

# THE INVENTION OF CHRISTIANITY & THE PAPACY

The first 500 years

By TOM LEE

## Acknowledgements:

Many individuals and organizations have helped me with this project. First of all I am indebted to the research of the late, great, Biblical scholar Hugh J. Schonfield, whose chronology I have used in the early part of the book. I am aware that other scholars have contested some of his suppositions and that the birth of Jesus has been placed at various dates from 6 BCE/BC to 6 CE/AD, none of them conclusive. However, I find Professor Schonfield's thesis, with his expert knowledge of Judaeian and Roman chronology, both reasonable and convincing.

In the preparation of the book I have consulted a great many treatises and periodicals that are not named, and many original documents not yet published. But most reference works consulted are listed, with grateful thanks, in the bibliography.

All quotations from the Bible, unless otherwise stated, are from the *Jerusalem Bible* published and Copyright by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and are used with permission of the publishers.

I am indebted also to the groundbreaking insights of Hans Kung, Uta Ranke-Heinemann, John Dominic Crossan, Robert Funk, Raymond E. Brown, Tissa Balasuriya and Bishop John Shelby Spong.

Most valuable help, information, advice and wonderful insights were provided by the late Professor Bernard Peebles, and the late distinguished Librarian and Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, Carolyn Lee, at the Catholic University, Washington D.C.

Others who provided illuminating hints were the late, distinguished actor and Vatican Radio personality, Henry Vidon (he played Pope Pius X in the movie *The Secret Conclave*), Ron May of the Jewish Museum (London) and the Bodleian Library (Oxford), Mgr. Francis Bartlett, Bishop Agnellus Andrew, Fr. Anthony Howe, Stephen Poole at the Heythrop College Library (London), the late distinguished British journalist W.J.(Bill) Igoe, Rabbi Lionel Blue, English historians Renee Haynes and Joan Morris, and Pamela Barnard (distinguished instructor at LAMDA, who helped me choose the most stageable pieces from a welter of material to use in '*O Papa!*'). Her help, encouragement and insights were invaluable.

Others who gave me leads on lines of inquiry and tips on how to go about obtaining the information I needed were Fr. Francis Edwards SJ, at the English Province of the Society of Jesus Department of Historiography and Archives, Mrs. Mary Buck at the Westminster

Catholic Central Library, Fr. Anthony Bischoff SJ of Georgetown University, Cardinal William Baum (former Archbishop of Washington DC, and then Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican), Mgr. Michael Farina, Director of the Institute for the Arts of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., and the late Hon. Enoch Powell MP.

I am indebted also to the librarians of the British Library at the British Museum, and the Library of Congress in Washington DC, the inscrutable custodians of the Vatican Library collections, and the much more down-to-earth librarians at the Westminster City Libraries, Portland Street Branch.

Special thanks to the late Jantina Harvey de Boer in Holland and Barbara Angell and Patricia Gaye in Australia who read early drafts and suggested improvements, and to my careful reader/critic, the late Lutheran Pastor Kay Keller, a gracious lady much missed.

Thanks especially to the late Frances Reilly, director of the *Teatro Goldoni*, and her son Patrick Persichetti, for valuable introductions as well as first hand information about Rome and the Vatican. I am grateful also to the late Lady Collins, then director of the religious books division of Collins/Fontana in London, for encouraging me, thirty years ago, to write this book. I'm sorry Ma'm that it took so long.

Special thanks to my mother and my late father who shopped and cooked for me through the cold and wet winter of 1976-77 in Mallorca, Spain, during the initial planning and research of this book.

I need to honor the memory of my maternal grandmother, Sarah Jane (Ginnie) Hasson, an amateur historian who encouraged me to question and who fostered my interest in the past. Her husband Will Hasson, for whom she converted to Catholicism, was my devout godfather and spiritual mentor – and a finer man I've never known; confirmed for me on the train returning from school six months after his passing when I overheard two of his fellow workers extolling his virtue and recalling their happy memories of him. I regret that I was too shy to identify myself and thank them.

Greatest thanks of all to Roderic Vickers, my companion for forty-five years, who directed my show '*O Papa!*' and who has put up with this project for thirty-five years. Without his patience and loving support this book may never have been completed.