**Lecture to seek conversion of heart, action as authentic response to Gospel**

The 2021 John Wallis Memorial Lecture will call participants to a conversion of heart and action as they seek to live an authentic response to the Gospel.

According to the 2021 lecturer, Dr Wayne Tinsey, “Our response to the plight of the poor should not be limited to generous acts but, rather, a commitment to advocating for a more just social order for all.”

Dr Tinsey will advocate that inclusion and responding to the plight of the marginalised are priorities of the Gospel and the Christian vision for the world.

Pope Francis has modelled a ‘preferential option for the poor’ within his own life as he champions a Church of and for the poor and marginalised.

“Authenticity in mission is measured by resolve within our communities to embrace solidarity with the excluded ones,” Dr Tinsey said. “Authenticity is won through commitment to inclusion and service to the disenfranchised.”

Personal conversion towards living and advocating for the poor as an essential element of the Christian journey will be one of the key challenges offered by Dr Tinsey when he presents *Around the Table with Pope Francis – a place and a voice for the poor* as the 2021 John Wallis Memorial Lecture.

Dr Tinsey is the Global Ambassador for *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders*, an international community of some 250 schools dedicated to justice, liberation and an option for the marginalised. He recently retired as the Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia, a network of Catholic schools spanning every state and territory of Australia. He has been a frequent visitor to India and South America where he has led many immersion groups.

The annual lecture honours the memory and spirit of the Archdiocese of Hobart priest, Fr John Wallis, who founded the Missionary Sister of Service in Launceston in 1944. Two Sisters still live in Hobart.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Fr Wallis who is lovingly remembered and admired as a pastoral visionary, a great listener, a man of deep prayer who had a keen mind, a compassionate heart and peaceful spirit.

The 2021 John Wallis Memorial Lecture will be delivered at the Don Bosco Creative Arts Centre, Guilford Young College, Glenorchy, Tasmania, on Wednesday 27 October, at 7 pm AEDT.

The lecture will also be live streamed: <https://youtu.be/lruzFzd-nkQ>

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