 19 June**  
**7:30pm**

Trinity College Theological School  
Royal Parade, Parkville VIC

**FREE ADMISSION | ALL WELCOME**

# Recent publications



Elizabeth Agaiby, *The Arabic Life of Antony Attributed to Serapion of Thmuis* (Brill, 2018)  
ISBN: 9789004383272

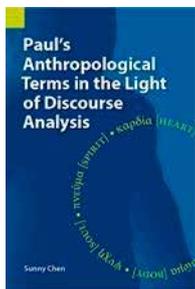
In *The Arabic Life of Antony Attributed to Serapion of Thmuis*, Elizabeth Agaiby demonstrates how the redacted Life of Antony, the “Father of all monks and star of the wilderness”, gained widespread acceptance within Egypt shortly after its composition in the 13th century and dominated Coptic liturgical texts on Antony for over 600 years – the influence of which is still felt up to the present day. By providing a first edition and translation, Agaiby demonstrates how the Arabic life bears witness to the reinterpretation of the religious memory of Antony in the Coptic Orthodox Church.



Sarah Bacaller and Stephen Curkpatrick (eds), *Page 13: A Selection from the Writings of Gordon Stirling* (STTJKI, 2018)  
ISBN: 9786026257529

Gordon Stirling’s Page 13 articles were published on the thirteenth page of the national Churches of Christ journal, *The Australian Christian*, 1979–1987. Page 13 offers contemporary cameos of distinctive theological tonalities and ministry practices within the Stone-Campbell vision of Christian identity.

Curated by Sarah Bacaller, this collection represents an edited selection of the Page 13 articles.



Sunny Chen, *Paul's Anthropological Terms in the Light of Discourse Analysis* (SIL International, 2019)  
ISBN: 9781556714214

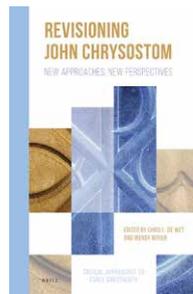
Scholars generally apply the New Testament Greek terms *soma* (‘body’), *pneuma* (‘spirit’), *psyche* (‘soul’), and *kardia* (‘heart’) to the individual. The book shows that this is far from the whole picture. It contributes to our understanding of Paul and continues in the growing tradition of Moisés Silva, David

Black, Stanley Porter, Joel Green, and others, using discourse linguistic principles to refine our understanding of biblical texts. The integrated investigation of the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features of Paul’s anthropological terms in the context of the entire epistles in which they are used rightly challenges us to rethink all that Paul is referring to these terms, which in turn will challenge us to rethink Paul’s understanding of the Church and, indeed, of the entire Gospel message.



Stephen Curkpatrick and Tr. Karen Yunia, Foreword Hery Susanto, *Fragmen Fragmen Hermeneutika* (STTJKI, 2019)  
ISBN: 9786026257659

*Fragmen Fragmen Hermeneutika (Hermeneutical Fragments)* is a compilation of diverse expressions of interpretation in relation to early Christian writings—Romans, Corinthians, Matthew and Revelation. These aphoristic fragments give focus to theological accents and linguistic styles appropriate to the variegated foci of Christian identity.



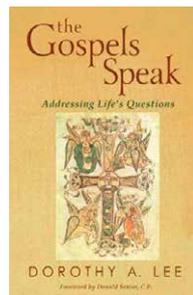
Chris L. de Wet and Wendy Mayer (eds), *Revisoning John Chrysostom: New Approaches, New Perspectives* (Brill, 2019)  
ISBN: 9789004390034

In *Revisoning John Chrysostom*, Chris de Wet and Wendy Mayer harness and promote a new wave of scholarship on the life and works of this famous late-antique (c. 350–407 CE) preacher. New theories from the cognitive and neurosciences, cultural and sleep studies, and history of the emotions, among others, meld with reconsideration of lapsed approaches – his debt to Graeco-Roman *paideia*, philosophy, and now medicine – resulting in sometimes surprising and challenging conclusions. Together the chapters produce a fresh vision of John Chrysostom that moves beyond the often negative views of the 20th century and opens up substantially new vistas for exploration.



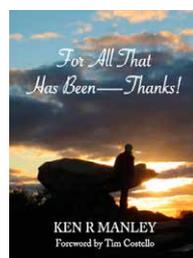
Darrell Jackson, Darren Cronshaw and Rosemary Dewerse (eds), *Reimagining Home: Understanding, reconciling and engaging with God's stories together* (Morling Press & Australian Association for Mission Studies, 2019)  
ISBN: 9780994572585

This book gathers papers from the 5th Conference of the Australian Association for Mission Studies, held at Whitley College during July 2017. Together in this volume, theologians and missiologists contribute to the vitally important public debate about the place of Indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees in Australia and elsewhere. Theoretical and practical themes are considered in the light of a shared commitment to biblical and theological interpretation, reflection and application. In doing so, the authors have contributed towards clarifying the task of missiology in previously unimagined contexts.



Dorothy A. Lee, *The Gospels Speak: Addressing Life's Questions* (Paulist, 2017)  
ISBN: 9780809153244

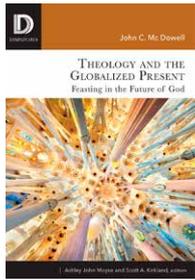
This book examines four fundamental questions of human existence, including the existence of evil and suffering, the pervasiveness of anxiety and fear, the quest for personal meaning, and the issue of whether a sense of purpose is to be found within human history and creation. Each of questions is addressed, in each chapter, to one Gospel to see what it has to offer in the light of the good news revealed in Christ. Thus suffering is addressed to the Gospel of Mark, anxiety to Matthew, personal meaning to John, and purpose to Luke. The book demonstrates that, despite the gulf lying between our world and the ancient world of the New Testament, each Gospel contains an astonishing wealth of resources and a vibrant hope for human life today in all its confusion and struggle.



Ken R. Manley, *For all that has been—Thanks!* (Mono Books, 2018)  
ISBN: 9780648373001

Ken Manley, a former Principal of Whitley College and Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance, has written this autobiography which includes extended and detailed reflections on being a Baptist minister and theological educator in Australia.

The narrative is punctuated with wit, pathos, personal disclosures, twists and turns, wry observations and thought-provoking literary references.

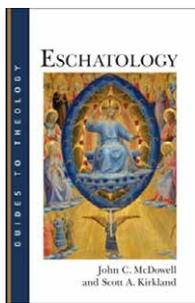


**John C. McDowell, *Theology and the Globalized Present: Feasting in the Future of God* (Fortress Press, 2019)**

ISBN: 9781506431611

*Theology and the Globalized Present* focuses on the world's future in God and God's creativeness. In response to a globalised economy that reconfigures time to the detriment of human flourishing, McDowell presents a re-imagined theological vision of eschatological memory and Eucharistic

performance. This entails not so much a dreaming of a different world as a dreaming of this world differently. The theological materials offer a temporality that is hope-generating, critically attentive to the inequitable character of features of our world, and educative of ethical wisdom in a self-regulating and emancipatory witness of remembering and anticipating the transformative presence of God.



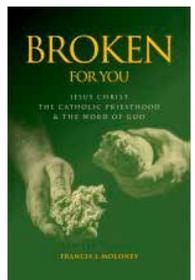
**John C. McDowell and Scott A. Kirkland, *Eschatology* (Eerdmans, 2017)**

ISBN: 9780802864581

This short textbook surveys key themes and aspects of Christian hope by tracing eschatological ideas as they have developed from Scripture throughout the history of theology.

John McDowell and Scott Kirkland present a series of lenses on understanding eschatological statements, or the content

of Christian hope. They have structured their book thematically into five chapters—four exploring apocalyptic, existential, political, and christological themes, followed by an extensive annotated bibliography. Within each chapter, McDowell and Kirkland take a history-of-ideas approach, locating the various perspectives in their historical contexts.

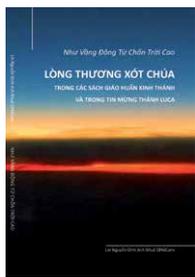


**Francis J. Moloney, *Broken for You* (Coventry Press, 2018)**

ISBN: 9780648360155

Professor Moloney has collected three studies that he regards as crucial for the many challenges facing the Christian Churches, and especially the Roman Catholic Tradition. In the first study he outlines major characteristics from the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth: Jesus' preaching and

living the reigning presence of God, his relationship with God as 'Father', and his experience of suffering and vindication as the Son of Man. From that example, he examines the Roman Catholic tradition of an ordained Priesthood. The final essay calls for a return of the biblical Word of God to the centre of the Church's life and worship, currently so dominated by ritual and law.



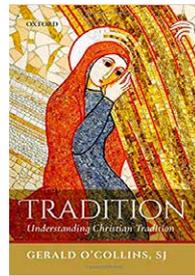
**Dinh Anh Nhue Nguyen, *Like the Dawn from on High Như Vầng Đông Từ Chấn Trời Cao* (Casa Editrice Miscellanea Francescana, 2019)**

ISBN: 9788887931808

The book (in Vietnamese) explores, in two parts, the biblical sages' view on divine mercy as well as the image of Jesus as the true revelation of God's mercy in the Gospel of Luke. The first part focuses on the biblical

Wisdom books, in particular Proverbs and Sirach, in order to unveil the main aspects of the sapiential theology of mercy. The second part examines the presence of a "Christology of mercy" in the Gospel

of Luke, taking into consideration all the evangelical data in this regard. Such an exploration offers a more objective and complete re-evaluation of Lukan Christology of mercy in light of the biblical Wisdom's vision of God's mercy, with the findings quite relevant to the spiritual and pastoral life of today.



**Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, *Tradition: Understanding Christian Tradition* (Oxford University Press, 2018)**

9780198830306

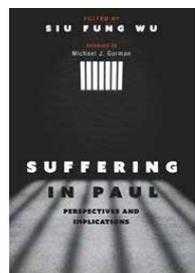
A 1963 report of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches signalled a substantial convergence between the churches over Christian tradition and its relationship to Scripture. However, since the 1960s theologians have regularly ignored the theme of tradition. In aiming to fill the gap, this book uses help supplied by sociologists and others on the pervasive role of tradition in human and religious life.



**Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, *Portraits: Popes, Family, and Friends* (Connor Court Publishing, 2019)**

ISBN: 9781925826302

This book brings together portraits of twenty people Gerald O'Collins knew personally in Rome, Melbourne and elsewhere. He includes four popes (from Paul VI to Benedict XVI), four family members (his parents and two of his siblings), and twelve others (from Mother Teresa of Kolkata to Richard Divall, Jan Gray, Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, and Peter Steele). Each chapter is self-contained; readers can start where they will. They can draw much inspiration and courage from all these lives.



**Siu Fung Wu (ed.), *Suffering in Paul* (Wipf and Stock, 2019)**

ISBN: 9781532611773

One can hardly ignore the significance of suffering in Paul's letters. Despite that, the topic does not often 'hit the headlines' in Pauline studies. Meanwhile, Christians around the world testify to the encouragement and comfort Paul gives them in times of pain and distress. The purpose of this book is to arouse interest in Pauline scholarship on the topic. New Testament scholars in five countries across three continents contribute to this volume, including four from the University of Divinity (Sunny Chen, David Starling, Sean Winter, and Siu Fung Wu). They study the texts, intertexts, and the language of suffering in Paul. They explore the notion of participation in Christ's suffering and glory, and examine the significance of identity formation and solidarity in the Christ community. In addition, the authors reflect on the implications for the church today from different social locations and cultural backgrounds. The result is an exegetical and critical reflection that invites the church to seriously engage with Paul on the topic.



**Youhanna Nessim Youssef, *Spot lights on Coptic monasticism* (Alexandria School Series for Christian Studies, 2018)**

ISBN: 9789773591479

The book studies the primitive forms of monasticism; the sources relating to Coptic monasticism; daily life according to the monastic writings; the main important figures of the monasticism in Egypt before and after

the Arab conquest; the monastic garment; the health care, miracles and monastic women orders; and more.

# University community celebrated in Australia Day honours

Several members of the University of Divinity community were recognised in the 2019 Australia Day Honours list. They include Reverend Professor Emeritus Robert Gribben AM, Reverend Dr Robert Mitchell AM, Reverend Dr Charles Sherlock AM, Dr Janet Duke OAM and Ms Leigh Mackay OAM.

Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Divinity Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM said:

“The University and its predecessor have been the beneficiary of Reverend Professor Gribben’s gifts and service and we are delighted that he continues to be an Honorary Research Fellow within our community.

We are proud of Reverend Dr Mitchell’s associations with the University as a graduate and Honorary Research Associate. Since last year we also welcome with gratitude his presence as a Member of the University Council.

The University owes much to Reverend Dr Sherlock’s contributions to its predecessor including as Registrar, Director of Ministry Studies and member of the Council and through involvement with Trinity College Theological School. We are delighted that he continues to be an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Divinity.

It is enriching for the University that Dr Duke, a graduate of the University and current doctoral student at Whitley College, brings her wealth of experience to doctoral studies with us.

The University has been a beneficiary of Ms Mackay’s generous service to the community through her valued contribution to its Grants Committee.

## Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM)

**Reverend Professor Emeritus Robert Gribben AM**  
For significant service to the Uniting Church in Australia, to ecumenical relations and theological studies

**Reverend Dr Robert Mitchell AM**  
For significant service to the community through charitable organisations, and to the Anglican Church of Australia

**Reverend Dr Charles Sherlock AM**  
For significant service to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to theological education

## Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM)

**Dr Janet Duke OAM**  
For service to medicine as an obstetrician and gynaecologist

**Ms Leigh Mackay OAM**  
For service to the Anglican Church of Australia

**Our Alumni go on to all walks of life. Wherever your journey takes you, keep in touch with lecturers, colleges and your peers through Vox online.**

**An Alumni Network is coming in 2019!**

More information about the network will be available soon. If you would like to stay informed about the network, or volunteer to be involved, please register your interest on Vox online.



[vox.divinity.edu.au/alumni](http://vox.divinity.edu.au/alumni)