



# The Chronicle

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

## Victorian Premier opens St Patrick's Campus

The Honourable Stephen Bracks, MP, Premier of Victoria, officially opened Australian Catholic University's newest campus, St Patrick's Campus, and the Most Reverend George Pell DD, Archbishop of Melbourne, blessed the Campus at a special ceremony attended by more than 1000 guests on 28 July, 2000 in the University's historic Central Hall.

To commemorate the Opening of St Patrick's Campus, Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral. Mass was celebrated by the University Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy AC and concelebrated by Archbishop George Pell DD, the Most Reverend T F Little DD KBE, Emeritus Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend P J Connors DD, Bishop of Ballarat, the Most Reverend D Hart DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, priest academics from ACU and in the Archdiocese, and Dr Lawrence Cross was Deacon. The St Patrick's Campus Choir, directed by

Bachelor of Music students and accompanied by organist, Associate Professor Geoffrey Cox, provided the music during the Mass.

At the conclusion of Mass, the Academic Procession proceeded from the Cathedral grounds to St Patrick's Campus for the Opening and Blessing Ceremonies.

Police stopped traffic as more than 600 participants and guests walked in the Procession from St Patrick's Cathedral to St Patrick's Campus.

More than 1000 academics, religious representatives and guests filled Central Hall for the Opening Ceremony. Guests who attended the ceremony included members of the University Company, the University Senate and Victorian Chapter, ACU staff and students, former staff and consultants. Other guests included chancellors and vice-chancellors from Victorian universities, politicians, members of St Patrick's Campus Fundraising

Appeal Committee, parish priests and parish coordinators, corporate guests, religious leaders, Archdiocesan guests, site contractors and builders and members of the local community.

Guests speakers at the ceremony were Ms Joy Murphy-Wandin, a Wurrunderjeri elder who provided an Aboriginal welcome, acknowledging and respecting the traditional owners and custodians of the site. Guests were welcomed by Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Victoria), before the Opening Address by Professor Peter Sheehan AO, Vice-Chancellor. The Honourable Stephen Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria, declared St Patrick's Campus officially open as he unveiled the plaque commemorating the Opening. The Most Reverend George Pell DD, Archbishop of Melbourne, then blessed St Patrick's Campus and the crucifixes for the University. (Speeches from the Opening Ceremony are on the following pages).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



Br Julian McDonald cfc, Pro-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, The Honourable Stephen Bracks, Premier of Victoria, Cardinal Edward Clancy, Chancellor, and the Most Reverend George Pell, Archbishop of Melbourne at the Opening Ceremony of St Patrick's Campus.



The Premier, Mr Stephen Bracks, said the opening of St Patrick's Campus was a major boost for access and diversity in education in Victoria. He said opening the new campus in Melbourne was a significant development for Australian Catholic University and a wonderful addition to the state's education infrastructure.

"Australian Catholic University has already made a major contribution to higher education in Victoria and the opening of this magnificent campus opens up further opportunities right in the heart of the city," Mr Bracks said.

"The University has established a well-earned reputation for excellence and for offering an education that challenges students to explore the social and ethical issues underpinning teaching and research.

"This campus will offer an important new alternative in higher education here in Victoria and I wish Australian Catholic University every success in achieving their vision for the future."

Professor Peter Sheehan, Australian Catholic University Vice-Chancellor, said: "The new Melbourne campus provides a particularly good location for a higher education facility in Victoria. It is a signature address that gives Australian Catholic University a highly visible presence in Melbourne that will raise the profile of ACU dramatically."

"The relocation of ACU's two former Melbourne suburban campuses to a single prominent site at Fitzroy effectively marks ACU Melbourne's coming of age as a quality tertiary institution."

St Patrick's Campus, at 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, replaces the University's two former suburban campuses, Christ

Campus and Mercy Campus. Students commenced the academic year at the new Campus on 6 March.

There are more than 2600 students – 1173 in the Faculty of Education, 589 in the Faculty of Health Sciences and 847 in the Faculty of Arts and Science – at the Campus. It consists of a complex of buildings facing Victoria Parade and Brunswick and Young Streets. The main building has been totally renovated to provide students with purpose-built facilities. Adjacent to the main building are specially designed lecture theatres, an art gallery on Brunswick Street and a multi-level car park.

St Patrick's Campus provides improved educational opportunities by streamlining courses, facilities and services offered at its former suburban campuses. The Raheen Library includes an improved range of collections in electronic and print format to facilitate research and teaching. The Campus provides students with quality teaching facilities, state-of-the-art computer laboratories, art and music rooms, a cafeteria and coffee shop, a chapel and access to recreational facilities. The student common room located on the lower ground floor has been designed in consultation with students to provide a comfortable and functional environment for their activities.

The Campus interior and architecture was designed by Woods Bagot Pty Ltd, and building and construction by Hooker Cockram Limited.

Historic Central Hall, formerly Cathedral Hall, which has stood at 20 Brunswick Street since 1903, is part of the Campus complex. The Catholic community of Melbourne built the Hall. Australian Catholic University hopes to revive and preserve the large ornate hall

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

*Aboriginal welcome to the site*  
*Ms Joy Murphy-Wandin*

*Welcome to St Patrick's Campus*  
*Professor Gabrielle McMullen*  
*Pro-Vice-Chancellor for*  
*Victorian Campuses*  
*(Acting)*

*Official Address*  
*Professor Peter Sheehan AO*  
*Vice-Chancellor*

*Opening of St Patrick's Campus*  
*The Honourable Stephen Bracks MP*  
*Premier of Victoria*

*Blessing of St Patrick's Campus*  
*Most Reverend Archbishop*  
*George Pell DD*  
*Archbishop of Melbourne*

*Refreshments*

for future generations.

The Campus is ideally located with close proximity to local Catholic teaching hospitals, the Catholic and Victorian Government Education offices and welfare agencies, the Melbourne business district and the Catholic Theological College.

## ACU continues Catholic tradition with St Patrick's Campus

The neighbourhood of St Patrick's Campus has important associations with the earliest years of Catholic life and education in Melbourne. Historic Central Hall, formerly Cathedral Hall, which was opened in 1903, was built by the Catholic community of Melbourne and given to Archbishop Carr.

For more than a decade, the Catholic Education Office was housed in a building adjacent to Central Hall. The land behind Central Hall was formerly the site of the Christian Brothers' schools, St Patrick's Cathedral School and St Colman's Central School.

Today this area is occupied by the two new lecture theatres, Mercy and Christ, continuing the tradition of Catholic education on this site.

With the founding of Australian

Catholic University in January 1991 the Institute of Catholic Education became its Victorian Division.

The Institute had been established by the Archdiocese of Melbourne in March 1974, by the amalgamation of three Catholic teachers' colleges – Mercy College (Ascot Vale), Christ College (Oakleigh) and Aquinas College (Ballarat).

Christ College was itself the product of a 1967 amalgamation of three existing teachers' colleges operated by the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of Sion and the Brigidine Sisters.

Mercy College, which was founded by the Mercy Sisters in 1908 and Christ College became the two suburban campuses of Australian Catholic University.



St Patrick's Campus at 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, was officially opened on 28 July 2000.



# Aboriginal Welcome from Ms Joy Murphy-Wandin

I am very privileged and feel very proud to be here today. My part in this whole ceremony is to invite you to the land of my father. Where we are meeting today is Wurrundjeri Land.

When I was invited here by our Aboriginal liaison officer Naomi Wolfe, I was very pleased but at the same time felt that this is where we begin many roads to reconciliation. Our people are called the Wurrundjeri and the language we speak is called *woi weron*.

The Yarra Valley and indeed Melbourne and the inner suburbs have been our home for more than 40,000 years. But we don't study our history with timelines and dates. We have learnt our ancestors' stories of how the world came into being, about the sacred places on the earth and how the great created beings of the dreamtime still speak to us through birds and animals. And because our peo-

ple have lived here for so long, we know all the plants and animals that live here with us and we understand their ways.

Our parents and relatives teach us these things from the time that we are young. This is our school. The world that we live in today, of course, creates another school environment, an environment that not only the Wurrundjeri but indeed the Australian Aboriginal community recognise.

We see that education is really important. But we ask you, as in the story of the Jim-baa-yer, the [Australian Catholic University] Aboriginal Support Unit to listen, learn, understand and teach. That way we begin from the beginning and we should go through until the end, together.

As I said at the beginning, I was invited here to welcome you to our country. It is the traditional custom of the Australian Aboriginal community to be asked for and to be given permission to enter their

land. Each Aboriginal community has its own way of welcoming people to (their) country.

I have placed some branches of gum leaves on the edge of the stage. I would like to invite you, in your time and when you feel comfortable to come up and to take a leaf from one of those branches. If you decide to do that, well then you are given freedom of the bush. You are welcome to everything from the tops of the trees to the roots of the earth.

I would like to thank you. And I would like to thank you in anticipation that if you choose to join with me in this custom of welcome, then you have joined with me to honour the spirits, my ancestors who have nurtured this land for many many thousands of years for both you and I to live on and to walk on together in the future. You are welcomed to the land of the Wurrundjeri people.

## Welcome from Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Victoria, Professor Gabrielle McMullen

Welcome to Australian Catholic University on this very special occasion - the opening of our splendid new home in Melbourne. We are very pleased that you are here to celebrate with us, the official opening of St Patrick's Campus. We are justifiably proud of the wonderful complex at 115 Victoria Parade, which you have just visited. For the opening ceremony, we have assembled in Central Hall, now part of ACU. It is of great historical significance for the Catholic and wider community and we ask you to visualise its grandeur following restoration by Australian Catholic University.

On behalf of the University, it is my pleasant duty to welcome our special guests. We are delighted to have with us today:

The Honourable Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria;

Cardinal Edward Clancy, Chancellor of Australian Catholic University;

Archbishop George Pell, President of Australian Catholic University Ltd;

Emeritus Archbishop Sir Frank Little;

Bishop Peter Connors;

Bishop Denis Hart;

Other members of Parliament: Senators Jacinta Collins and Tsebin Tchen;

Mr Ted Baillieu, Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education, Training and Gaming;

Mr Ron Wilson;

Counsellor Claude Ullin, Mayor of the City of Stonnington;

Members of our Fundraising Campaign

Committee: The Chair, Mr John Ralph and Mrs Barbara Ralph; Emeritus Professor Bernie Daffey; Sr Helen Delaney rsm;

Mr Richard Pratt, who is also here as Chancellor of Swinburne University, and Mrs Jeanne Pratt;

Mrs Phyllis Boyd;

Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and senior officers of other Victorian universities;

Members of the Company, Senate and Victorian Chapter of Australian Catholic University;

Leaders of Catholic education, health care and welfare bodies and of religious congregations, and

The architects and contractors for the project.

I need to note some significant apologies, including:

His Excellency Sir James Gobbo, Governor of Victoria and Lady Gobbo;

Sir Gustav and Lady Nossal;

Other Archbishops and Bishops;

Several parliamentary and civic representatives;

A number of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Victorian universities;

Professor Wolfgang Grichting, foundation Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Victoria and Mrs Grichting;

Some members of the Company, Senate and Victorian Chapter of ACU.

Many others should probably be mentioned but there are more important

messages to be communicated on this occasion. Let me simply welcome you all as members and friends of the University.

I thank all those who have contributed to today's celebrations - their important roles in the preparations and in the delivery of today's opening of St Patrick's Campus have ensured its success. I thank you all for your attendance.



Professor Gabrielle McMullen,  
Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Victoria.



# Opening Address by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan

Your Eminence, Your Grace, The Honourable Steve Bracks, Ministers, Members of Religious Communities, Staff and Students of ACU, Distinguished Guests and Friends of Australian Catholic University.

Thank you all for coming. This afternoon is the official opening of St Patrick's Campus of Australian Catholic University. We are honoured that the Premier, Mr Steve Bracks, will officially open the building for us, and His Grace, Archbishop George Pell, will bless this outstanding campus.

Mercy and Christ Campuses began as Teachers' Colleges. Mercy Teachers College began in 1909 at Ascot Vale, and today we are continuing the tradition of those early years of wonderful Catholic life and education in Melbourne. There were great economies of scale in joining our Christ and Mercy campuses onto the single site of St Patrick's. We have now one magnificent campus with a single library (soon to be named the Raheen Library in recognition of the generous support of Richard and Jeanne Pratt), single sets of Laboratories, and common teaching facilities. Staff in all Faculties can now work together, one with each other in servicing our students, and we can now achieve a single sense of community between staff and our students. Our post-graduate student rooms, for example, located on levels 2, 3 and 4 rep-

resent and provide opportunity for building a real research community and culture. The nature of infrastructure facilitates interaction of research students with each other within and between faculties. Location of the offices creates opportunities for broader interaction of students with other students and staff.

The building itself is a superb one as no doubt you have seen by now, or will see soon. It blends the aesthetic and spiritual aspect of our campus magnificently. The sensitivity of Australian Catholic University to spirituality and the needs of youth infiltrate the environment in which both staff and students work. That spirituality is visibly evident in the fabric and ambience of St Patrick's. Traditions are reinforced by contemporary images throughout the building. We have a centre piece design by the Aboriginal artist, Glenn Romanis beneath the atrium on the main entrance floor. The Stations of the Cross and the Crucifix in our chapel are by the glass sculptors, Janet Lawrence and Julie Rrap. We have commissioned a Mother and Child Marble Statue by the Melbourne sculptor, Peter Schipperheyn. The signage throughout the building has distinctive scriptural messages in vividly different colours, floor by floor. The side front wall of the building has a massive wall-mounted, backlit cross sculpture by the Melbourne artist, Anthony Russo. We have a wonderful donated sculpture by

Guy Boyd in the front foyer of our two main lecture theatres, continuing the generosity of Phyllis Boyd to our Signadou Campus.

St Patrick's is now a perfect campus to show the Blake Prize later this year to the city of Melbourne, and to communicate the artistic consciousness of a value-oriented university to this city. In Central Hall (soon to be renamed Trescowthick Hall in recognition of the generous support of Sir Donald and Lady Trescowthick) we have one of the best acoustic facilities this city offers and a national monument to the heritage of times past that we will make sure will come again. In the past, it was the site of Gilbert and Sullivan theatrical performances, the Mary Downes Dance Academy, the Eucharistic Congress held in Melbourne in 1934, and the second Australasian Catholic Congress in the Hall's opening year, 1904.

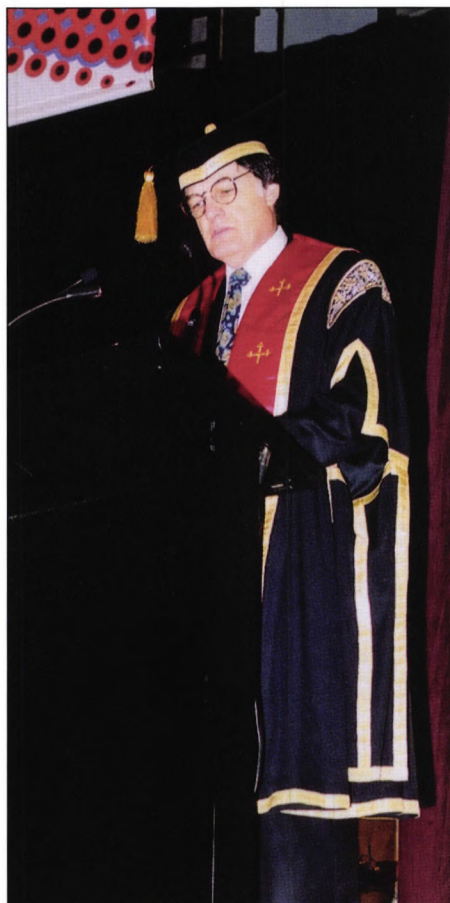
St Patrick's presence as an educational institution in the centre of the business district projects our identity as a Catholic University visibly and strongly to the city's economic, artistic and intellectual community. It is the most significant thing ACU has done in its 10 year history. There is massive potential for St Patrick's to draw students from all over the State of Victoria and to offer real service to the people of Melbourne through its distinctive ethos. There are significantly increased opportunities for interaction with neighbouring educational institutions such as RMIT, VUT and The University of Melbourne. More importantly, the move has the potential of giving a changing dynamic character to our teaching and research. The proximity to major city hospitals will affect nursing and the financial district of centre Melbourne will change the nature of our business courses.

St Patrick's, as you know, offers a wide range of courses spanning Business, Information Technology, Humanities and the Social Sciences, Education, and the Health Sciences, including Human Movement and Nursing. We also reach out to the external community in an especially designed ACUcom which offers a range of short courses that professionals in the community indicate they need. For the first time we have a fully equipped production studio we know professionals in Melbourne will need, and the infrastructure is in place for state-of-the-art IT education for use by both students and staff.



Cardinal Edward Clancy, Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor and the Most Reverend George Pell, Archbishop of Melbourne accompany the Honourable Stephen Bracks, Premier of Victoria (second from left) to the University's Central Hall for the Opening Ceremony.





*Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, ACU.*

Let me give you some of the statistics on what is happening at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne and Victoria:

There are 2,609 students serviced by St Patrick's campus now in Melbourne spreading across three Faculties (Education: 1173; Health Sciences: 589; and Arts and Sciences: 847). 2044 of them are undergraduate, and 565 are post-graduate. We are increasing in the primary choice of students. First-preferences went up 41% for BA this year, Human Movement, 64% and Nursing, 25%. There was over a 100% increase in enrolment in Youth Studies and a 30% increase in Pastoral Studies. Entrance Scores (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank) went up in this year for B. Arts, B. Business, Human Movement, B. Psychology, B. Nursing, and B. Education. We take great comfort from this real growth in the highly competitive tertiary education market place of today.

Importantly, in terms of overall satisfaction Australian Catholic University has ranked particularly well against other universities. There has been a general upward trend in course satisfaction outcomes with a well above average response rate from our graduates to the voluntary annual Graduate Destination Survey growing from 58% in 1995 to over 65% today. In Victoria 7 of 12 disci-

pline areas recorded improved levels of overall satisfaction since 1997. Nine out of eleven disciplinary areas recorded higher overall satisfaction rates than the national average for the sector. Of particular significance were the areas of Creative Arts, Nursing, Sports and Leisure and Postgraduate Business and Management. Graduate full-time employment rates for ACU teacher education and nursing graduates available for employment in 1999 were 93 to 95% in Victoria; and in 1999, 100% of Victorian Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Health Science (Human Movement) graduates available for employment were engaged in employment.

All of this is satisfying to staff, students and employers, but Australian Catholic University is intent on realising its essential Mission. ACU is really a University of "one" in the country and our Mission is unique. It asserts the value of liberal education, and its essential curriculum and research reinforce the extent to which moral values and concern for ethics infuse everything it does. These challenges are heightened greatly by our being a public university, one which is open to all. The tensions of the New Millennium are upon us and Australian Catholic University is uniquely placed to deal with them by projecting a definite and unique identity. We aim to reflect a definite culture, given values and a core identity.

Australian Catholic University has a special responsibility to the Catholic community but also to those beyond it. We are a public University and we must be willing to speak out in an informed way to help the general community solve and reflect upon issues of contemporary ethical concern and serious contemporary social problems. The campus is in the

centre of a vibrant multicultural city which necessarily sensitizes us to problems such as poverty, drugs, social alienation, racial discrimination, abuse and violence. Australian Catholic University has never been cocooned from these problems, but St Patrick's is a site which cries out that we must not ignore them. The University has massive competence and expertise resting with its scholarly community and our staff are there to assist. We are conscious of the nature of the environment in which we are situated and we want to help.

The opportunities of St Patrick's are enormous, in spite of the challenges. It is a "signature" campus. I want that signature to have community relevance, intellectual excitement, and express a core identity artistically. St Patrick's aims to offer an alternative face to Tertiary Education in the city of Melbourne. It offers a dynamic, ethically focused and culturally and spiritually relevant institution so as to provide Melbourne with an active and creative campus in what are uncertain times.

There are many I want to thank on this occasion and I know I cannot do justice to all. First, I want to acknowledge the generosity of His Grace, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne who have combined with us in this venture to turn planning to reality. I wish to pay a special tribute to our very distinguished list of Professional Contractors, Woods Bagot and Hooker Cockram. I would also like to thank John Ralph for heading our Campaign Appeal and John Peyton as Chair of the Building Committee, and our many donors and friends who have given so much. Lastly, I want to thank all of the staff of Australian Catholic University - not just my executive - whose commitment and selfless efforts have made this vision possible.



*Guests at the Opening Ceremony in Central Hall.*





*The Academic Procession approaches St Patrick's Campus.*



*Mr Edward Morgan, Centre for Early Christian Studies, ACU, Rev Lawrence Cross, ACU School of Theology (Vic) and Mr Stephen Utick, DETYA.*



*Sr Rosemary Lewins OP, Dean of Students, Ms Joan Manshon, Sub-Faculty of Theology Administration and Emeritus Professor Bernard Daffey.*



*Mr Richard Doyle, University Secretary, Mr John Barclay, Director Personnel Relations, and Sr Rosemary Lewins, OP, Dean of Students.*



*Mr Max Potter, Archdiocese of Melbourne, Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor and Br Julian McDonald, cfc, Pro-Chancellor, at St Patrick's Cathedral.*



*Fr Denis Rochford, msc, Bishop Denis Hart and Bishop Peter Connors.*

*Right, Mr Gerard Toohey, Acting Assistant Registrar (Records & Systems) and Mr Geoff Woodward, Administration, Faculty of Arts and Sciences.*



*Ms Joy Murphy-Wandin*



*Associate Professor Carolyn Dowling, ACU Head of School of Arts and Sciences (Vic) and Dr Maureen Strugnell, ACU Head of School of Arts and Sciences (QLD).*



*Rev Lawrence Cross, Deacon at the Solemn High Mass (centre) with altar server and Mr Max Potter (right).*



# Premier of Victoria, The Honourable Steve Bracks, MP declares St Patrick's Campus open

It's a great pleasure to be here today to open the St Patrick's Campus of Australian Catholic University.

This is a very significant development for ACU.

But it's also significant for Melbourne - and for Victoria.

It opens up new options and new opportunities in education - right in the heart of the city.

ACU has already made a major contribution to higher education in Victoria.

It has earned a reputation for excellence - and for offering an education that challenges students to explore the social and ethical issues underpinning teaching and research.

It has engaged strongly and positively with the wider community - and given active support to the cause of Aboriginal reconciliation.

It has demonstrated its commitment to disadvantaged Victorians - through initiatives such as its website for country children with disabilities.

It is in the forefront of exploring research and teaching partnerships with industry.

And it continues to show leadership and innovation in its use of technology.

It is a dynamic and creative institution. And now, with the opening of this St Patrick's Campus, ACU has secured its place in the future of higher education in Victoria.

There's no doubt that these are very challenging and exciting times for higher education in Australia.

Other than the immediate post World War II years, it's hard to think of a time

when education - and equal access to education - has been more crucial.

If we want to succeed - both as an economy and a society - we must open up access to high quality education.

It's the difference between taking the high road to the future - or the low road.

If we do not invest in education, if we do not make sure that everyone has access to a good education, if we do not open up new learning opportunities and pathways - then we will not hold our own in this rapidly changing world.

I know that Professor Sheehan and his staff at ACU understand that fundamental point very well.

Their use of cutting-edge communications to deliver high quality learning in regional areas demonstrates that.

I also know that ACU understands the value of education in the development of strong and united communities.

You need look no further than ACU's achievements in Indigenous education to see the truth of that observation.

This is a university committed to excellence, but also committed to improving access to education for students who might struggle to get a decent education because of location, disability or disadvantage.

This is a university that is looking to the future, while remaining deeply committed to its ethical and spiritual tradition.

And when you look around this wonderful new campus, I think you get a very strong sense of that mix of innovation, creativity and commitment to social justice.

This Campus will offer an important new alternative in higher education here



*The Honourable Stephen Bracks, Premier of Victoria.*

in Victoria and I wish ACU every success in achieving their vision for the future.

I congratulate everyone involved in the development of this Campus - from university staff through to private sponsors, and the architects and builders.

You have clearly done a tremendous job - and one that will leave a lasting impression on the City of Melbourne.

It gives me great pleasure to officially open the St Patrick's Campus of Australian Catholic University.



*Guests applaud as the Premier declares St Patrick's Campus officially open.*



*The Premier, Mr Stephen Bracks MP, unveils the plaque marking St Patrick's Campus as officially open.*



# Archbishop George Pell blesses St Patrick's Campus

It is very appropriate that we conclude this happy day of celebrations, of Mass, academic procession and formal opening of the Saint Patrick's campus of Australian Catholic University, with a solemn blessing. This is appropriate for a number of reasons.

Some of you would be aware that one of my distinguished predecessors as Archbishop of Melbourne (not Archbishop Little, who is present with us today), Dr Daniel Mannix, always spoke last at public occasions like this. Apparently, he sometimes felt that a little mopping up was necessary. I am sure that if he were available for advice (which he isn't), he would commend my speaking at this late stage, especially given the distinguished presence of the Cardinal archbishop of Sydney and the Premier of Victoria.

In today's easier ecumenical times within and outside the Church, these political imperatives are felt less keenly than in the past and I endorse the words of welcome already eloquently expressed to the Cardinal, Chancellor of this University and the Premier. We are honoured by your presence.

The blessing is appropriate also because it is one way in which the wider Catholic community, to which the university belongs, can express its gratitude to Australian Catholic University for all that it has already contributed to Catholic life

and for all that will be contributed in the future.

All Catholics, even those who touch most lightly on our dogmas, believe in some fundamentals such as the existence of the one true God who loves us and the existence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed us. But no Catholic who is consistent can be a fundamentalist, because we are committed to believing in a living, learning, teaching authority and especially because we are committed believers in, and defenders of, the power of reason. It is no coincidence that the first European universities were Catholic; that the first university in Asia, St Thomas in Manila, was founded early in the 17th century; that the last letter of Pope John Paul II was on faith and reason.

Our local Church will learn much and benefit greatly from the staff and graduates of Australian Catholic University. The blessing acknowledges this.

This blessing is also appropriate for a third reason, because it reminds the leadership, staff and students of the Catholic nature of the university and of the obligations which follow from that for those who freely choose to work and study here. The Scriptures tell us that we build in vain if we try to build without the one true God. The tower of Babel is an ancient symbol of this and two world wars and the ravages of Nazism and



*The Most Reverend George Pell, Archbishop of Melbourne.*

Communism are modern and virulent examples of more recent errors. A university which explicitly recognizes the Divinity, Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church in its charter has special obligations to religious truth, which are not shared by good secular universities. As Archbishop I am grateful for all the good work done here under this head and I urge you to continue and develop this dimension of your corporate life.

Today's reading from the New Testament letter to the Ephesians reminds us that even those working to build up the Body of Christ have different roles, as apostles or prophets or evangelists or pastors or teachers.

So too different institutions in Catholic education also have quite different roles.



*Mr Stuart Whelan, Library Manager, St Patrick's Campus, carrying the University's Staff as he leads the Academic Procession from the Cathedral to St Patrick's Campus.*



*The Academic Procession entering St Patrick's Campus.*



A university is not a Catholic primary or secondary school, where there are often regular compulsory prayers, occasional community worship and compulsory education in the basics of the faith and morals and the reasons for Catholic claims in faith and morals.

Nor is the Catholic university like a seminary, where all the seminarians are Catholic and are preparing for some church role; and all the staff and students are committed to regular prayer and a demanding community life.

There have been many learned attempts to define universities and in many ways there are determined efforts to rewrite these definitions today. One US University president said that a university was a community of totally disparate individuals, united only by a common concern about car parking.

A Catholic university in a religiously pluralist society, generously funded by the Federal Government and part of the unified national system of tertiary education has to meet civil requirements as important as those which flow from its Catholic charter. We all recognize this, although this does not mean that Australian Catholic University works assiduously to become more like its secular counterparts. All sides of Australian politics recognizes that Australian Catholic University is funded because it is Catholic and indeed its best long-term defence in the foreseeable future lies with the constructive development of its Catholic nature.

This does not mean that a Catholic university can require or even directly urge either its staff or its students to the explicit religious conversion Paul was urging on the Ephesians, i.e. to put away a former way of life, the old self, and undergo spiritual renewal. This might be a happy consequence of some aspect of university life, but it cannot be a university aim.

What is essential in a Catholic university of any description, however, is that there are regular opportunities for students at undergraduate and postgraduate level to systematically study the intersection of their branch of culture or learning with the claims of religion and more particularly claims of the Christian and Catholic tradition. This is not only a requirement of those who want to follow professional careers in Catholic institutions as teachers or nurses or doctors, but a broader necessity so that the dialogue between the Christian traditions and our pluralistic, often agnostic, culture can continue.

Old certainties are eroding, especially ancient prejudices and self-confident unbelief. Many secularists are uneasy and uncertain, as are too many Catholics! This presents new opportunities.

We thank God for the conjunction of circumstances, for the unprecedented co-operation between Dioceses and Orders within the Catholic church and for the co-operation between Church and State which brought Australian Catholic University into existence and enabled this beautiful campus to be purchased and constructed.

Let us now formally ask God's blessings on this enterprise, especially on all who work and study here and on our generous friends and benefactors.



*The Academic Procession entering the new campus from Victoria Parade.*



*Police stop traffic for the Academic Procession as it crosses Victoria Parade.*



*Mr John Ralph AO, Chairman, Fundraising Campaign Committee, Br Julian McDonald, cfc, Pro-Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy, Chancellor, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Victoria) and Archbishop George Pell.*



# Solemn High Mass Homily Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I notice that the mural text that one first encounters on entering the new campus building is a quotation from St. Teresa of Avila: "Blessed is the soul whom the Lord brings to the understanding of the truth."

In judgment before Pontius Pilate, Jesus declared that he had come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Pilate asked: "What is truth?" We shall never know for certain whether he asked the question as an eager and honest inquirer, or as a disillusioned cynic. Be that as-it may, he articulated the question that from the dawn of time has challenged, and even haunted, successive generations. Still today, no less than in days gone by, we human beings are driven by this quest for truth.

Pope John Paul, in his Encyclical Letter, *Fides et Ratio*, states that "one may define the human being as the one who seeks the truth" (28) "The thirst for truth", he says, "is so rooted in the human heart that to be obliged to ignore it would cast our existence into jeopardy. Everyday life", he continues, "shows well enough how each one of us is preoccupied by the pressure of a few fundamental questions and how in the soul of each of us is at least an outline of the answers." (29) This search looks not only to the attainment of truths which are partial, empirical or scientific, nor is it only in individual acts of decision-making that people seek the true good. Their search looks towards an ultimate truth which would explain the meaning of life. And it is therefore a search that can reach its end only in reaching the absolute." (33)

The search goes on at many different

levels, not least at the level of the individual, forever – consciously or unconsciously – looking for the answers that will shed light on the mysteries that enshroud our earthly pilgrimage.

Of special significance, however, are the places of learning, teaching and research – our Institutes and Universities – which professionally and relentlessly, though sometimes misguidedly, seek to unlock and expound to the world the secrets of the created universe, and to understand humankind, its origin and its end. Pope John Paul speaks of that "*gaudium de veritate* so precious to St. Augustine, which is that joy of searching for, discovering and communicating truth in every field of knowledge." (*Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities* 1)

The Catholic University is no exception in this pursuit of truth. It does however have distinct advantages. Truth itself, in the person of Jesus Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us. In and through Jesus Christ God revealed to us certain truths that human reason could never have attained, and others that human reason could attain only with the greatest difficulty. Divine Revelation does not by any means answer all our questions, but in addition to those it does answer, it also provides us with the principles and guidelines that facilitate our quest for truth, our search for answers.

Christ entrusted His revelation to the whole human race, but in a special way to His Church. "When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who issues from the Father, He will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses because you have been with me from the outset" (John



Cardinal Edward Clancy, ACU Chancellor.

15,26-27). Christ's parting instructions to his Church was to go forth and teach all nations.

On this significant occasion in the unfolding life of Australian Catholic University it is desirable, I think, to recall the nature and objectives of a Catholic University. Perhaps we are in any case invited to sharpen our perceptions by today's Gospel which gives an eloquent warning about allowing the salt to lose its savour and not allowing the lamp to shed its light.

Pope John Paul in the *Apostolic Constitution* declares that "Every Catholic University, as a University, is an academic community which, in a rigorous and critical fashion, assists in the protection and advancement of human dignity and of a cultural heritage through research, teaching, and various services offered to the local, national and international communities. It possesses that institutional autonomy necessary to perform its functions effectively, and guarantees its members' academic freedom, so long as the rights of the individual person and of the community are preserved within the confines of the truth and the common good." (12) And as *Catholic*, every Catholic University, whether as individuals or community, must be of Christian inspiration, must continually reflect in the light of the Catholic faith on the growing treasury of human knowledge; must be faithful to the Christian message as proposed by the Church; and must give institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life. (cf. 13)

What especially distinguishes a



The Academic Procession leaving St Patrick's Cathedral on its way to St Patrick's Campus.



Catholic University from its secular counterparts is the recognition that Divine Revelation complements human reason in gaining access to truth, and that faith working in dialogue with reason, is reason's partner in the enterprise. It is therefore the special role of a Catholic University to encourage and promote such dialogue.

The Catholic University also recognizes that truth is ultimately to be identified with God himself, and is therefore objective and absolute. Accordingly, a Catholic University adopts an uncompromising stance against the relativism of our age.

The *Apostolic Constitution* sets the autonomy and academic freedom of a Catholic University in their proper context: "Every Catholic University, without ceasing to be a University, has a relationship to the Church that is essential to its institutional identity. As such it participates most directly in the life of the local Church in which it is situated; at the same time, because it is an academic institution and therefore part of the international community of scholarship and inquiry, each institution participates in, and contributes to, the life and the mission of the universal Church, assuming, consequently, a special bond with the Holy See by reason of the service to unity which it [the Holy See] is called to render to the whole Church. One consequence of its essential relationship to the Church is that the institutional fidelity of the University to the Christian message includes a recognition of, and adherence to, the teaching authority of the Church in matters of faith and morals. Catholic members of the University community are also called to a personal fidelity to the Church with all that this implies. Non-Catholic members are required to respect the Catholic character of the University, while the University in turn respects their religious liberty." (27)

Today's second reading, in extolling the primacy of wisdom, draws on the Book of Proverbs, just one book in a significant body of Old Testament Wisdom literature. The world-scene today with its vast and ever-growing reservoir of knowledge alongside enduring and widespread poverty, hunger, injustice, violence and bloodshed reminds us that mere knowledge is not wisdom. It is wisdom that we need to solve the world's problems. Scores of writers over the centuries have stressed the distinction between knowledge and wisdom. T.S. Eliot wrote:

*"Where is the life we have lost in the living?*

*Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?"*

Wisdom can be acquired with the processing of our knowledge, and the distill-

ing of our experience, and can come with the passage of the years. I suggest, however, that in drawing on the wellsprings of revelation, knowledge and experience find a shorter-cut to that goal. I would like to think, therefore, that Australian Catholic University might aspire to turning out graduates not only replete with knowledge, but also in full stride on the road to wisdom.

In amalgamating Mercy and Christ campuses at the new site we establish today a new campus, with new buildings, new facilities, and a new environment. Above all, however, do we establish a new University community. A Catholic University is first and foremost a single community embracing teachers and students, directors and administrators, lay and clerical. Again, in words that we should reflect on frequently, the *Constitution* declares:

"A Catholic University pursues its objectives through its formation as an authentic human community animated by the spirit of Christ. The source of its unity [is to be found in] a common dedication to the truth, a common vision of the dignity of the human person and, ultimately, in the person and message of Christ which gives the Institution its distinctive character. As a result of the inspiration, the community is animated by a spirit of freedom and charity; it is characterized by mutual respect, sincere dialogue, and protection of the rights of individuals. It assists each of its members to achieve wholeness as human persons, in turn, everyone in the community helps in promoting unity, and each one, according to his or her role and capacity, contributes towards decisions which affect the community, and also towards maintaining and strengthening the distinctive Catholic character of the Institution." (21)

May the St Patrick's University com-



Altar servers outside St Patrick's Cathedral.



munity be indeed a people of God called to walk in His wonderful light; may all of its members be truly living stones making a spiritual house of which Christ is the corner-stone; and may it in turn be an active and vibrant member contributing to the life and the unity of that greater body which is Australian Catholic University.



To commemorate the Opening of St Patrick's Campus, Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral.





# Solemn High Mass Celebration Concluding Rites, Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor

The celebration of High Mass here is a celebration not only of Christ present in the sacrament, but a fitting celebration of our communal spirit on this very special occasion. This service is a celebration of the Church, a celebration of the people and a celebration of ACU's special community – united at the opening of St Patrick's. The celebration is a distinguishing mark of our life together and signals the special nature of our University on this very special occasion. The training oriented learning that infuses a deep concern for morality and ethics in all, and we are all active participants in the community which is part of that process.

1999 and the first half of 2000 have been an important time for our University. It has conveyed us maturely into the future and helped prepare us for our future in Melbourne. I am especially grateful to His Grace, and the staff and students of ACU for their help in bringing St Patrick's to this point. It is also the traditions, the history and the accomplishments of Christ and Mercy Campus that have made this move possible, and I want it to be recognised, in the most solemn way I can, how important are the achievements of the past and of those people responsible for them, and how indispensable our traditions are to the challenge

and excitement of what St Patrick's will achieve.

In an important sense, this morning's Mass is a celebration of the *reality* of St Patrick's. The generosity of so many here today has not only made our development to Melbourne possible but also presented us with a great opportunity. We are joint participants in an act of discovery of the world around us and its many problems.

Much is happening in contemporary society that this university is sensitive to, and wants to respond to. There is reconciliation with Indigenous Australians, the renewal of commitment to multiculturalism and awareness of the shifting needs of the employers who hire our graduates. We know that in the Australian context, there are visible and major changes in the occupational structure of the workplace and we are acutely aware that the face of higher education is altering.

The Catholic ethos is special to ACU in so many ways. We are a public university and are open to all. That is important to us. We live in a fast moving world without direction. In the world around us, there seems to be nothing that is not a matter of choice. Commitment to a caring ethos will reduce the frustration, resentment and dissatisfaction that is so apparent all around. We need ideals to guide us in the turbulent times ahead, and campus-

es which express them. St Patrick's does that.

Let me conclude by citing the words of John Paul II in his statement in the "*Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities*". His words provide us with the ideals we search for:

"A Catholic University is an incomparable centre of creativity and dissemination of knowledge for the good of humanity... dedicated to the education of students who freely associate with their teachers in a common love of knowledge.

"A Catholic University enables us to institute an incomparable fertile dialogue with people of every culture. It inescapably requires the correspondingly necessary search for meaning in order to guarantee that the new discoveries be used for the authentic good of individuals and of human society as a whole.

"A Catholic University forms an authentic human community, the source of which springs from a common dedication to truth, a common vision of the dignity of the human person and, ultimately, the person and message of Christ.

"A Catholic University respects religious liberty; it is immersed in human society.

"A Catholic University must become more attentive to the cultures of the world of today. Among the criteria that characterise the values of a culture are, above all, the meaning of the human person, his or her liberty, dignity, sense of responsibility, and openness to the transcendent."

I hope and pray we can live up to these ideals and that St Patrick's will always live and breathe our essential Mission.

I began with an expression of joy and I wish to conclude with the same.

Today is a joyous day for us. St Patrick's is the right way forward in Victoria for ACU, and a marvellous way to realise the richness of a dynamic fulfilment of Pope John Paul's ideals.

May I add my prayerful wishes for its future. We are all part of the one community that now has St Patrick's to help us find and search the way.



Mr Stuart Whelan carrying the ACU Staff ahead of Cardinal Edward Clancy, Chancellor; Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor; Br Julian McDonald cfc, Pro-Chancellor; Mr Paul Hoy, Chairman, Victorian Chapter; Archbishop George Pell DD, and Emeritus Professor Bernard Daffey.

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