

Quo Vadis

Welcome!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Australian National University Catholic Society (ANUCS). Affiliated with the ANU Student Association in April 2009, the aims and objectives of the ANUCS are:

1. To foster and promote the spiritual and other interests of the Catholic community at the Australian National University.
2. To provide moral, social, cultural and spiritual support for students and staff.
3. To engage people in Gospel values and the principles of Catholicism.
4. To promote intellectual dialogue and mutual understanding among faiths.

The ANUCS currently has over 50 members. To join the ANUCS please email the Secretary (Alex Millar at u4221507@anu.edu.au).

In this newsletter you will find information about Catholic and ANUCS activities on campus;

Patron Saint – St Augustine

St Augustine was born at Tagaste, North Africa, on November 13, 354. His father, Patricius, was a pagan and his mother was St Monica.

Augustine went to Carthage in 370 to study rhetoric and philosophy. While there, he met a woman with whom he would have a relationship until 385. She bore him a son, Adeodatus. He was deeply attracted to Manichaeism, but became disillusioned after meeting Faustus, the leading Manichaean teacher of that time. He left for Rome in 383 and opened a school of rhetoric. Disturbed with his surroundings, he went to Milan in 384 and accepted a post as master of rhetoric.

Augustine thirsted for wisdom. He found what he was seeking as he listened to the preaching of St. Ambrose in Milan. Augustine describes his spiritual journey in his *Confessions*, which recall his great struggle with evil and sin and his final experience of God's guiding grace. "Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, O Beauty ever new!". Augustine's later life echoes with grateful praise for the God he discovered to be so good.

Monica followed him to Milan in 386 and was present at his baptism by St Ambrose on Easter in 387. After his baptism, Augustine deepened his own understanding of Christianity.

Continued on Page 4.

Motto – Quo Vadis

Peter, the apostle, while fleeing from Nero's persecution, met Jesus on the road. Peter asked, 'Domine, quo vadis?' ('Lord, where are you going?'). When Jesus answered 'I am coming to be crucified again', Peter turned back to the city to face his martyrdom (from www.encyclopedia.com)

Message from the President

For many students, university is an exhilarating time of increased choice, freedom, and exposure to new ideologies. Becoming a university student often coincides with autonomy from parents and families; moving to a new city; new friendships; and academic study following school or employment. It's easy to be swayed during this time and we're often vulnerable to the new ideologies to which we're exposed.

Within the domain of morality and ethics, universities are currently predominated by relativism in its many different guises. Relativism would have us believe that there is no objective physical world, morality or truth. Some variants of relativism suggest morality is relative to the norms of one's particular culture.

Standing increasingly set apart is Catholicism, consistently teaching that there *is* an objective truth. This is based on sacred scripture; church tradition; and the Magisterium, the Church's teaching authority. The Church teaches that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Catholicism holds that human freedom is not the ability to do whatever we would like, but rather the opportunity to do what is right.

Thus, doing what is right is "bigger" than being at personal peace with one's self, it transcends the individual person and it transcends individual cultures. In the words of Saint Augustine "right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it".

Indeed, truth is the objective of the intellect. In the current climate of secularisation, an increasing number of people promote the idea that there is no such thing as Truth. Young Catholic university students can take heart in the fact that Catholicism is arguably the most sound and enduring intellectual tradition of the past two thousand years. They can feel proud to be Catholic in an academic environment and feel confident that "God's law does not reduce, much less do away with human freedom; rather, it protects and promotes that freedom" (Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis spendor*, 1993, 35.).

Jessica Wilson
ANUCS President

*"For what is faith
unless it is to
believe what
you do not
see?"*

Saint Augustine



Upcoming ANUCS events

AGM

Tuesday May the 26th at 5pm; John XXIII College Senior Common Room.

At the AGM we will hold elections for the ANUCS Executive: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications Officer.

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily Mass

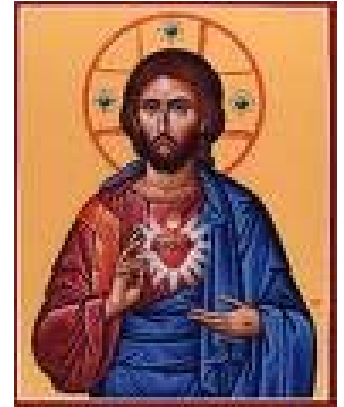
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12.15 University Chaplaincy, Union Court

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12.15 John XXIII Chapel

Sunday Mass 10.30am John XXIII Chapel; Coffee and Tea following Mass

Rosary Group Mondays 5.00pm.

Prayer Group Fridays 5.30pm.



Cor Jesu sacratissimum.
Miserere nobis.

Church calendar and feast days

MAY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31 PENTECOST SUNDAY					1 St Joseph the Worker	2 St Athanasius
3 4 th Sunday of Easter	4 St Peregrine	5	6 St Bernadette Soubrious	7	8	9
10 5 th Sunday of Easter	11	12 Ss Nereus & Achilleus	13 Our Lady of Fatima	14 St Matthias, Apostle	15	16
17 6 th Sunday of Easter	18 St John I	19	20 St Bernadine of Sienna	21 St Christopher Magallanes & Companions	22 St Rita of Cascia	23
24 ASCENSION OF THE LORD	25 Mary Help of Christians	26 St Philip Neri	27 St Augustine of Canterbury	28	29	30

Quiz!

1. Name the first Catholic Australian Prime Minister.
2. In which encyclical did Pope John Paul II announce the Luminous mysteries of the Rosary?
3. The third book of the bible is?
4. Who is the patron saint of travellers?
5. Complete this bible verse from Luke's Gospel: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the _____ of

If you are what you
should be, you will set
the whole world on
fire!

*Saint Catherine of
Siena*

Prayer requests:

*Sick members of the
ANU Community*

*Those whose
anniversaries occur
about this time*

*For rain in drought
affected parts of our
region*

ANU Catholic Society

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Father Peter:
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We will be on the
Web!

See us at:

www.anucatholics.org.au

COMING SOON!

Quiz Answers:

1. James Scullin
2. Rosarium Virginis Mariae
3. Leviticus
4. St Christopher
5. Kingdom of God

Prayer for the month

The Novena is a traditional Catholic prayer. The Novena is said each day for nine days. The Novena prayer is followed by an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father.

In the words of the Lord " Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you"!

*As May is the month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the following Novena is offered to **Our Lady Help of Christians** (the patroness of Australia). Feel free to pray this Novena sometime through May on 9 consecutive days. You may offer the prayer for a specific or for a spirit of humility, allowing God's will to guide your thoughts and actions.*



O Mary, mother and help of Christians, who have been designated the patroness of Australia, look down in your motherly concern on this land of ours.

O Mary, mother and help of Christians, give us strength to bear witness to the message your Son proclaimed so that those who, in this land, reject it may be made aware of it; those who have abandoned it may come to embrace it again; and those who practise it and fulfil it in their lives may become stronger in the faith.

O Mary, mother and help of Christians, protect this land of ours but make us mindful of the needs of those peoples beyond our shores who turn to us for material and spiritual benefits. Give the leaders of our nation insight and understand so that they may fulfil their office with responsibility and promulgate just laws in accord with the divine law.

Cont. from Page 1. In 388, Augustine returned to Tagaste. He was ordained in 391 as an assistant to Bishop Valerius of Hippo. He established a monastery in Hippo and staunchly defended the faith against Manichaeism and Donatism. He was consecrated bishop as coadjutor to Valerius in 395 and succeeded him in 396. Augustine remained in Hippo for 35 years, preaching and writing. The most famous of his works are *Of the City of God* and *Confessions*. He engaged in controversy, received innumerable visitors seeking his counsel, and travelled to distant cities as a spokesman for the Christian faith. Not only the people of his time, but later generations as well, would find him a brilliant teacher of the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus Christ. He died at Hippo in 430 and is a Doctor of the Church. *From Hoagland, C. (1986). The Book of Saints. New York: Regina Press. pp. 201-202.*

About Quo Vadis...

Quo Vadis is the monthly newsletter of the ANU Catholic Society. Please contact us if you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter. We welcome contributions from ANUCS members.

Views expressed in Quo Vadis attempt to faithfully represent the teachings of the Catholic Church however they remain the views of the author/s and do not constitute official Catholic teaching.