

Inaugural Fr Thomas Bourke SJ Archives History Lecture presented by Dr Barry Kennerk



Celebrating
140 years
1878 - 2018



Reconciled antipodeans: Fr John Fahy SJ and his encounters with Fr William Hackett SJ in Australia (1931)

Fr John Fahy SJ is a fascinating historical figure whose career straddled both Ireland and Australia. As Rector of Belvedere College, Dublin, he was praised by General Maxwell for his efforts in keeping civilians off the streets during the 1916 Rising; a rebellion against British rule in Ireland. He even took the reins when a man, who was sent out in a horse and cart to take the deceased away from the city hospitals, was shot and killed. In 1931, he came to Australia as Vice Provincial and he was instrumental in the appointment of Fr William Hackett to the position of Rector at Xavier College.

In Ireland, Hackett and Fahy held quite antipodean political views. Hackett, an avowed nationalist, had established a volunteer corps in 1915 so that his boys would be 'ready to fight for Ireland when their turn came'. Fahy, on the other hand, was staunchly opposed to the rising when it broke out and in 1922, it was he who coaxed Hackett into voluntary exile to Australia.

But despite their differences, the two priests worked quite closely together in Melbourne. With recourse to archival papers held at Belvedere College Dublin, this talk sheds further light on the early careers of Fahy and Hackett who, during their lifetimes, were pivotal to the growth and development of two well-established Jesuit schools.



Barry Kennerk graduated with a PhD in history from St. Patrick's College, Dublin in 2014. He is the author of four books, the most recent of which was *Temple Street Children's Hospital - An Illustrated History* (2014). He is an occasional freelance contributor to - newspapers at home and abroad including the *Irish Times* and *New York Times*. His work has also featured in a number of peer-reviewed publications including the *Journal of Medical Biography* and Oxford Journal's *Social History of Medicine*. He currently divides his time between Temple Street Hospital, Dublin where he works as private secretary to the neurosurgical team and nearby Belvedere College, where he teaches English and History.

Time: 4:30pm for a 5:00pm start - 6:00pm

Date: Wednesday 20 June 2018

Where: Dalton Room, EHPAC, Senior Campus
135 Barkers Road, Kew

Cost: Gold coin donation to Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola, East Timor

RSVP: xavier.archives@xavier.vic.edu.au
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