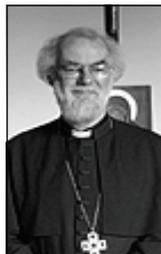


From the Society's Patron
**Archbishop
Rowan Williams**



Anglican clergy identifying themselves as within the Catholic tradition used to have all sorts of “tribal” habits, in dress, speech and style of life, to set them apart from those they thought of as less enlightened. No-one is going to regret that we have begun to grow up a bit in that respect. As the profile of ordained ministry in the Anglican Church has changed, many of the old markers have gone; and not the least important change has been the admission of women to the priesthood, a development welcomed by many who hold firmly Catholic convictions about the work of our redemption and the sacraments in which this work comes to life in us.

But to think of yourself as a Catholic in the ordained Anglican ministry still involves reflection and discipline, attention to how you live and pray and how you support one another in ministry. The Society of Catholic Priests exists because clergy in the Catholic tradition who are happy to affirm recent developments in the life of our church feel the need for common disciplines of prayer and thinking that will help them resist some of the managerial or functional language about ministry that has become popular of late – but without reinventing the old tribalism.

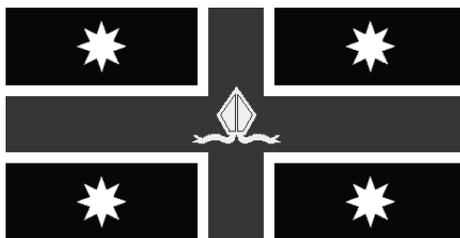
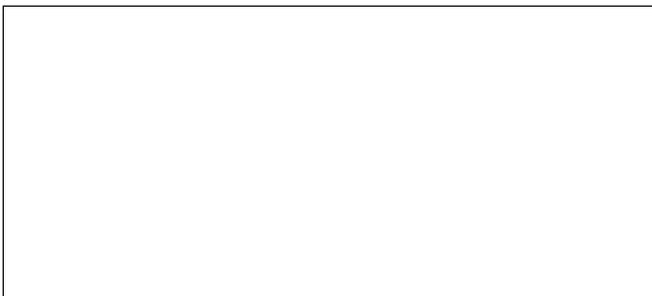
If you believe that ordained ministry in the Anglican Church is part of the continuing witness of the whole Christian and Catholic tradition, Eastern and Western; if you believe that the priestly task is to be what Austin Farrer called ‘a walking sacrament’ (not just a leader or co-ordinator or even teacher); and if you also believe that the specific shape of this priesthood can properly develop as the Church moves on, to include those among the baptised who have regularly been excluded, SCP exists to help you flourish as a deacon, priest or bishop in the Anglican Church.

+ Rowan Cantuar
Archbishop of Canterbury

If you are interested in joining SCP or the Dearmer Society (for ordinands and transitional deacons) or would like further details, please contact either:

The Revd Matthew Healy SCP
Provincial Secretary
St Bartholomew's Vicarage
290 Burnley Street
RICHMOND VICTORIA 3121
03 9428 3284
frmatthewhealy@bigpond.com

or your local chapter:



The Society of Catholic Priests
is for male and female priests
within the Anglican Tradition
seeking to promote
priestly spirituality and catholic
evangelism in the Anglican Church.

Society of Catholic Priests



*Supporting men and women
in their priestly service of God
in the Anglican Communion*

Australian Province

www.scpaustralia.org.au

THE SOCIETY

The Society of Catholic Priests was founded by a group of priests from the Southwark Diocese in 1994 with the object of promoting the formation and support of priestly spirituality and Catholic evangelism. In 2009 three chapters-in-formation commenced in Australia (Melbourne, Newcastle and Adelaide) under the auspices of the European Province. These chapters were formally inaugurated and formed into the Province of Australia in 2010. A fourth chapter-in-formation is underway in Perth.

Membership of the Society is open to all priests and deacons who accept:

- that we belong to the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church ordaining men and women to serve as deacons, priests and bishops in the Church of God;
- the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist;
- the use and practice of the seven sacraments of the Church.

Deacons are welcome to join as Associate members and isolated or housebound priests are encouraged to have a link with area chapters.

The diocesan bishop normally acts as Visitor for the local chapter. Each group meets at least six times a year for a concelebrated Mass, fellowship and discussion. A focal point for the Society is the annual or bi-annual conference or retreat, which members are encouraged to attend if they possibly can.



RULE OF LIFE

Members of the Society are committed to the following rule of life:

- using the Prayer of the Church (the Daily Office)
- living out a Eucharistic-centred spirituality
- making regular use of a Spiritual Director
- making regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- maintain prayer for the sisters and brothers of the Society
- offering confidential pastoral care of each other.



FOSTERING VOCATION

The Society is working actively to encourage all people to discern their calling under God. We desire to affirm Catholic Christians in their discipleship in the world and in the Church. Our work together encourages parishes and individuals to consider deeply ministerial priesthood as one of the vocations to which Christ may be calling some to explore. The Dearmer Society exists for ordinands who meet in conjunction with their local SCP chapter.

THE SOCIETY PRAYER

V/. Through Christ our High Priest let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God:

R/. **The fruit of lips that confess his name.**

Let us pray.

Father, we thank you that you have called us to your service, to feed your people by word and sacrament. By the power of your Spirit, keep us faithful to you and to those in our care. Keep united in the bonds of peace and love the members of our Society, that by sharing in Christ's priesthood here on earth, we may come to share in the joys of his eternal kingdom, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



SCP INTERNATIONAL and AUSTRALIA

The Society of Catholic Priests is an international society grouped into provinces of federated chapters in the United Kingdom and Europe, the United States, and Australia. The Australian Province is growing in membership with about 60 priests and deacons admitted. Chapters are located in Melbourne, Newcastle and Adelaide. In 2011 a chapter-in-formation is underway in Perth. Enquiries for membership or to set up a new chapter are always welcome. Please contact the provincial secretary via the website:

www.scpaustralia.org.au