

NEW RELIGIOUS BOOKS BY AUSTRALASIAN AUTHORS
KEVIN MARK

Achieving Inner Peace; Gerard Dowling; St Pauls; PB \$14.95 [9781921032912]; 80pp; 185x130mm; 2008

Practical guide book for those who suffer from scruples, a form of obsessive compulsive behaviour in which they experience excessive and irrational guilt. Author has suffered from this condition for much of his life, and both explains scruples and presents a tested means of overcoming it, especially through the use of a spiritual director. Because scrupulosity, or 'spiritual worry', has long been associated with the sacrament of Reconciliation, author has appended to the book a seven-step program, based in the Scriptures, to prepare for the sacrament. Author has been a priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for over 50 years. His radio talkback program, 'The Family Counsellor', has been broadcast since 1973. He has received a Medal of the Order of Australia and written sixteen other books, including *No Greater Love* (1990) and *This Is You* (2007).

Eschatology and Hope; Anthony Kelly; Orbis, USA, dist. by Rainbow Book Agencies; PB \$34.95 [9781570756511]; 256pp; 235x150mm; 2006

Volume in the 'Theology in Global Perspective' series. Presentation of a modern understanding of Christian eschatology ('theological discourse about the end of the human person and of history'), in which the key uniting theme is hope. The

Paschal mystery, for example, is examined as a parable of hope. Successive chapters examine death, purgatory, hell, and heaven. The relationship of eschatology to Eucharist is also pondered, and the concluding chapter is both a summary and a presentation of how such hope can animate every aspect of the conduct of Christian life. Foreword by series editor, Peter C. Phan. Footnotes; bibliography; index of biblical references; index of subjects. Author is an Australian Redemptorist priest, Professor of Theology at Australian Catholic University, and was appointed to the International Theological Commission by Pope John Paul II in 2004. His numerous books include *Experiencing God in the Gospel of John* (with Francis J. Moloney, 2004) and *The Resurrection Effect* (2008).

God's Wisdom or the Devil's Envy: Death and creation deconstructing in the Wisdom of Solomon; Marie Turner; ATF Press, dist. by John Garratt Publishing; PB \$36.95 [9781921511578]; 283pp; 210x145mm; 2009

Scholarly study of the biblical text, *The Wisdom of Solomon*, to examine what the text has to say about death and life, and make use of Jacques Derrida's deconstructive theory to form a modern interpretation in the context of Darwinian evolutionary biology. The biblical text examined accounts for the presence of death in the cosmos by attributing it to an envious devil and an ungodly people. The deconstructive approach

adopted by the author to Wisdom 1-2 results in a theology of creation in keeping with contemporary ecological understanding. Adapted from the author's doctoral thesis. Chapter endnotes; bibliography; biblical index; subject index. Author lectures in Biblical Studies at the School of Theology of Flinders University, South Australia, and the Adelaide College of Divinity.

Laughing with God: Humor, culture, and transformation; Gerald A. Arbuckle; Liturgical Press, USA, dist. by John Garratt Publishing; PB \$76.95 [9780814652251]; 276pp; 230x155mm; 2008

Study of 'divine humour', especially seeking to uncover and recover humour in the Scriptures. Also examines the different expressions of humour that have characterised cultures through the ages. Argues that Jesus was adept at using humour as a medium of cultural and personal transformation, and his followers should do so also. By acting with justice, mercy and compassion, as did Jesus, we contradict the expectations of those who only think in terms of this world, and thus unite ourselves with the divine humour. Foreword by Jean Vanier; chapter summaries; appendix on 'Origins and Theories of Humor'; endnotes; bibliography; general index; index of scripture. Author is internationally known for his application of cultural anthropological insights to the church, religious life and evangelisation. He is codirector

of Refounding and Pastoral Development, a research ministry, in Sydney. Previous books include *Refounding the Church: Dissent for leadership* (1993) and *Violence, Society, and the Church* (2004).

The Little Brown Book: Mary MacKillop's spirituality in our everyday lives; Sue Kane & Leo Kane; Helen Barnes RSJ (illustrator); St Pauls; HB \$17.95 [9781921472268]; 176pp; 155x155mm; 2009

Guide for general readers to meditative Christian prayer, grounded in the spirituality of Blessed Mary MacKillop (1842-1909). Core of the book is a series of 74 sets of texts to assist reflection and prayer, each on a double-page spread. On each left-hand page is a theme, often phrased as a question, followed by a brief, related quotation, generally by MacKillop. On the opposite page is the authors' reflection, which incorporates aspects of the life of MacKillop, as well as further brief quotations. Volume has a gift-book presentation, including simple illustrations, and can also be used as a resource for small groups. A 32-page guide by the authors to exploring MacKillop's spirituality in such a group is available at http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/store/_doc/product_466.pdf. Authors are a married couple who both have Masters in Theology, majoring in spirituality.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer: Pray-

ing the General Intercessions; Gerard Moore; St Pauls; PB \$14.95 [9781921032998]; 61pp; 185x130mm; 2008

Study of the General Intercessions, also known as the Prayer of the Faithful, to assist readers to participate more fully in this aspect of the Catholic liturgy. The first chapter presents the history and theology of the Prayer of the Faithful, concluding with answers to specific questions such as whether intentions for the dead have a place in the General Intercessions. Chapter 2 examines the General Intercessions in their liturgical context, rites of intercession outside the Eucharist, and the practises of the Anglican Church and Uniting Church. The final chapter focuses on practical considerations, including guidance on how to compose intercessions. Includes a brief conclusion and a bibliography. Author is Director of Research for the Sydney College of Divinity, and has a doctorate in theology from the Catholic University of America, Washington DC. Other publications include *Eucharist and Justice* (2000) and *Why the Mass Matters* (2004).

Your Most Obedient Servant: Selected letters: 1938-1996; B. A. Santamaria; Patrick Morgan (editor); Melbourne University Publishing (The Miegunyah Press); HB \$45.00 [9780522852745]; 592pp; 245x160mm; 2007

Collection of the personal correspondence of B. A. 'Bob' Santamaria (1915-98), spanning six decades. Santamaria was an influential and controversial figure both within the Catholic Church and in Australian politics, especially due to his role in the ALP-DLP Split in the 1950s. The editor holds that this selection of letters to friends and members of the public reveals a person more subtle in his views than his public persona would suggest. Each letter includes the addressee's details, date and a topic heading, as well as editorial notes at the beginning and/or end. Editor also supplies an introduction, brief overview of Santamaria's life and career, and a concluding commentary. Preface by Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, CEO and State Librarian, State Library of Victoria; Santamaria's archive, including these letters, was donated to the Library by his family. Photos; bibliography; index of addressees; general index. Editor has also produced a companion volume of Santamaria's writing, *Running the Show: Selected documents: 1939-1996* (2008). Morgan is a Victorian writer and academic who has edited texts on Australian literature and written regularly in magazines such as *Quadrant* on current affairs, including on the connections between religion and politics.

Kevin Mark manages the Australasian information in the Global Books in Print database and is former religious publisher for HarperCollins Publishers.