

The Speakers at the Seminar on 1 October 2017

Rory Higgins FSC has made the trip from his current base in Papua New Guinea to deliver a paper on:

The Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics in England and their Friends 1607 – 1840

Br Higgins has spent many years compiling this work with support from the Catholic Family History Society, his Superiors and many individuals. The period 1607-1840 covers the centuries when Catholicism was effectively outlawed. Records of Catholics are scattered in civil record offices, in Catholic Church archives and in Anglican Church archives throughout the country.

The database, **with well over 250,000 names and details**, will be a hugely valuable resource for church, social, political, local and family historians, both in England and around the world. On it are men, women and children from all walks of life, including priests and foreigners living in England. Where available there are details of age, of occupation and of location. References guide the user to the many sources which he has trawled, both original and printed, in order to collect the information together into this database.

Individuals and representatives of organisations involved in records and archives, as well as historians of all interests, will find his latest database to be the research tool everyone has been waiting for. In his paper to be delivered on 7 October 2017, he will explain his thinking behind the work and how he set about collecting and compiling the data. The dedication is to his mother.

His earlier successful database is the *Australian Nuns Index*, now available on the internet.

We hope you will not miss this opportunity to be amongst the first to explore the potential of this new resource. Delegates will receive a copy of the disc included in the entrance fee.

We are pleased to have **William D. Shannon, PhD**, to speak on his research in this era under the full title:

Using the Records of the Forfeited Estates Commission (1715-1724) at The National Archives in Kew, London to reconstruct Catholic Lancashire before and after the First Jacobite Rebellion.

Dr Shannon has delved into the fate of the Catholics involved in the 1715 Battle of Preston, not just those executed, imprisoned or exiled, but also those less directly involved. His work shows how various records can be used to increase the understanding of the lives of Catholic individuals and families during a particular historical period.

A representative from The National Archives team will give a presentation on the **development of The National Archives finding aid Discovery**, with particular reference to how it can help find Catholic records.