

Books and DVDs to see you through the colder months!



HOLY SEE, UNHOLY ME by Tim Fischer

Tim Fischer, former leader of the National Party, was picked to be the first Australian resident ambassador to the Holy See. He found himself to be an observer and active in the dramas of a most powerful nation city state.

With his newly acquired dinner party diplomacy, Tim navigated the world of religious and political leaders - and scandals besetting the Church - and lived to tell the tales. In entertaining style he reflects on his 1,000 days in Rome and on matters of global and religious significance. Fascinating!

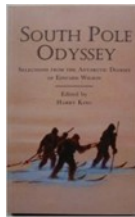
Reviewed by Margaret Pittman

SOUTH POLE DYSSEY by Edward Wilson

Edited by Harry King and based on Dr Edward Adrian Wilson's diaries. A member of Scott's 1912 journey to the South Pole, his notes are a fascinating account by a wise, pleasant and loyal man.

A medical doctor and an artist, he was a valuable member of Scott's team. A man of fortitude with and abiding faith "in the life to come".

Reviewed by Jenny Barabas



THE PATRON SAINT OF LOST DOGS

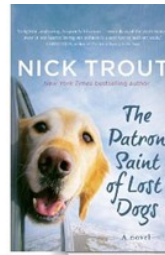
by Nick Trout

Delightful. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Reminiscent of James Herriot, and giving perceptive insight into the world of animals, especially dogs and their owners.

It tells the tale of Dr Cyrus Mills returning home after inheriting his father's failing veterinary practice. He intends to sell the practice but changes his mind as animals and people find a place in his heart, causing him to want to stay.

Reviewed by Lorraine Powers



PHILOMENA

by Martin Sixsmith

Many of you will already have seen the excellent film of this book, starring Judi Dench.

As a teenager in Ireland in 1952, Philomena Lee fell pregnant and was sent to the convent of Sean Ross Abbey, near the town of Roscrea...a "fallen woman". For 3 years after her son was born she worked there and cared for him; then the Church took him away and sold him, like many others, for adoption in America. For 50 years Philomena searched for her son, and he also searched for his birth mother, but to no avail.

The book focuses on Michael and his life growing up in his American family, with 3 brothers and his adopted sister Mary. Michael had a successful political career and, in 1988, became Chief Council in the Republican Party. He was also part of the gay scene, and all that entailed in the 1970s and 80s, and eventually succumbed to AIDS and died in 1995.

This is a compelling and moving account of two people caught up in the system of the time, with all the secrecy and hypocrisy that accompanied it - we can only be thankful that the truth is now revealed!

Reviewed by Jill Kerr



DVD REVIEW

THE WAY HOME:

(91 minutes)

Based on the inspirational true story

Well told, suspenseful story of a desperate search for a missing toddler.

How Christian communities from local churches opened their hearts, joining forces to support the traumatized family.

Reviewed by Jenny Barabas

