



# FAMILY AND FAITH IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY



NEW COLLEGE  
LECTURES

**22-24 SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**7:30PM | ADMISSION FREE**



**PROFESSOR  
PATRICK  
PARKINSON AM**  
Dean of Law at the  
University of Queensland

Prof Patrick Parkinson AM is the Academic Dean and Head of School for the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland. He is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion and the law of equity and trusts. Prof Parkinson served from 2004–2007 as Chairperson of the Family Law Council, an advisory body to the federal Attorney-General, and chaired a review of the Child Support Scheme in 2004–2005. He was President of the International Society of Family Law from 2011–2014. He is also well-known for his community work concerning child protection. In 2009, Prof Parkinson was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the law and to legal education. In 2018, he was awarded a Doctor of Laws by the University of Sydney for his book, *Family Law and the Indissolubility of Parenthood* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

## OPENING EVENT

Complimentary canapés will be served.

**Entry is FREE | Registration essential**  
**Tuesday 22 September, 6pm**

## LECTURE 1 | FAMILY

**Tuesday 22 September, 7:30pm**

The last fifty years in Australia has seen the widespread rejection of the Christian understanding of sex and marriage. This lecture will highlight some of the social difficulties that have been created by the erosion of the legal fundamentals of marriage. This has had profound consequences for family stability and the wellbeing of children, and left our society impoverished in many respects. One challenge for the churches in response to this is that there has been an erosion of belief in the Christian understanding of sex and marriage among professing Christians.

## LECTURE 2 | RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**Wednesday 23 September, 7:30pm**

Religious freedom depends on three other indispensable freedoms – freedom of speech, association, and conscience. All are being eroded in modern secular society by the ever-increasing reach of anti-discrimination laws and an expansive interpretation of what counts as 'discrimination' and 'hate speech'. People of faith need the freedom to be different, and to maintain the identity and ethos of faith-based institutions. In an era after Christendom, this is one of the most important claims people of faith can make upon a secular society.

## LECTURE 3 | AFTER CHRISTENDOM?

**Thursday 24 September, 7:30pm**

Christians can offer a troubled world a better and more attractive alternative. To achieve this, Christians need to focus on the quality of family life and community, and preserve those freedoms that help communities flourish. In a multicultural society, all faiths will need to unite to preserve these freedoms. The pathway forward requires a new vision and direction for the churches, and raises issues for secular society as well – what will it mean in future for Australia to have a healthy and tolerant multicultural society?

**Register online at [www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures](http://www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/lectures)**

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