

CTC Net work

A fortnightly newsletter of Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

IMPORTANT DATES

- 01 April - Faculty and Staff Lenten Recollection
- 08 April - Board of Studies Meeting
- 11-29 April - L7 Mid-semester Break
- 10 April - Palm Sunday
- 14 April - Holy Thursday
- 15 April - Good Friday
- 17 April - Easter Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENT / PANUI

**CTC Faculty & Staff
Lenten Recollection 2022**



01 April 2022 2:00-4:00pm

CTC Auckland Campus Chapel

Or via Zoom link [here](#)

We need you

The Colin Library is in urgent need of volunteers to help in packing our wide collection of books for the move to St Columba Centre. Kindly approach Mark Hangartner if you wish to be involved. Nga mihi.



Homily of Bishop Michael Gielen on the 2022 Academic Year Opening Mass

Beginning another academic year we find ourselves in a world awash in uncertainty. More than ever people are looking for answers to life's questions. They are looking for truth, for authentic witnesses, for sound reasoning. They are looking for people who have laboured in search for the truth, for people who are will to share the fruits of their labour.

The study of theology, at its best, is a labour of love. It sets itself the incredible task of seeking answers to the deepest questions of faith and life. This is not something new, in our Gospel today, people come to Jesus with similar questions of life and faith. Jesus was respected for his ability to listen to people, to allow their questions and to then respond thoughtfully. In our Gospel today he does just that, he taught them "as was his custom".

Our Gospel passage reminds us, both students and teachers, of the fundamentals of studying theology. In labouring for the truth through our studies we are challenged explore, what we believe, why we believe and how this related to the world we live in. In our Gospel scene today, Jesus is clear on the what and why of his belief as he addresses what Moses taught on marriage; he also knew people - the reason the law of Moses was such was because of their hardened hearts. He understood peoples "real lives", how theory doesn't always line up with practise.

The importance of holding the dynamic of faith and the struggles of life was instilled in my early studies of theology. Our Biblical professor, John Brook, reiterated the importance for theologians to have their bible in one hand and the news paper in the other. Theology is not just an academic pursuit, it is human one. God speaks to us both through His word and the world around us.

Pope Francis, a man of the people made a similar statement when speaking to a theology faculty, "only when those who teach in the church's name know its tradition, love its faith and understand the modern world will they be able to engage in "creative apologetics" that help people see how the responses to their deepest desires can be fulfilled by faith in Christ."

Helping people respond to their deepest desires comes from a place of deep love, both for God and for people.

As another academic year begins the question begs, for both lecturer's and students, are we willing to labour in search of the truth? Are we willing to allow the questions, both from within and from others, to challenge and form us?

One last insight, that can be easily missed arises from our Gospel today. After the crowds had left the disciples again questioned Jesus, but this time in the intimacy of a house. Speaking to them personally, Jesus was able to develop his teaching on marriage. Theology is at its best an intimate conversation with Jesus in the inner sanctum of our being. "Theology is fruitful," Pope Francis, reminds us "only if it is done with an open mind and on one's knees." It must be based both on sound academic investigation and a deep faith.

Our world is questioning, it is searching for people who have been courageous enough to ask the deepest questions, people who have found the fulfilment of their search. Not just an answer, but an encounter with a person, Jesus Christ, the fulfilment of desire.

Dr Christopher Longhurst graduates from KAICIID 2020 International Fellows Programme

Members of the 2020 KAICIID Fellows Programme have celebrated their graduation at a high profile ceremony in Lisbon in February 2022. Portuguese state ministers and diplomats were present in the event.

Formally marking the end of the training and development programme, which lasted two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event in Portugal saw Fellows from around the world reunite to reflect on what they had learnt and achieved.

Prior to the ceremony, the 2020 Fellows underwent a final round of training focused on evaluation and sustainability, and visited three religious sites in the Portuguese capital: São Domingos Church, Saint Paul's Cathedral and the Central Mosque of Lisbon.



Longhurst (left) with the Papal Nuncio to Portugal Ivo Scapolo (right)



CTC Staff Feature

Catherine Lipski

Know more about your lecturers and staff. In this issue, we talked to Catherine and here are her answers to our questions.

Tell us something about yourself.

I started teaching in a state secondary college in Canberra in 1979, having gained BEd, at the CCAE (now the University of Canberra). I taught English Literature and Drama for 9 years before meeting and marrying God's gift to me, Janusz Lipski. He had been offered a position at the Medical School in Auckland so I moved here with him in 1987. I taught at Glendowie College for a year before moving to the Catholic School system. Over the last 30 plus years I have taught, on and off, at St Mary's College in Ponsonby. During that time I accompanied Janusz on his sabbaticals, 3 of which have been in Rome where I have had the amazing experience of attending the Angelicum University. Last year I made up my mind to retire from teaching but clearly God had other ideas and I was asked to apply to CTC, which I did, and here I am.

What professional activity/research are you busy with these days?

My MA from the Franciscan University in Steubenville was very broad based but I have a love of exegesis and I am keen to get back into this perhaps on the Book of Wisdom. It is early days yet.

If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be?

If I were to write a book about my own life I think its title would be "All those blessings"

Who is/are the persons that have made the most impression on you?



Apart from Janusz, who has made me a better person, my parents and siblings have made an impression on me, particularly my sister Mary. I was privileged to spend 3 days with Mary before she died, and because of that experience I came to see how precious the gift of life is no matter how 'ugly' it can be and how God does give the grace to live out that life if only we accept that grace. (Mary died Christmas Eve, 2002)

What is your favourite Gospel passage/scene?

My favourite biblical passage is Phil 2: 2-11. I also find solace in reading of the life of Jesus in the Gospels and I have to say Mary's fiat is a stunner for us all.

Name 3 books that you have really enjoyed reading.

Ken Follet's century trilogy "Fall of Giants, Winter of the World, Edge of Eternity" a must read if you want a mixed of fiction with historical fact.

What would we most likely find you doing on the weekend?

Most weekends I spend with family. We have 2 delightful grandsons who keep us on our toes. During lockdown they would call and order contactless deliveries of their favourite foods made by their grandma. Walking along the beach and chatting with each of them is an essential weekend activity.

What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

I don't think I have a top destination as I have been blessed to travel widely. This year we are hoping to drive from Adelaide to Darwin in 6 weeks, hopefully avoiding spiders. Snakes should be hibernating.

What's one of your favourite memories from the past year?

A favourite memory from last year was zooming with Tom, our eldest grandson, as he worked on his story writing and then phoning him with the news that his story was to be published.

If you could make one rule for everyone in the world to follow, what would it be?

Don't send that text or email now, wait and think about what you can say in a more charitable manner, then send the revised version. You will save yourself and others much heartache.

Catherine Lipski is a Lecturer for the Certificate and Diploma Programmes and act as English language support to international students.

The New Code of Pastoral Care

Mayte Ramos, Pastoral Care Lead

Outcome 3: Safe, inclusive, supportive, and accessible physical and digital learning environments

CTC seeks to foster learning environments that are safe and designed to support positive learning experiences for our students

In order to achieve this CTC commits to:

- Fostering safe and inclusive communities by having practices to deal with discrimination, racism, bullying, harassment and abuse, and to promote an inclusive and respectful culture
- Supporting student participation and engagement by having practices that ensure our student participation, building connections and cultural networks, and supporting our students through their studies
- Providing healthy and safe learning environments, identifying and removing access barriers, and involving our students in the design of those environments when improving them

New Staff

We would like to welcome Deepak Sachdeva who is the new Administrative Officer.

Deepak was born and raised in India, has several years of business development experience and currently doing a Post -Grad in Business Analytics at Unitec. His job entails assisting the personnel in the Auckland office with their administrative needs.

In his spare time, he enjoys travelling and watching movies. He also enjoys experimenting with new foods. He spent most of his life in India until moving to New Zealand in 2017. He chose New Zealand (the most frequently requested question) because of its spectacular landscapes and, of course, its people.



What's new at Colin Library

Mark Hangartner

A resource for priests and all the people of God. The well known quarterly journal [Pastoral Review](#) is a source of many useful reflections. There is a [concise section](#) providing assistance with the readings for the coming three months. There are also topical articles such as one on [synodality](#), and [book reviews](#) such as this one on the [Jerome Biblical Commentary for the Twenty-First Century](#).

There is a searchable archive for the last 9 years. Here is an example of a simple search bringing up 10 articles mentioning the word [Exultet](#).