



The University of Notre Dame Australia, in partnership with the Archives Office of the Archdiocese of Perth, are launching the first M J Keating Catholic History Lecture on 31 March. The lecture series aims to tell the story of the Catholic Church in Western Australia and Australia from new and engaging perspectives.

M J Keating Catholic History Lecture Inaugural Lecture, 2020

The first speaker for the event will be Dr Colin Barr. The paper will be followed by the launch of Dr Barr's latest work published by Cambridge University Press called: *Ireland's Empire: The Roman Catholic Church in the English-Speaking World, 1829–1914*.

Abstract: At the consecration of Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1897, Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran boasted of what he called *'the spiritual empire of St. Patrick's Apostolate'* through which *'the faith of Ireland's sons, like a golden chain, binds the whole English speaking world to God.'*

Moran was not exaggerating: by the end of the 19th century, Irish Catholic bishops, priests, and nuns had come to dominate the Catholic Church throughout the English-speaking world. In Australia, their long struggle against the English Benedictines of New South Wales is well-documented. Western Australia was one of the last areas to fall under Irish control, after the disastrous Irishman John Brady was succeeded by a series of Spaniards.

It was only with the death of Martin Griver in 1886 that the Irish saw their chance. His successor was Matthew Gibney, a long-serving Irishman who had already gained a measure of fame for administering the last rites to Ned Kelly. Gibney's episcopate is relatively well known, as are the financial failings that eventually led to his removal.

This paper, however, will situate Gibney's life and episcopate – and with it the story of what is now the Archdiocese of Perth – in the wider context of Catholicism's Greater Ireland, in which Irish Catholics from Boston to Ballarat shared not only the same devotional culture, but also the same heroes, victims, and martyrs.



Catholicism on Greater Ireland's Western Frontier: Mathew Gibney's Perth

Dr Colin Barr

Senior Lecturer, The School of
Divinity, History and Philosophy,
University of Aberdeen

Date: **Tuesday 31 March**

Time: **6pm for 6.15pm start,
with refreshments served
following the lecture**

Location: **Santa Maria Lecture Theatre,
ND1, The University of Notre Dame
Australia, 19 Mouat Street,
Fremantle**

Please RSVP by 24 March
Email: faith@nd.edu.au
Phone: (08) 9433 0860

