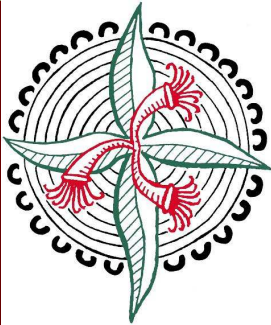


# What Does it mean to live the Risen Life? Rev'd Tiffany Sparks



STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

## Living Easter!

Christ is Risen! Over the coming weeks we celebrate the Risen Christ, that death has no dominion over God and we are freed from all that causes us to hate and fear....or are we?

What does it mean to meet the Risen Christ at Easter? The supermarkets know! They had the Malteasters on the shelves by January 2nd. Do Supermarkets do Church better than Churches?

On Easter Sunday we renew our Baptismal vows. We promise to turn to Christ, to repent of our sins and reject all that is selfish and unjust. Back in the day these powerful declarations were made in front of large groups of people...hundreds...thousands... has the impact of these public declarations worn off because our Churches are getting smaller?

The Reverend Tiffany Sparks—long term SCM'er sparked off an initiative this Lent to bring the power of our Baptismal vows into the town square by doing the first ever social media renewal of Baptismal vows to end off a 'Repent4Lent' Campaign. The idea of Repent4Lent was based in the idea of corporate sin...we can and do sin as a society. We need to view Australia's

public views and policies through the lens of Christ.

'To be publicly 'sorry' about what is happening in the world today and how our public policies and attitudes effect our fellow human beings around the globe.

Repent for Lent is a meaningful chance to confront our sins on an individual, corporate, and social level. We can't hide from our failings as humans, we must be willing to acknowledge our weaknesses and resolve to keep being trans-



formed by the love of God.'

People were asked to make a sign take a 'selfie' with their sorrows for the future generations to see. The campaign had hundreds of contributors and reached over 12,000 people around Australia and thousands more worldwide.



[www.repent4lent.org](http://www.repent4lent.org)

Living the Risen life, means seeking justice and loving kindness. It means being bold even in the face of unpopularity and challenging everything. It is hard, but it is the only fulfilling way to live! Be Bold—Get Risen!

### Special points of interest:

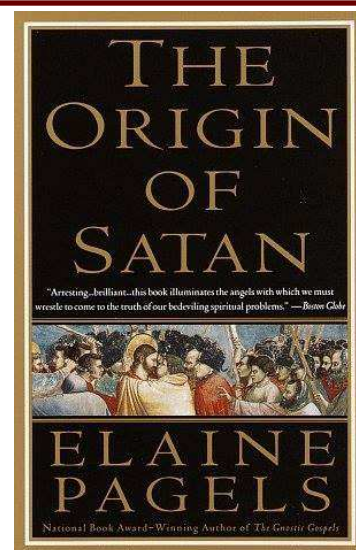
- Pg. 2. Book Recommendation: 'The Origin of Satan' Elaine Pagels
- Pg. 2. What is happening @TheCon?
- Pg. 3. Why Did Jesus Die? Discussion and Debate at The Australian Catholic University.
- Pg. 4. Book Recommendation. Marcus Borg.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Origin of Satan: How Christians Demonized Jews, Pagans, and Heretics  
by Elaine Pagels

From the religious historian whose *The Gnostic Gospels* won both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award comes a dramatic interpretation of Sa-

tan and his role on the Christian tradition. With magisterial learning and the élan of a born storyteller, Pagels turns Satan's story into an audacious exploration of Christianity's shadow side, in which the gospel of love gives way to irrational hatreds that continue to haunt Christians and non-Christians alike.



## What is Happening at Griffith? @TheCon—by Bart Seaton.

*Harmony Week* saw a celebration of international students gather in the newly renovated courtyard garden to share food and bring something significant from their own culture.

*St Patrick's Delight*, sponsored by the Student Christian Movement, brought together talented students from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University in an engaging concert of Irish music, including John Tavener's setting of a W.B. Yeats poem and Van Morrison's *Moondance*. Singers, pianists, pipers, fiddlers & harpists and upcoming all ensembles combined

to 'get their Irish on'. The audience turn out and engagement was great, particularly after four students were featured on ABC local radio on St Patrick's Day itself giving a musical plug to this event.

Zen @ the Con has contin-



Students Participating in "St. Patrick's Delight"

ued throughout the semester every Monday morning and if is offered to all students and staff as an opportunity to try a contemplative practice.

The Boardroom at QCGU has hosted our Wednesday afternoon series of speakers invited by Chaplaincy as follows:

Prof. Gerard Hall of ACU realistically assessed the present Pontiff under the heading 'Pope Francis: Getting Real'.

The Rev'd Dr Mervyn Lander spoke on 'Zen and the Gospels' from his perspective as a Zen teacher.

Our next event is on the 21st of May with the Rev'd Chris Tyack asking what prejudices and fears may be standing in the way of 'Turning the Wheel: Towards same sex marriage.

All wanted—All welcome!

# What is happening at The Australian Catholic University? Why Did Jesus Die: Debate and Discussion. Daniel Gulotta

As this would be my final year in Australia, due to leaving for America to marry my fiancé, I wanted to make of my time in Australia. I figured now would be as good as time as ever (rightly or wrongly) to continue my theological studies and return to the campus that I called home so many years ago.

I enrolled into the Masters of Theological Studies at ACU, with a renewed sense of purpose and a drive to exceed my work undergrad work. I expected I would stuck in the shadows of the library and only emerge when I needed to, being 100% devoted to my studies, but as chance would have it, on my first day on campus I ran into the Reverend Dr Ray Barraclough, who just so happened to be

looking for someone to help SCM return a presence to ACU.

Remembering fondly my time with Ray and SCM, I offered my services and like no time had past, I was back studying at ACU and back working with SCM. The semester have been a sharp learning curve, as many of the activities that once worked at ACU no longer do due to changes on campus, but their is still a strong sense of community amongst the theological students and a desire to enquiry about things related to religious questions and social issues.

Looking outside the campus but in the local area, I have spent some time working

with the social-outreach cafe, Cup from Above, and co-hosted the first

Theologians War on Everything”, where myself, Pastor Daniel Paterson, and Dr. Krys Bunyan debated and discussed the meaning of Jesus’ death historically and theologically. As the first semester is coming to a close, there is much still to be done at ACU and as I leave Australia and ACU, it is my desire to install a lasting legacy for SCM and its wonderful work and ethos.

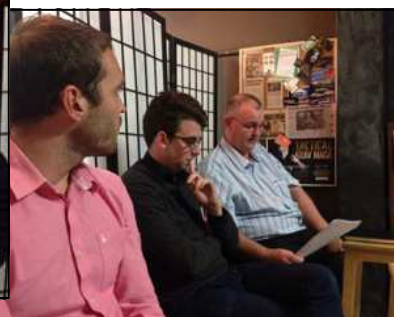
All are welcome and wanted at any SCM event! Come and check it out! We may have something that interests you! More events and talks are scheduled throughout the year at ACU—keep watching this space!



Enthusiastic crowd itching for debate!  
Meeting @ Cup from Above café.



Pastor Daniel Paterson, Dr. Krys Bunyan and Daniel Gulotta  
*SCM Staff Development worker.*



‘Why Did Jesus Die?’ Panel  
*‘Why did Jesus die?’ is a popular assignment topic for Theo101. An excellent way to entice a crowd!*

# Student Christian Movement—Who we are!



**PROUDLY  
PROGRESSIVE  
SINCE 1896**

[A]SCM IS CALLED TO BE A COMMUNITY THAT IS THE LIVING PRESENCE OF GOD AMONG AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS, NURTURING EACH OTHER, SHARING AN INTELLIGENT FAITH, AND ACTING FOR JUSTICE IN THE WORLD.

THE ASCM STRIVES TO PROMOTE A FAITH THAT IS LIVED IN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE, BUT WITH THE ASSURANCE OF GOD WITH US.

*THE ASCM IS OPEN,*

*ECUMENICAL,*

*ACTIVE, AND CRITICAL.*

CONTACT US!

Rev'd Dr Ray Barraclough: [dorray@westnet.com.au](mailto:dorray@westnet.com.au) OR

Rev'd Tiffany Sparks: [tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au)

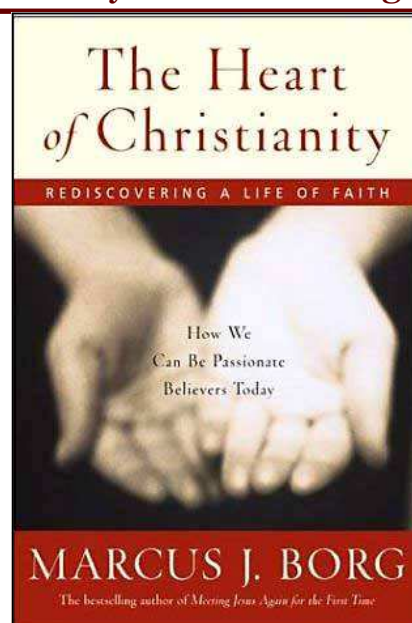
## BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

### The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus J. Borg

World-renowned Jesus scholar Marcus J. Borg shows how we can live passionately as Christians in today's world by practicing the vital elements of Christian faith.

For the millions of people who have turned away from many traditional beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Bible, but still long for a relevant, nourishing faith, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God. Emphasizing the critical role of daily practice in living the Christian life, he explores how prayer, worship, Sabbath, pilgrimage, and more can be experienced as authentically life-giving practices.

Borg reclaims terms and ideas once thought to be the sole province of evangelicals and fundamentalists: he shows that terms such as "born again" have real meaning for all Christians; that the "Kingdom of God" is not a bulwark against secularism but is a means of transforming society into a world that values justice and love; and that the Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart to God and to others.



Student Christian Movement is always looking for contributions. These can be theological reflections, essays, events, book and movie reviews. If you would like to contribute to the SCM newsletter please email: the Reverend Tiffany Sparks  
[info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au)