

Media Release



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Whatever your belief, the Catholic Church is the largest Christian church and one of the world's oldest and most influential institutions.

In one of the most controversial Intelligence Squared events yet, our panel debates the proposition, 'The Catholic Church is a force for good in the world.'

For almost two millennia, the Catholic Church has been the author and repository of some of the highest ideals of humanity. Yet, as humanity is flawed, so is the Church.

Few would deny that the Catholic Church has dark chapters in its history. Do these darker moments unfairly obscure the light? Or is the Catholic Church simply the most ancient of wolves in sheep's clothing?

Speaking for the proposition will be Helen Coonan, Julian McMahon and Sister Libby Rogerson. Speaking against the proposition will be Father Peter Kennedy, Anne Summers and David Marr.

Thursday 15 November 2011, 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Intelligence Squared debate: The Catholic Church is a Force for Good in the World

Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne

\$20/\$12 concession, bookings through wheelercentre.com

Helen Coonan was a Liberal member of the Australian Senate from July 1996 until August 2011 and held positions including the Shadow Minister for Human Services and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Julian McMahon is a barrister and member of the Melbourne Catholic Lawyers Association. He has acted in numerous and complex matters including police corruption, terrorism and death penalty cases.

Libby Rogerson is a Loreto sister currently working with Mary Ward International Australia and the Loreto Sisters' aid, development and volunteer organisation.

Peter Kennedy is a former Catholic priest who was forced to stand down from his position as parish priest in the South Brisbane diocese of St Mary's in 2009. Peter has since gone on to form a breakaway congregation in the same area called St Mary's-in-Exile.

Anne Summers is a best-selling author, journalist and thought-leader with a long career in politics, the media, business and the non-government sector in Australia, Europe and the United States.

David Marr is a multi-award-winning author and journalist, reporting for outlets including ABC TV and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He was also the editor of the *National Times*.

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