



PROVIDENCE APOCALYPSE and the PANDEMIC



SYDNEY COLLEGE OF DIVINITY
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2020 - 2021 Seminar Series

Theologising in the Shadow of a Pandemic

An initiative of the SCD Theology Research Network

Presenter: Professor Neil Ormerod



Neil Ormerod is the Executive Officer (Research Analytics) at the Sydney College of Divinity and has worked professionally as a theologian for over 35 years. He has published 14 books, and over 90 articles in refereed journals. His research areas include Trinity, Christology, historical ecclesiology and natural theology. He was made a Fellow of the Australian Catholic Theological Association in 2013 for his contribution to Catholic theology in Australia.

Respondent: Emeritus Professor R Gascoigne



Robert Gascoigne is an emeritus professor of the School of Theology of ACU. He is a past president of the Australian Catholic Theological Association and was Australian representative on the Asian regional committee of the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church network (2012-18). He is the author of a number of publications on Christian faith and contemporary society including *The Public Forum and Christian Ethics* and *The Church and Secularity: Two Stories of Liberal Society*, as well as *Freedom and Purpose: An Introduction to Christian Ethics*.

Providence, Apocalypse, and the Pandemic

Abstract

Any major upheaval such as the present pandemic raises two profound theological questions: why does a provident God allow such things to happen? And, is this a foreshadowing of an apocalyptic end time? Both involve an attempt to understand the role and purpose of history in God's creation. Where is God taking us, where is human history destined to go? In the end, this paper argues that our view of providence is inseparable from our basic trust in God.

Do we view God as infinite loving wisdom and wise loving or do we fear that there is in the end some darkness in God that makes God unworthy of our trust and more a bargaining partner? What role then will Covid have in human history for good and for evil that it too can be encompassed in divine providence? These are the questions that will be explored in this paper.

Date

Friday 5, November 2021 | 2.00 - 4.00pm

Location - via Zoom

Contact: neilo@scd.edu.au for details

