The Church News

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"representing the broad church/ "nullus salutatio extra ecclesiam" (there is no salvation outside the church) Dedicated to the Glorification of the Risen Christ
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Farewell Dame Joan: a Sydney Anglican

The memorial service to Dame Joan Sutherland in the Sydney Opera house Concert Hall on (November was surely one of the great events in Australia’s recent history. Some 500 VIPs attended, including the Governor General. The Prime Minister and the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir (Lady Shehadie) both gave speeches.

Dame Joan attended St Catherine’s School, Waverley, who cosponsored the event with the Australian Opera, and her Anglican upbringing surely shows in her life. Her son Adam Bonyenge spoke movingly of his mother who was perfectionist in a kindly way. Her family called her Mimi (the heroine of Puccini’s La Bohème). She died at her home Les Avants in the mountains near Lausanne in Switzerland where Noel Coward was a neighbor. A singing partner the US singer Marilyn Horne (eg in Bellini’s Norma) had a premonition of her death and maintained a vigil the night she died. When she rang next morning Richard Bonyenge told her that Joan had passed away holding his hand.

The memorial included several video segments of Dame Joan singing her most memorable roles. The boisterous singing of the National Anthem by the Australian Opera chorus, principals and those present left little doubt that Australia is well on the way to becoming a republic. The event ended, with memories of Dame Nellie Melba, with a clip of Dame Joan singing Home Sweet Home from her Farewell performance in the Sydney Opera House. Addio Mimi, goodbye Dame Joyce wunderlings (as she was known the behind the stage of the Oper House to the stage hands), farewell Joan, a saint of Sydney.

An Editorial or rather 5 editorials
by the editor

Christmas and “the Prince of Peace”: bring home the troops.

Every year rectors give a Christmas sermon. We will be told that Christ needs to be reborn in or hearts, so showing that the truths of Christianity are metaphorical. And in the centre of the Christmas story, that God becomes man (that is, humanity has taken on Godhead, since the birth of Christ). We will hear of the need to alleviate poverty. If only this had actually been done instead trillions of US dollars being spent on warfare since the end of the last world war what a different place the world would be.

Two figures stand out in the last year for attempting to create a more peaceful world: Liu Xiaobo,winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize for Peace, and Julian Assange. In the former’s case his organizing of Charter 08 (calling for democracy in China) is an attempt to bring democracy to China. It is clear that democracy will come to the Middle Kingdom. The only question is when and how. Julian Assange has tried in his own way to create a more peaceful world. We have heard through Wikileaks of the terrible things governments do behind our backs. John Pilger has said “If they can read our emails, why cant we read theirs?” Why not? After all government is for “we the people” and not the other way around.

Liu Xiaobo and Julian Assange: Christs of our time. If you wish to support the devil go ahead. But good will triumph in the end. And on this score the Australian troops in Afghanistan should be brought home immediately. As we know form Wikileaks central
figures in the government think the situation is hopeless. We would do better to spend Australian money on alleviating poverty in the Middle East and helping the persecuted Christian churches there. We wish out readers a Happy Christmas.

The Sydney Diocese and the rest of the Anglican Communion

I don’t think the powers that be in the diocese realize just how alienated the Sydney Diocese is from the rest of the 22 other dioceses. And even the rest of the Anglican Communion. Perhaps they do realize this and want to be that way. But going round to various churches you quickly find out that Anglicans want their Holy Communion (which by the way the Prayer Book ordains, not to mention the Constitution which is a legal document).

Holy Communion was set up in fulfilment to Christ’s command to “Do this in memory of me”. It is the central part of Anglican ritual which the National Appellate Court’s decision of earlier this year against the Diocese has reinforced. Sydney Diocese is not actually so far apart from other dioceses: a few points of ritual and we are there. Let us emphasise our point sin common and go forward together with our fellow Anglicans from Darwin to Perth. Southern Cross the diocesan newspaper has as its subtitle Connecting Sydney Anglicans. Let us connect the diocese to the Anglican Church in full. Southern Cross could also represent more points of view than the evangelical one too. It could honor what is on its masthead.

We urge Anglicans to make their faith known to people you meet. Make them aware of some of the great work of charity done by for instance Anglicare. One great example is Reverend Michael Spence, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney, already a presence in the life of Sydney (with his wife Beth who is herself ordained but has not been given a licence to conduct services in Sydney), Michael and Beth Spence recently were locums at Waverley’s St Mary’s. t

A great recent pope has said “Put nothing before the love of Christ”. Whatever quarrels we may have should be considered as quarrels in a family: that and no more. It must not be forgotten that Anglicanism and Sydney Anglicanism in particular has made a huge contribution to Australian culture. Do you know about Caroline Chisholm, a woman who helped emigrants to the early colony? Reverend John Harris’s great book One Blood deals with the Aborigines and Brian Fletcher’s latest book should be read by all (see below in book reviews).

Just do it, Peter: resign

It is not a pleasant thing for an editor of a newspaper to ask an Archbishop to resign but that is the only acceptable course for the recent financial mess. Gambling is strictly forbidden in Sydney Diocese but that is exactly what the Archbishop and his mates did in leveraging the assets of the Diocese on buying shares. We still do not know exactly what was lost. But it is many tens of millions at least and possibly hundreds.

Reaction to the first edition if this paper indicates that ordinary Anglicans are horrified. But the deeper fault I am sorry to say is the lack of spiritual oversight. An archbishop should be loved but Peter Jensen is not (maybe by evangelicals but not by the diocese as a whole and there support has dramatically declined). The next Archbishop must be a moderate.

Equal rights for women and gays. This paper believes women and gays should have equal rights with men. We do not think this is anything radical. It means that women and openly gay men and women should be able to proceed to ordination. This is occurring in other parts of the church eg the US, Canada and New Zealand have women priests. Why not in Sydney?
Why not the Church of Australia? We again emphasise that in our view the church should deconnect from being an Anglo enterprise. There is the Church of North Indian and the Church of South India. Why not change out name to The Church of Australia?

THE PARISHES
St Paul’s, Castle Hill
We have been informed that St Paul’s, the Sydney parish which has the highest income at $1.6 million a year, is gay friendly. There are 14 people on the staff for pastoral care. Nest issue we hope will feature an interview with the vicar.

Hurstville
Martin Drevikowsky is a member of this parish. He is the Secretary of the Anglican Synod Australia wide. A most amazing person and any parish which contains such a person is one to look up to.

St Marks, Darling Point
We apologize to Rev. Boak Jobbins for our remarks in the last issue. Rev. Jobbins conducts an excellent service at 8 AM on Sunday and preaches no mean sermon. His Christ is not perhaps ours but that does not mean we do not respect him. The 8 AM service at St Mark’s has a choir who sing an Anglican setting. It is in a word stunning. Rev. Jobbins has quite a few years service in him yet.

St John’s Darlinghurst
A new vicar will take up his position at the end of January; he comes form Ireland and has been involved in church planting. The Stuart grand piano was inaugurated on Sunday 12 December in a fine concert where it was played by Bransby Byrne the church organist (a selection of works, mainly Chopin). The piano, a gift by a doctor who believes in the healing power of music cost $180,000 and took a year to make; 53 other parties in Australia own such a work.

St James Turramurra
St James is situated in a brick church which was painted by Grace Cossington Smith who seems to have been parishioner. The church is in good hands. And practises what it preaches: Christian charity.

SURROUNDING DIOCESES
Fiji
The enthronement of the Fifth Bishop of Fiji took place in Suva cathedral earlier this year. Some 1,500 people attended. At our cathedral Holy Trinity in Suva.

NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand has women priests and even Bishops we are told. Why not Sydney?

OTHER PARTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN CHURCH
Diocese of Melbourne
The Diocese has a deficit this year but hopes to have a surplus next year. St Paul’s Cathedral has a new priest, a former doctor (an oncologist, that is a specialist in cancer) Dr Ruth Bedford. She is most impressive. The preacher Rachel preaches an excellent sermon. Dr Ray Cleary who takes the ABC religion program on 702 after 10 PM is a Member of the
Associated Clergy. The former Dean David Richardson is in charge of the Anglican Centre in Rome under the direct patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury (he was formerly dean of St Peter’s, Adelaide and renovated both Adelaide and Melbourne cathedrals raising $11 million to repair Melbourne’s spire which was falling down; Primrose, Lady Potter, formerly of Sydney, but now resident in Melbourne, reputedly gave $1 million.) The congregation has a monthly luncheon which is well worth attending if you are in Melbourne on that Sunday. Anne Brady Rev Jim Brady’s wife supervises the food which is excellent.

Brisbane

Our cathedral in Brisbane must surely be the finest in the country; everywhere the eye falls is beauty. Each cathedral is different however and perhaps this is a harsh judgment (Christ Church, Newcastle, has after all the Burne-Jones window). It has finally been completed, some 100 years after construction with the cladding of the spires in copper (this was cheaper than stone; however not as enduring. If you are in Brisbane be sure to visit St John’s. On a recent visit the Church News encountered a very charming woman priest.

Perth

Reverend Graeme Napier has been installed as Precentor of St George’s Cathedral in October. Graeme, who has a Welsh background, was formerly the chief priest at Westminster Abbey and his services were most memorable (Sister Liz helped in the administration of holy communion at The Abbey and all who went to her services will not fail to have a happy memory): there was no finer priest in Christendom. In Sydney Graeme was a priest at Christ Church St Laurence. We have been told he was called into the Archbishop’s office and told “You’re a single priest and you have no future in this diocese”. We have also been told on good authority that this has happened to other single priests. We would be interested to know if this is so: if so we consider it disgraceful. Sydney’s loss was London’s gain and now Perth’s.

ANGLICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

This section inaugurates a new section of the paper. Our next issue will feature an article on the Anglican Novel.

Music

We asked Warren Tevelyan-Jones head of music at St James, King Street who were the five greatest composers of Anglican Church music. The answer appears in the next issue. Yes Tallis is there. Mr Tevelyan-Jones has put out a cd or two and several Choral Masses will be conducted at St James in the new year we understand as has happened in the past.

FIGURES FROM THE PAST

This section will consist of 2 persons, one Australian, one from other parts of the Anglican Communion, which now has 78 million people and spreads across all continents.

NANCY, LADY FAIRFAX

Nancy Fairfax who died in 2007 was married to Vincent, a brother of Sir Warwick and was a beneficiary of the Fairfax newspaper fortune. She was born in Great Britain and educated at Benedern school there (which Princess Anne attended later). In Australia she quickly became a good Australian and was noted for her good works through the Vincent Fairfax Foundation and as being charming and honest. This included helping in the restoration of St Mark’s. Darling Point (where Mary, Lady Fairfax wife of Vincent’s brother Sir Warwick Fairfax is
also a parishioner though said to be in poor health: we wish her all the best). The Foundation gave $800,000 towards the cost of the renovation of the spire of St James King Street.

Need money for repairs to your church (many are in a bad way since they are over 100 years old)? Apply to the Vincent Fairfax foundation. On Lady Nancy see also her obituary from the Sydney Morning Herald on the internet.

TOM ELIOT, POET by the editor

Tom Eliot as he was known to his confreres (and T S Eliot officially) wrote the best known poem of the last century, The Waste Land (1922). This poem, written by the originally US born poet in the midst of a nervous breakdown and the aftermath of the first world war, dramatizes the culture of Europe as being destroyed but with the possibility of rebirth (you got it: there is a Christian element which goes back to Sir James Fraser whose Golden Bough was a massive attack on Christianity without mentioning Christ even once as I recall; Fraser was saying that the Christian view of the resurrection came out of a corpus of beliefs in the middle east such as the cult of the Nile centered on the annual flood which led to renewal of the land; similar beliefs are seen in Australia in the paintings of Emily Kngwarreye.... Not so strange sin all life on the planet is connected).

Eliot later converted to Anglicanism and repudiated his US upbringing. In 1928 he announced himself “an Anglo-catholic in religion, a classicist in literature and a royalist in politics”. His major late work Four Quartets was written in the midst of World War 2. It was one of a number of works to come out of that conflict, including Virginia Woolf’s last novel Between the Acts, a towering achievement, and of course The Lord of the Rings by Catholic J R R Tolkien (part of a circle at Oxford which included the great Anglican C S Lewis whose book on the four loves is still readable). The four separate poems of Four Quartets, each divided into several sections, show the influence of Beethoven’s Late Quartets which were much belived by Eliot and Woolf. It is a work which can be read and reread. Some memorable lines “at the still point/ in the turning world” and “in my end is my beginning”. There is also “History is now and England”. History is now and Australia of course to an Australian (and all literature is metaphorical as we have already noted). See also Barry Spurr’s magnificent recent book on White and Anglicanism (Dr Barry Spurr, a communicant Anglican, teaches in the English Department of the University of Sydney). We hope to review this work soon.

MORE ON PATRICK WHITE

It has been brought to our attention that the hero of Voss (1957) which some consider Patrick White’s greatest novel may be seen as Christ. In addition Valerie Beattie who published a chapter on Voss being a homosexual (published in the fourth volume of Gay Histories and Cultures) in fact abstracted this chapter from her thesis published in the UK which is a homosexual reading of White, something which has been urgently needed. The details of the thesis are on COFAC. The State Library has been asked to buy a copy of the thesis.

The selling of White’s great painting by Ian Fairweather, Gethsemane, which used to hang above his desk, by the Art Gallery of NSW, is a disgrace (White gave 300 art works to the Art Gallery). The director Edmund Capon should resign. He has reached his use by date. And the Trustees should stand down for permitting such a thing.

ONE DAY CONFERENCE OF FORWARD IN FAITH

The Church News attended this conference at St James Turramurra on Saturday 4 December. Bishop Walters spoke of Canada about the events in Canada which saw him defrocked by Canadian west coast Bishop Michael Ingham but reinstated into Holy Orders by the Archbishop of the Southern Cone (this province of the Anglican Communion is in South America) and made a Bishop. Justice Peter Young had asked in a question if mediation had
been tried. The answer was that it had and that there is in addition a property dispute and this has not been resolved though it has gone to court. The matter revolved around ordination of women and same sex marriage of gays. Several other Canadian dioceses now allow gay marriage. Forward in Faith is an organization concerned with the preservation of the liturgy, as indeed are many Anglicans in Sydney.

INTERFAITH ISSUES

JUDAISM
That great Jewish figure of Sydney Ernie Friedlander has formed a Jewish group which liaises with other religions and is active in the Aboriginal cause. He and his mother survived a death march in Hungary due to the kindness of a German speaking soldier who heard them speaking German (he had lived in Germany until 1938). He later lost his faith due to the Holocaust but is now a member of the Maroubra Synagogue. Check the internet

CATHOLICISM
The *Church News* has learnt with sadness of the death of Sister Catherine O’Carrigan. She was a Sister of Charity (the order which runs St. Vincents Hospital which the nuns founded in 1857) and the order’s historian in Sydney, living at their Potts Point convent. We remember the extreme tact, delicacy and gentleness with which she dealt with a delicate situation at a dinner party. See also the obituary in *The Catholic Weekly* 7 November 2010, p. 19 “Sister wrote with warmth and love”.

GREEK ORTHODOXY
We have learnt with sadness of a serious illness of Archbishop Stylianos, head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia (under the Patriarch of Istanbul, a breakaway church is under the Bishop of Athens). We wish him a speedy recovery. An interfaith group between Orthodoxy and Anglicanism exists.

BOOKS OF THE YEAR

Two books competed for this issue. Firstly *Madame de Maintenon: secret mistress of Louis XIV*. This is the biography of what is surely one of the most amazing women ever: if there were a list of the ten greatest women (headed by the Virgin Mary of course) then Madame De Maintenon would have to be on that list.

*Our Final Century?* written by Sir Martin Rees of Trinity College Cambridge asks whether humanity and the earth can survive the next 50 years. The author’s main worry is of a scientific mutter setting off a chain reaction which destroys all life on earth. President Obama is on record as “worrying every day about a nuclear device going off in an American city”.

Professor Brian Fletcher’s latest book on Australian Anglicanism published by Broughton Books is brilliant. Be sure to read it and can we suggest you buy it for a friend.? Anglican publisher Broughton Books of Melbourne is run on a small budget; please support it. A review will appear in the next issue of the *Church News*.

See also Nancy C. James, *The Developing Schism within the Episcopal Church, 1960-2010* (More College has this book)

MUSICAL REVIEWS by the editor

*The Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle played magically in the second series of concerts in Sydney which featured Haydn’s 99th symphony and Brahms second (there were 2
series each of 2 concerts; only Perth also heard the Berlin Phil in Australia). Pianissimos were heard and fortissos were not too loud. They set out to wow Sydney and wow they did. They even gave an encore, a piece from their recording of Tchaikovsky’s *Natkracker* (the whole thing is magnificent). See also Von Karajan’s recordings of Haydn’s late symphonies with the orchestra. In contrast a performance of Mahler’s fourth symphony by the Sydney Symphony conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy head a few days later was a disaster. Why is he still there?

*L’anima del filosofo* (the spirit of philosophy). This is Haydn’s last opera. Written in London in the 1790s and based on the Orpheus and Eurydice story, it was not performed until 1951. It is a masterpiece which was brilliantly performed by Pinchgut Opera in Sydney recently. The last Sydney performance was of a standard that equalled Glyndebourne. Entranced and enraptured the audience were with the performers all the way. The Australian conductor goes to the Met to conduct baroque opera next year. We wish him well. A longer review will appear in the next issue of this work on the theme: without love you die. We Christians know all about that. Both Haydn and the librettist (author of the 1784 work *The Disputes in Opera;* a copy is in the State Library) were both Catholics. There is a brilliant cd recording by Christopher Hogwood. It is to be hoped that Pinchgut bring out a DVD.

**POEM**

(This poem was written some 24 years ago and was first published in the Anggays newsletter when the author, a cradle Anglican, was out of communion with the Church. A church rector in Sydney could not cope with it but a gay ex-Catholic monk who is training to be a lawyer, said “there is nothing wrong with it” or words to this effect)

**The Personality of Jesus**

you walk on the waves of our imagination

in the stained glass windows of our minds:

Jesus the homosexual

loving mankind to death

Do this in my memory you said
telling us to eat together:

share, be kind

—telling us not to hate, forbidding it—

with your well loved disciple in your arms.

and when we meet you

as we still do

in many places, closeted places

we are always overcome by your presence
that you are still living;

and can never put that experience into words:

    that you forgave as you were betrayed—
    as you were kissed

Paul Knobel
12-23 April 1986

Copies of past issues and this issue may be obtained at the Firestone Newsagency in Darlinghurst Road, King’s Cross or through Janes Bennett Library. Library supplies. We may be contacted at cug333@gmail or by snail mail at Church News, 44/42 Avoca Street, Randwick 2031. Paul Knobel, editor and publisher,