### New release July 2020

### Marking 50 years since Dorothy Day visited Australia

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will not be a launch: distribution of the book will depend on email, and help from readers to spread the word

# Dorothy Day in Australia



Val Noone

Dorothy Day (1897-1980), co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, is one of the most interesting and complex figures in the history of twentieth-century Catholicism, and of Christian dissent in America.

In her youth, a labour radical, a peace activist and a Bohemian, she was jailed with the suffragists. She became a Catholic, founded the *Catholic Worker* newspaper, and ran a house of hospitality in New York's lower east side. A movement grew and had a small but definite effect in Australia down to the present day.

In August 1970, Dorothy visited Australia. To mark the fiftieth anniversary, *Dorothy Day in Australia* records details of her stay and explores her long-term impact.

For good reasons, those writing about Catholicism this century have focused on exposing and redressing crimes of clerical sexual abuse. This book offers the general reader an alternative understanding of twentieth-century Australian Christianity.

"In Australia as in the United States, several generations of Catholics acknowledged Dorothy Day as a seminal influence on their personal development." – Ed Campion

"Dorothy Day is one of the most important and influential figures of the Catholic Church in the United States. Many people call her a saint."

- Margaret Coffey

"I remember being struck by her ability to zero in and challenge us on aspects of our society where we fail. As we drove from Glen Waverley seminary to our house in Fitzroy Dorothy noticed, as I never had before, the buildings of the Holmesglen migrant hostel and asked searching questions about Australia's treatment of migrants. She expressed support for the rights of Aboriginal Australians and requested posters in regard to land rights." – *Mary Doyle* 

"Many of my generation, in the 1950s and 60s and beyond, were profoundly influenced by Dorothy and the newspaper." – *Tony Coady* 

### Val Noone, Dorothy Day in Australia, 132 pages, 40 images

Published by Mary Doyle & Val Noone, PO Box 51, Fitzroy, VIC 3065 Tel: 03 9419 8631. Email: <macmic@netspace.net.au>

The first chapter outlines Dorothy Day's background and the importance of the anarchist-pacifist Catholic Worker movement; and considers the views of a couple of critics. The second chapter surveys a series of prior Australian connections with Dorothy and the American movement, from the launching of their paper in 1933 up to the eve of her visit. Chapter Three sets down an account of Dorothy's three weeks in Australia in August 1970 – two in New South Wales and one in Victoria. She came as the guest of two radical Australian priests, Roger Pryke, and John Heffey. Chapter Four sketches examples of Dorothy's continuing influence in Australia. Her inspiring story offers food for thought about how to live a good life in this time of crisis for humankind.

## How to order a copy of Dorothy Day in Australia

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