

## From the President

In a recent TIN I made some comments about the CIS art collection, and pointed out the work of Eric Smith. Another notable body of work in our collection is that by John Coburn. We have three pieces, all of which hang in the open space outside the chapel.

Coburn was born in 1925 and died in 2006. He was influenced by the French abstractionist school of painting, and most of his work is marked by splashes of colour and shape. He was also a deeply spiritual man, and was a convert to Catholicism in 1953. Much of his art has spiritual themes and he was a regular entrant in the Blake Prize, winning it on two occasions.

Today his work hangs in the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and numerous other galleries. He also has a piece in the Vatican Museum.

His work is not restricted to painting, and he branched out into tapestries. He received the commission to design the tapestries that became curtains in the Sydney Opera House. There were two of them, *Curtain of the Sun* and *Curtain of the Moon*. One was hung in the Opera Theatre and the other in the Drama Theatre. In the obituary for John Coburn in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, art critic John McDonald wrote, "it is a small scandal that these pieces have been so rarely seen over the past 30 years".

The centre piece of the CIS collection is Coburn's *Triptych of the Passion*. It was the winner of the Blake Prize for Religious Art in 1960. McDonald described it as "a powerful ensemble of religious symbols – including the crucifix and the crown of thorns – offset by blood-red splatters of paint and the spidery black shadows of barbed wire". The other two pieces are *The Magnificat* and *The Agony in the Garden*. The abstract style of these works means that you need to take time to look at them and reflect on them. In my experience they generate quite passionate feelings among people who take time to look at them. Some people don't like them at all, and others are excited by what they see. Whatever you may think of them, they are one artist's expression of these central truths of our faith. If they make us think about those truths and talk about them with each other, then that is all the better.

Take time to look at them and to enjoy them!

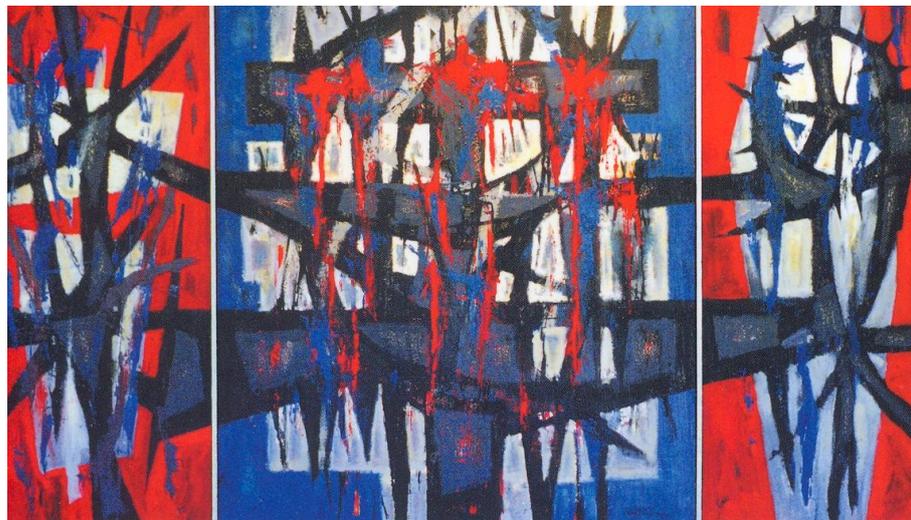
Fr Gerard Kelly



John Coburn *The Magnificat*



John Coburn *The Agony in the Garden*



John Coburn *Triptych of the Passion*

11/9/2017

19/17

## CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



CIS and SCD are jointly hosting a conference at CIS on Thursday and Friday, 28-29 September. The theme of the Conference is *“The Impact of Jesus of Nazareth: Historical, Theological and Pastoral Perspectives”*

We are looking for volunteers who would help with hospitality. The work will involve making sure that the classrooms are prepared for each session, and assisting at morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea to help with the distribution of food.

It will also be an opportunity to meet many of the speakers.

The program for the conference is available at the SCD website, <http://scd.edu.au/news-and-events/>

Expressions of interest can be sent to Fr Gerard Kelly ([gkelly@cis.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gkelly@cis.catholic.edu.au)), or speak to Angelina Tropeano at reception on 9752-9500.

### WEEKDAY MASS

*is celebrated in the chapel,  
Monday to Thursday this week at 12:40 pm*

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

It is important that everyone is familiar with the procedures we need to follow in the event of an emergency. You will see diagrams on the walls around the campus indicating the emergency evacuation pathways. Please become familiar with these – when there is an emergency we need to be able to respond quickly. In the event of an emergency please follow any instructions that are given via the emergency evacuation system. The emergency assembly area is on Albert Rd, two houses along towards Homebush Rd.