



BEYOND TRADITION: ENVISIONING THE ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN A CHANGING WORLD

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024 | 7.30PM - 9PM

Keynote Speaker: **Professor Darius von Güttner**
Campus Dean, Canberra
Australian Catholic University

The Catholic Church's mission, rooted in a complex historical legacy, now faces the challenge of adapting to a rapidly evolving global context that heightens tensions between tradition and inclusivity. Calls for re-evaluating the Church's influence on Western identity encourage an examination of limitations within traditional Western frameworks—particularly those rooted in Anglo-Irish and English-speaking domains—while also highlighting contributions from other regions that enrich the broader Catholic heritage. Experiencing significant growth in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the Church now faces demands for a revitalised mission that honours cultural diversity and forges connections across linguistic and regional divides. This vision promotes a Church that, while grounded in tradition, actively engages with contemporary global realities, models intercultural dialogue, and fosters justice, peace, and spiritual depth. By embracing this universal perspective, the Catholic Church has the potential to redefine its mission, respecting its historical legacy while championing a more inclusive and unified future.

The theological concept of discerning the 'signs of the times,' a term rooted in Christian scripture and central to Church teachings since the Second Vatican Council, serves as a focal point for these calls and raises a critical question: Should discerning the signs of the times involve adapting Church teachings to modern sentiments, or rather critically evaluating societal developments through a scriptural lens? Should interpreting these 'signs' entail distinguishing between morally positive and negative societal trends, ultimately guiding humanity towards God's vision rather than adjusting Church teachings to align with secular perspectives?

Darius von Güttner is a historian and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (United Kingdom) with expertise in European cultural history and the transmission of ideas. His publications include significant works on religiously motivated warfare, historical writing, the Crusades and holy wars, the French Revolution, and the Jagiellon Dynasty. Darius is also the General Editor of *East Central Europe*, an academic series published by Brepols Publishers in Belgium. Since 2022, he has served as Campus Dean of the Canberra campus of the Australian Catholic University.

Venue: Holy Faith Hall,
30 White Crescent, Campbell

Cost: \$20
\$10 (Student/Concession)

RSVP: 12pm, Monday 18 November 2024
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