

2020 Conference

Encountering God: Practical Theology and the Mission to Heal

Virtual Conference 2 - 4 December 2020



ASSOCIATION OF
**PRACTICAL
THEOLOGY**
IN OCEANIA

Welcome to APTO's first online conference!

During the conference you can:

- Attend live Zoom presentations from our keynote speakers;
- Access almost 50 research papers presented by academics, researchers, higher degree students and ministry practitioners;
- Engage in small discussion groups with the authors of papers of interest to you;
- Discover and connect with like-minded researchers through interest group meetings and social gatherings;
- Expand your knowledge and understanding of many strands of Practical Theology;
- Be re-inspired to continue your own research.

In this document you will find:

- The conference schedule
- Details of keynote speakers
- A list of workshop paper presenters and titles
- Other information, including how to get help.

Conference website (<https://apto2020.site/>)

The conference website is your primary hub for information about the conference. This is where you go to find information about the workshop sessions and access the pre-recorded papers.

Click on the heading "Program" to go to the program page, then click on any session that you are interested in.

Inside each session section you will find information such as the name of the presenters in that group and the title and abstract of their paper.

Zoom links

The Zoom links you will need to join the plenary sessions and workshop sessions are not on the website but will be sent to you once you have registered for the conference.

At the time indicated in the conference schedule, click on the appropriate Zoom link to join the session you want to participate in.

APTO 2020 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All times are shown in Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Wednesday 2 December		Thursday 3 December		Friday 4 December	
10:00 AM	Conference welcome and opening				
10:15 AM	Keynote 1: Francis Sullivan AO "And now! Being Church after the Royal Commission."	Keynote 2: Dr Rosie Joyce CSB "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times: A practical theological reflection in a pandemic."	Keynote 3: Dr Ruth Powell "Strength and vulnerability: a review of the Church's capacity for a mission to heal"		
10:30 AM					
10:45 AM					
11:00 AM	Break	Break	Break		
11:15 AM					
11:30 AM	Method in Practical Theology 1	Scripture in the Service of Practical Theology	Vital Congregations	Experiential Spirituality	Responding to Trauma and Tragedy
11:45 PM					
12:00 PM	Break	Break	Break	Break	
12:15 PM					
12:30 PM	Method in Practical Theology 2	Integral Theology & Spirituality	Interreligious Relations	The Search for Inner Spiritual Authority	Religious Vocations
12:45 PM					
1:00 PM					
1:15 PM					
1:30 PM					
1:45 PM	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	
2:00 PM					
2:15 PM	Spiritual Wellbeing	Church and Society	Theological & Liturgical Responses to COVID-19	"Imagine That!" Jeff Lawrence and Debra Snoddy Conference reflection & summary	
2:30 PM					
2:45 PM					
3:00 PM	Interest group meetings	Book Launch: <i>Weaving Theology in Oceania: Culture, Context and Practice.</i> Launch: <i>The Journal of Contemporary Ministry</i>		Conclusion to the conference Thank-you's	
3:15 PM					
3:30 PM					
3:45 PM	Opening social gathering	Break		End of Conference social gathering	
4:00 PM					
4:15 PM					
6:00 PM		Dinner/picnic in selected location in your city			

Participants in:

New Zealand / Tonga	Add 2 hours		
Suva	Add 1 hour	South Korea:	Subtract 2 hours
Vanuatu:	No change	Western Australia:	Subtract 3 hours
South Australia:	Subtract 30 minutes	Malaysia:	Subtract 3 hours
Queensland:	Subtract 1 hour	East Coast of the USA:	Subtract 15 hours

Participants in:



Keynote Speakers

And now! Being Church after the Royal Commission



Francis Sullivan AO

Francis Sullivan AO was the CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council through the course of the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. Prior to that he was the Secretary General of the AMA and CEO of Catholic Health Australia. He currently is Executive Chair of the Mater Group of hospitals in Queensland, a director of Mercy Health Australia and chairs Catholic Social services Australia.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times: A practical theological reflection in a pandemic



Dr Rosie Joyce CSB

Rosie Joyce is a Brigidine Sister and canon lawyer who lectures in canon law at Yarra Theological Union, a college of the University of Divinity. Her PhD thesis, *The Understanding and Practice of the Vow of Obedience by a Selected Group of Women Religious: An Australian Study* is the first comprehensive Australian study of how women religious view and live this vow today. She has taught in primary and secondary schools across Victoria and has been the principal of four different secondary schools. Rosie has also been the Provincial Leader of the Brigidines and is a past president of *Catholic Religious Australia*, the peak body representing the female and male religious congregations in Australia.

Strength and vulnerability: a review of the Church's capacity for a mission to heal



Dr Ruth Powell

What is the current capacity of the Church to take part in God's mission to heal? What resources are available for this task? What are the challenges that must be acknowledged? Dr Ruth Powell, Director of NCLS Research, has been studying the relationship between church and wider community for nearly 30 years. Using the rich information from community surveys, Ruth will outline how Australians approach spirituality and religion, as well as their openness to churches.

She will also highlight insights across decades from National Church Life Surveys – the largest dataset on local church life in the world. With a focus on the resources found among churchgoers, leaders, and local churches, Ruth will reflect on how well-equipped the Church currently is to continue a mission to heal. Ruth Powell has worked with NCLS Research since 1991 and became Director in 2007. She also holds a position as Associate Professor and Research Fellow, Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre, Charles Sturt University, as well as Honorary Professor at Alphacrucis College.



Papers

* Papers are available as videos on the conference website (<https://apto2020.site/>) to be watched prior to the scheduled discussion groups.

Presenter	Paper title
Joel Atwood	'Where Can Wisdom Be Found?': Sapiential Paths to Wholeness for Disenfranchised Melanesian Young People
Dr Stephen Beaumont	Wilderness Pastoring: Integrating Nature Based Therapy and Pastoral Care
Ryan Buesnel	A Life Restored: Forgiveness, Grace and the Church in Response to Addiction
Emeritus Prof Des Cahill & Dr Sue Ennis	Chaplaincy at the Crossroads: Spiritual Care in and for a Multifaith Society
Dr Anita Callaway	Encountering God within a Christian framework
Rev Dr Peter Carblis	What is Spiritual Health?
Rev Dr Geoffrey Cheong	Healing through the life journey
Dr Jenny Close	The God of light and darkness: striving to understand the nature of God and the Christian mission to heal in the face of Covid19
Dr John Collins	Foundations in Practical Theology and the Shifting Sands of History
Dr Sandie Cornish	The Habitus, Reflexivity and an Ignatian Spirituality that Does Justice
Fleur Creed	The Church as a Place for Connection: Building Social Capital Across Social and Cultural Boundaries in Australian Christian Communities
Dr Trudy Dantis	Reimagining the Future – Emerging changes in Catholic Women Religious Institutes in Australia: Results of the 2018 survey of Catholic Religious Congregations in Australia
Rev Neil Darragh	Local church self-critique: Indications for reform
Dr Robert Dixon	Mass attenders' attitudes to the clergy sexual abuse crisis in Australia
Dr Mary Eastham	Healing and <i>Metanoia</i> Post Tragedy: An Interfaith Dialogue
Michelle Eastwood	Call me Mara, for Shaddai Has Made My Lot Bitter
Luke Edwards	Excavating the rupture and recovery of an undone self: A Theopoetic testimony of the lived experience of trauma
Dr Cecilia Francisco-Tan	Thirsting for Living Water: The Creative Life and Human Healing
Dr Ian Fry	Healing Broken Relationships: The Church's Primary Mission Task
Dr Beatrice Green	In the Beginning was the Word...
Rev Dr Gerard Hall SM	Encountering God: Practical Theology and the Mission to Heal
Pastor Tania Harris	The Role of Revelatory Experiences in Ministry, Mission and Healing among Australian Pentecostals
Dr Julie Hawkins	A practical Eco-theological Framework with Christian askesis for addressing separation between Humans and the Divine, Humans and each other, and Humans and Nature.
Rev Dr Philip Hughes	Re-building Confidence as a Prelude to Healing
Dr Hanna Hyun	Christians' Inter-religious Dialogue with Muslims, Using the Method of 'Negative Theology'

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Rev Assoc Prof Darrell Jackson	Bordered by COVID-19 and the EU-27: imagining a supra-statal diaspora theology
Malcolm Kreltshheim	Some Christian attempts at rapprochement with the Buddhists in Sri Lanka post-Independence in 1948
Rev Catherine Lambert	Finding a Voice: Women's Discovery of Inner Spiritual Authority and their Relationship with the Church
Pastor Jeff Lawrence	'Sir, we wish to see Jesus!' The encounter with God, it's not what you know! It's who you know! <i>God's story, our story, my story intersecting in Kairos time</i>
Jennifer Lewis	Mercy in the Making: A Practical Theological Exploration of Seeing and Hearing in Motivating Merciful Action
Dr Brendon Long	<i>Eine neue Kirchensteuer!</i> (A new Church tax)
Dr Christopher Longhurst	Who is the New "Light of the World"? A meaning behind Pope Francis' title to new procedural rules managing the Catholic Church's sexual abuse crisis: <i>Vos Estis Lux Mundi</i>
Rev Darryl Mackie	Aboriginal Spirituality and its impact on Healthcare
Kathy Matuschka	Understanding for impact: anxious behaviours at the pastor-congregation interface
Wayne McGough	The Relevance of Joseph Cardijn and his Spirituality in a Post-Modern, Post Royal Commission, and synodal Church of Pope Francis
Dr Maureen Miner & Dr Khlentzos Dion	Helping the healers by supporting secure attachment relationships with God
Rev Augustin Muthusami	Exploring Lutheran Identity Construction through Ritual Theory: A discussion of the decision of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia in withholding the Holy Sacrament during the Covid-19 lockdown.
Dr Mary Nosedá	Ethics of Care in Recovery from the Pandemic
Rev Dr Ruwan Palapathwala	Near-Death Experiencers' Encounter with God and the Afterlife: Insights and Resources for Practical Theology in the Healing of the Living and the Dying
Cynthia Piper	Taking the Colour Line
Dr Ruth Powell	Flourishing churches in Australia
Jacqui Remond	Preparing the future, living an 'Integral Ecology'
Stephen Reid	Encountering God through Sport: The Sports Chaplain's Role in Bridging the Cultural Chasm between Church and Local Community
Dr Veronica Rosier OP	"Do We Trust the Liturgy to Be Our Teacher? Liturgical Catechesis and Baptismal Spirituality"
Dr Debra Snoddy	Johannine Ethics: A Model for Practical Theology?
Dr Lynne Taylor Rev Dr Steve Taylor	Healing amid crisis: an analysis of theologies of healing in public prayer as local churches respond in gathered worship to tragedy and trauma
Dr Ruth Webber	Religious Vocations in Australia: Programs and Processes to Retain New Members
Rev Cameron West, Venerable Rob Sutherland & Rev Prof Darren Cronshaw	Healing moral wounds: Warrior Welcome Home as a case study in contextualised healing as mission

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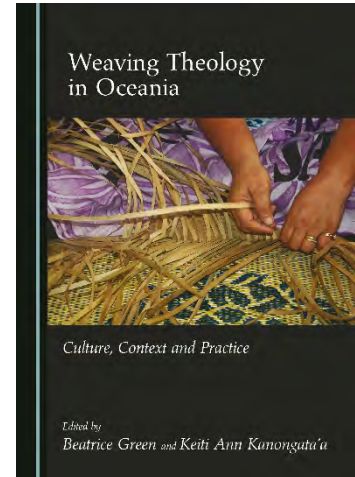
Other sessions

Launch

This session will celebrate the launch of *Weaving Theology in Oceania: Culture, Context and Practice*, the book resulting from the 2018 APTO conference held in Suva, Fiji.

The book, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, was co-edited by APTO members Beatrice Green and Keiti Ann Kanongata'a SOLN, and contains 16 chapters by APTO members and other Fiji conference participants.

This session will also include the launch of the *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*. Designed as a fully peer-reviewed journal for the consideration of every aspect of contemporary ministry, and founded by Harvest Bible College, it has been taken over by the Christian Research Association to support academic reflection on the practice of ministry.



Interest groups

This is your chance to gather together people who share your interests for a Zoom discussion. It can be anything at all, from why the Wallabies beat the All Blacks to the finer points of Lonergan's Method in Theology. You host your own Zoom session. Just write a short description of your interest group and send it along with a Zoom link to Bob Dixon at redixon01@gmail.com anytime before the conference and right up to lunchtime on Day 1.

Imagine That!

What will you take away from this conference (apart from a Zoom overdose)? How will you incorporate what you have learnt into your teaching, your research, your study, your ministry, your life? Join storyteller Jeff Lawrence and Scripture scholar Debra Snoddy for this session at the end of the conference where you will be challenged to consider how the conference has influenced you.

Social gatherings

No conference would be complete without social gatherings – that's where new professional contacts are made and friendships cemented. Only this time, you have to bring your own drinks and nibbles! Depending on the size of the group, the gathering might be split into break-out rooms to enable easier interaction.

Dinner and picnic

We can't be all together in the one place at this conference, but participants living in the same cities might like to gather together on the Thursday evening. Such places include Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra. Gatherings could be at a restaurant or in a park, depending on weather and local COVID restrictions. Participants will be given the contact details of the local organiser in each place.



Information for participants

Zoom Instructions – how to join a meeting

It is highly probable that you are already quite familiar with using Zoom. But if you are not, here's what to do:

To join a meeting, simply click the website link related to the session you wish to join. That will open your browser and ask you to open Zoom. Do so and you will enter the meeting. The links will be sent to you after you have registered for the conference and before the conference begins.

If for some reason the link doesn't work, go to <https://zoom.us/>, click on "Join a meeting", and enter the meeting ID and then the meeting passcode that you received along with the link.

Where possible, join the meeting a few minutes in advance of the start of the session, so that you have a chance to test your connection and the meeting can begin promptly at the scheduled time.

Participation Guidelines

Discussion groups during the Conference aim to facilitate open and stimulating conversations.

All content is for your viewing during and after the conference, and *must not be distributed or shared* with anyone else, and *should not be cited without express written permission* from the presenter.

During the plenary presentations

- Everyone except for the speaker will be muted.
- If we experience bandwidth issues, we may have to ask that everyone not currently asking a question turn off their video as well. However, even if your video is off, you'll still be able to see the speaker.

Questions during plenary and workshop sessions

- Send your question in a private "Chat" message to the Chair of the session.
- The "Chat" function is found on the bottom bar of your Zoom screen. Open it and you'll see a box to type messages. At the outset this is set to "Everyone." Click on "Everyone" and you'll see a drop-down list, and then choose the person chairing. Then you can send them your question directly. Keep questions as concise as possible.
- The Chair will keep track of the questions as they come in and will call on questioners when it is their turn.
- When called on, you will need to unmute your microphone (and make sure your video is on) in order to ask your question. Remember, it takes a second or two for the audio to kick in.
- The Chair will try to get to everyone, and may remind participants that others are waiting.

Recording

All sessions will be recorded for archival purposes.

Help / Questions

At any point before or during the conference, if you need some assistance, you can contact Bob Dixon (Conference Planning Group) redixon01@gmail.com (+61 408 219 335) and/or Paul Egan (Technical Manager) paullygon@gmail.com.

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Thank you

Before the conference formalities begin, we, the APTO Conference Organising Group, wish to particularly thank all of the researchers, students and practitioners who have embraced the opportunity to present a paper in this online conference. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we changed plans from hosting a physical conference to an online conference and developed new instructions to assist you to present your paper in this unfamiliar way. Well done and thank you!

We are particularly grateful to APTO member Jenny Close who took on the job of graphic design for this conference program at quite short notice. We are sure you will agree that she has done an excellent job.

We would also like to thank Paul Egan, who designed the conference website. It was no small task; given that this is the first time we have attempted to run a virtual conference, we were never entirely sure how to proceed. But Paul took it all in his stride and, almost before we knew it, had created or modified the website to do just what we hoped it would be able to do.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Meg Nelson, Events and Communications Manager at the University of Divinity, and to the organisers of the University of Divinity's online Research Conference held in June this year. The APTO conference is modelled on it and we have borrowed many ideas and even a considerable amount of the written content of this program from the UD conference.

John Collins (President)

Peter Carblis

Bob Dixon

Zach Duke

Bet Green

Debra Snoddy