

PRESS KIT

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S



When Seventy two year old, Father Peter Kennedy is sacked by the Catholic Church for unorthodox practices, the fight that ensues results in one of the biggest rifts in the history of the Australian Catholic Church.

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Producer: Veronica Fury

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THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Synopsis

One Line Synopsis

When Father Peter Kennedy is sacked by the Catholic Church for unorthodox practices, a fight ensues that will result in one of the biggest rifts in the history of the Australian Catholic Church.

Short Synopsis

In February 2009 the St Mary's church in Brisbane is at the centre of one of the biggest rifts in the history of the Australian Catholic Church. 72 year old, Parish Priest Father Peter Kennedy is sacked by the Catholic Church for unorthodox practices. The fight that ensues will result in the exodus of an entire Catholic community as they follow their priest into the unknown.

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Synopsis

One Page Synopsis

In February 2009, St Mary's church in Brisbane was at the centre of one of the biggest rifts in the history of the Australian Catholic Church.

In the eyes of Rome, Seventy two year old, Parish Priest Father Peter Kennedy is a heretic, out of step with the Vatican on the most fundamental tenets of Catholicism. Kennedy's transgressions include questioning the Virgin Birth, the infallibility of the Pope and even that Jesus was the literal Son of God. In practice, Peter Kennedy rejects wearing vestments, allows all members of the church, including women, to recite the Eucharist, and changes the wording of the baptism. In the view of the Archbishop of Brisbane, John Bathersby, Peter Kennedy has put himself "out of communion with the Roman Catholic Church".

Peter Kennedy, however, passionately believes that the church is undemocratic and in desperate need of reform. Under his leadership St Mary's has become known for its social activism. Programs such as MICAH, under parishioner Karyn Walsh, have helped the homeless and victims of abuse from institutions, including the Catholic Church.

When Father Kennedy is finally sacked by the Catholic Church for unorthodox practices, the decree issued by Brisbane Archbishop John Bathersby not only removes him from the Church, but also effectively exiles over 1,000 members of his community, who have followed him for almost thirty years.

The Trouble with St Mary's provides unprecedented access into this community and its leader as they attempt to find a new way of being spiritual outside of the Catholic Church.

Kennedy and his community find refuge in the Trade and Labour Council, however, not all parishioners follow him into Exile. Christian Brother Brian Grenier has parted company, because he believes Kennedy's flock is beginning to resemble a cult. Mick Sullivan, who was a fellow student with Peter at the Seminary, also believes Peter has lost his way and is leading a Catholic community astray and away from their faith.

After 45 years as a Catholic, Father Kennedy now wants to start his own Church and for that he faces possible excommunication. Despite the very real threats by the Catholic Church, Kennedy continues to perform unorthodox rituals. He even begins to introduce new controversial spiritual ideas to his flock. In the process, not only does he defy the doctrine of the Catholic Church, but he also causes concern and division within his own community about the direction in which he is taking them.

The Trouble with St Mary's follows the journey of a rebel priest and his parish as they stand against the Catholic Church and attempt to find a new way of being spiritual. Will they survive their struggle with the authority of a two thousand year old establishment and can they remain a united community under a common spirituality?

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Director's Statement

Before the trouble at St Mary's started I occasionally attended the services at the church. I am not a Catholic but I was drawn to the warm sense of community where they preached and practiced kindness and social justice. It was soon after that Archbishop Bathersby began sending the letters to the community demanding that they change their ways. It was then that I decided to follow the story of the church and the conflict that ensued between the St Mary's community and the Archbishop. I wanted to understand why the Archbishop and the Catholic Church would want to penalise this peace loving and socially conscious community. As a non-Catholic I felt I was the right person to document this story and do justice to all the sides involved.

As much as it is a religious story, it is also a human interest story with real lives at stake, shedding light on universal issues that affect millions around the world.

The Trouble with St Mary's is an observational documentary with an intimate and personal visual approach. We tell the story in a lyrical way getting close to our characters no matter which side these characters represent. Our approach is always empathetic, looking to understand the motivations of our characters and giving them an opportunity to present their side of the story. The camera work is often moving and hand held to create the feeling of being there, being part of the experience and the journey of our characters.

It was important that my close relationship with Peter Kennedy does not affect the way I tell the story. I developed empathy with Ken Howell, the new priest to replace Peter Kennedy at St Mary's and I worked hard at showing a balanced point of view between both sides. I also interviewed some of Kennedy's adversaries both within his community and also outside of it. The picture I began to form around the story was no longer revolving around the simplistic view of "good and evil". It was about a number of complex issues and people who all had their own fears, their own heroes and own beliefs.

An exciting challenge for me was to be able to follow the community into exile and thus have an opportunity to explore Peter Kennedy's character further, not only as a hero who takes on the Catholic Church, but also as a flawed man who makes mistakes on the way and who carries the legacy of 45 years of priesthood with all its complexities. Kennedy's character development provided a compelling narrative structure for the film, almost dividing the film into two distinct parts. The first part was Kennedy's fight against the Catholic Church with the support of his community. The second part was the time when Kennedy and his community struggled to find a way forward, searching for a way of being a united and credible community outside of the Catholic Church.

This particular part of the story became a very interesting study of democracy and power relations within a new growing organisation. Under what structures and frameworks will this community operate? Who will make decisions? Will they throw away the Catholic doctrine and replace it with something entirely new? Observing this process unfold was both exciting and fulfilling from a director's point of view.

The story follows in the convention of most of my previous films where, with a personal motivation, I enter the story and attempt to understand each side, only to offer the complexity of the situation to the audience. One very significant differing approach from my previous films is the fact that I don't participate in this film. However this does not stop me from exploring the ideas and issues my characters are grappling with. I am personally captivated by the ideas with which Peter Kennedy struggles and the valid argument that Father Howell puts forward in defence of the Catholic Institution.

At last I would like to say that I am inspired by the journey Peter Kennedy and his community have taken over the last few years. I feel privileged to have been part of this journey only to witness the faith of these people strengthen and to be with Kennedy, as he went from being an angry and cheated man to somebody who now knows who he is.

Peter Hegedus - Director

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Key Credits

Writer/Director/Producer	PETER HEGEDUS
Producer	VERONICA FURY
Film Editor	AXEL GRIGOR
Composer	PETER WALTERS
Sound Mixer	MICHAEL GISSING

Executive Producer for Compass
ROSE HESP

DEVELOPED AND CO-FINANCED BY
SCREEN QUEENSLAND

DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Commissioning Editors
DASHA ROSS
CHRIS THORBURN

Principal Investor
SCREEN AUSTRALIA

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THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Biographies

PETER HEGEDUS – Writer/director/producer

Peter Hegedus is an accomplished and award winning writer, director and producer of both documentary and drama films. Since 1999, he has attended numerous conferences, markets and film festivals and he has also participated in various panel discussions around the world. In addition he has also taught filmmaking at Tertiary level and conducted various courses for filmmakers over the years. In 2008 he was also awarded the title for the Doctor of Visual Arts.

At the age of 21, Peter embarked on his first, one hour international documentary for SBS TV. *Grandfathers and Revolutions* is a story about his grandfather, the Prime Minister of Hungary who called in the Soviet troops to quash the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. The film took two years to make and has gone on to win many awards around the world. The awards include the prestigious Crystal Heart Award as well as the grand prize for best documentary at the Belgium International Film Festival.

In 2002 Peter formed Soul Vision Films Pty Ltd. The company's philosophy is to produce and direct films, which provide insight into the human condition. In 2004, Peter has made his first professional drama titled *Redemption*, which captures the nine most important minutes of a man's life in a single take. *Redemption* participated at many international film festivals and was also shown at the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty accompanying the documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11* by Michael Moore.

Peter's first feature documentary as an international co-production, *Inheritance, a fisherman's story* is based around an ecological disaster, which occurred in Hungary in 2000, partially caused by an Australian mining company undertaking work in Romania. The film follows the life of a fisherman Balazs Meszaros, who struggles to survive after the disaster. Balazs travels to Australia to confront the mining company responsible. *Inheritance, a fisherman's story* was short listed for the 2003 Academy Awards and won an additional seven awards around the world including Grand Prizes at the Global Peace Festival and the Real Life on Film Festival. *Inheritance* also had a limited theatrical release in the United States.

In 2005 Peter wrote and directed *Hole in the Wall*, an eleven minute drama that explores the importance of dealing with our past in order to move on with our lives. The film participated in many Festivals around the world and has also won best screenplay at the Queensland Short Film Festival.

In 1999 Peter embarked on an ambitious seven year journey to document the story of Catrina Lawrence a young girl living in North Australia struggling to forge her identity in the midst of a controlling and difficult family. The film titled *Wings to Fly* was completed in 2007 for ABC TV in Australia and was broadcast in June 2008 on the ABC network.

Peter has also tackled another feature documentary titled *My America* - a personal search for the American dream. *My America* has been funded as a theatrical documentary financed by a number of broadcasters and investors across the world.

From 2004 to 2008, Peter also completed his Doctorate of Visual Arts at Griffith University, Brisbane Australia. The topic of his research is about the viability of personal theatrical documentaries in the marketplace.

To find out more about his work please visit his website: www.soulvisionfilms.com

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Biographies

VERONICA FURY – Producer

Veronica Fury is a Brisbane based producer and company director of newly formed Wild Fury Pty Ltd., in partnership with Bettina Dalton (Absolutely Wild Visuals) and Hugh Marks (Network Nine/Southern Star). Veronica has made award-winning content for Australian and International audiences via major television broadcasters, festivals, screens and DVD sales around the world including ABC, SBS, Foxtel, Ovation, QANTAS and major European broadcasters such as ZDF, TVO and ARTE.

Upon graduating from Griffith University's Film School in 2003 she produced two QPIX documentaries for ABC as part of the Odd Jobs initiative. After a stint at Network Ten in Brisbane she produced (with Mark Chapman for Big Island Pictures) a one-hour historical documentary for SBS TV entitled *Black Soldier Blues* (dir Nicole McCuaig) which was short-listed for the NSW Premier's Award in 2006.

After setting up Fury Productions she completed a two part series titled *The Glamour Game* (dir/s Susan Lambert & Aviva Ziegler) for SBS in 2007; produced *Fairweather Man* in 2008 (dir Aviva Ziegler) for ABC which won the 2010 NSW Premier's Award for best Script; and in 2009 *World Champion Santa* (dir David Downey) for ABC. She is currently producing *The Curse of the Gothic Symphony* (dir Randall Wood) for ABC and 2011 MIFF Premier Fund and *The Trouble with St Mary's* (dir Peter Hegedus) for ABC. Her recent project *Machete Maidens Unleashed!* (dir Mark Hartley) for ABC and 2010 MIFF Premier Fund premiered a Toronto in 2011.

Fury has a large number of documentary projects in various stages of commissioning including *Dancing Down Under* (dir Susan Lambert); *First Fagin* (dir Alan Rosenthal) with German broadcaster ZDF/ARTE; and *Mysteries of the Human Voice*, which has been commissioned by ARTE France.

Fury is currently developing a broad range of projects, including ACTF and Screen Queensland funded children's live action series *The Mango Street Kids*. A number of long form factual series are currently in development under a joint venture with one of NZ's premier companies Greenstone Pictures.

She attends all major TV markets such as MIPCOM, MIPTV, AIDC, WCSFP and Sunny Side of the DOC. Veronica is an active member of the QSIC board, a full SPAA member and is a sponsor on the QLD Young Film Makers Awards.

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Biographies

AXEL GRIGOR – Editor

Born in Uppsala, Sweden, Axel Grigor is an award-winning film editor and producer.

After working on the acclaimed Swedish feature film *Show Me Love*, Sweden's candidate for the 1999 Academy Awards, he migrated to Australia to study film production at Griffith University.

In 2001, Axel co-founded Brisbane-based production company Faraway Productions Pty Ltd together with Iranian-born filmmaker Faramarz K-Rahber,

The company's first feature documentary, *Fahimeh's Story*, won the prestigious Independent Spirit Award at the 2004 Australian IF Awards and was nominated for two AFI Awards in the same year.

2007 saw the release *Donkey in Lahore*, Faraway Productions' second feature documentary. Filmed in Pakistan and Australia over 3 years, the film was lauded by Variety as "a fascinating tale - compelling, emotionally resonant viewing". After its world premiere at the International Documentary Festival in Amsterdam, *Donkey in Lahore* went on to screen at over 30 international film festivals, including Tribeca Film Festival and Gothenburg Film Festival. The film has been seen by TV audiences worldwide.

Currently, Axel divides his time between film editing, producing, teaching and raising two boys.

The Trouble with St Mary's marks the second time Axel has collaborated with filmmaker Peter Hegedus, having previously edited his theatrical feature documentary *My America* in 2010.

PETER WALTERS - Composer

Peter Walters, Master of Music, Acoustic Bassist, Electric Bassist, Guitarist, Composer, Arranger and Teacher.

Peter has distinguished himself over the years as one of Brisbane's most sought after bassists, particularly in the jazz milieu. Classically trained by Ken Poggioli (Queensland Orchestra) he quickly established his jazz credentials with strong and imaginative playing. Through the 80's and 90's he worked with many artists from Australia and abroad including singers Annie Ross, Sheila Jordan, Vince Jones and Kerrie Biddell, saxophonists Clifford Jordon, Johnny Griffin, Don Burrows and Don Menza, pianists Joachim Kuhn, Jason Rebello (Sting), James Morrison and a host of others.

Peter teaches jazz bass at the Queensland Conservatorium and runs his own recording studio specialising in jazz and blues. He has won best producer at the Qld Sunny awards for his work on the Wiley Reed album *Straight From The Heart*.

Whilst performing professionally in all sorts of genres (Jazz, Blues, Latin, World) and after having worked in Japan and other SE Asian locales, Peter embarked on a Composition Masters degree, which he completed in 2005. He continues to compose and arrange alone and in collaboration with other local artists. He has composed and arranged for film and theatre his latest being *Black Soldier Blues* for SBS and *World Champion Santa* for the ABC.

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Biographies

PETER KENNEDY - Priest

22-11-1937	Born in Bowen , Queensland
1956	Completed Senior at Nudgee College, Brisbane
1958 – 1964	Training for Catholic Priesthood Pius XII Seminary, Brisbane
June 1964	Ordained a Priest in Roman Catholic Church
1964 – 1972	Served as a Priest in following Parishes in Roman Catholic Diocese: Manly, Scarborough, Royal Brisbane Hospital Chaplain
Nov 1972 – Oct 1978	Chaplain in Royal Australian Navy Postings to: HMAS Albatross, Nowra HMAS Melbourne, Sydney HMAS Leewin, Perth
January 1979-Oct. 1979	Denver USA – Course in Spiritual Direction
October 1979-Aug. 1980	Served as a Priest in Nanango and Beaudesert
August 1980-April 2009	St Mary's South Brisbane
19-02-2009	Decree of Removal from Office of Priesthood by Archbishop Bathurst Initially refused to leave church but after dire threats from church authorities left St Mary's and continued to practice as a Priest in the Trades & Labour Council Building in Peel Street. On going to the TLC building received a letter ordering me not to continue to practice as a Priest That was followed by a decree suspending me from the Priestly office within the Catholic Church St Mary's in Exile (SMX) continues to flourish through the generosity of the Council of Unions in Brisbane by giving us access to their building on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings and evenings

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Credits

Writer/Director
PETER HEGEDUS

Producers
VERONICA FURY
PETER HEGEDUS

Film Editor
AXEL GRIGOR

Composer
PETER WALTERS

Narrator
DEBORAH KENNEDY

Camera
PETER HEGEDUS

Script Editor
STEFAN MOORE

Co - Producer
ANNIE HOLDEN

Narration Writers
PETER HEGEDUS
STEFAN MOORE
AXEL GRIGOR

Production Manager
ELLA HOLMES

Assistant to Producer/ Director
ANNA HALL

Archival Film Research
ANNIE HOWARD
BRIAN MAY

Location Producer - Feb 2009

FARAMARZ K-RAHBER

Additional Camera
FARAMARZ K-RAHBER
DAN SCHIST
ROB CURTIS
MICK ANGUS
RICHARD BELL
PETER IRELAND
SUNITA JARIWALA
JOSH TANNER

Additional Sound Recordists
MICHAEL LEO
RHIANNA MALEZE
ASHLEIGH HARDING
ANGELA H
IBBARD

Camera Assistant
GRANIA KELLY
ANGELA HIBBARD
LINTON VIVIAN

Logging
REBECCA SANDFORD
SAMANTHA MILLS

Online
50/50 FILMS

Colourist
PAUL BUTLER

Title Design
ANDRES GOMEZ IZASA

Post Production Producer
CHARLIE ASPINWALL

Sound Mixer
DIGITAL SOUND CITY - MICHAEL GISSING

Legals
BOLAM LEGAL – PETER BOLAM

Accountant
CORPACC AUSTRALIA – JACINTA MORRIS

Completion Guarantor
FIRST AUSTRALIAN COMPLETION BOND COMPANY – DAVID NOAKES

With special thanks to:

Peter Kennedy
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 Camille Furtado
 Brenton Thomas
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 The Great Freedom Movement
 Wendy Brown
 Maggie Boyle
 Richard Stokes
 Mick Sullivan
 Charlotte Cutting
 Tony Stevens
 Christopher Doolan
 Steve Westh
 Melissa McLeary
 Cheron Grigor
 Isaac Grigor
 Lucas Grigor
 Bob and Sue Hall
 Paul Collins
 Benjamin Tamas Hegedus
 St Mary's Community In Exile
 Carmel Devery
 Adrian Taylor
 Anthony Kelly
 Claire Jager

Griffith Film School

Archival Sources
 ABC Content Sales
 Seven Network Australia
 Eckhart Tolle TV

"Introduction to Awareness 1 Candice - Fully Alive"
 by Great Freedom blip TV file 1789993# Creative Commons BY 2.0

"The Last Supper"
 by Belinda Mason
 © 2009

"The Curly-Pyjama Letters"
 by Michael Leunig
 Penguin Books Australia Ltd. 2001 and 2006

Music

“Alleluia No. 1”

Words and Music Donald Fischel
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“Breathe of the One Life”

Written by Jan Novotka
 ©2006 Jan Novotkas Music LLC

“Consciousness Waking”

Written by Jan Novotka
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“Eye Has Not Seen”

by Marty Haugen
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“Fly Like a Bird”

Text & music by Ken Canedo
 ©1995, spiritandsong.com, a division of OCP
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“Footholds of Love (Song for St Mary's)”
 Lyrics and music ©2009 Robert Perrier

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Written by Colin D Smith cfc
 ©1977, 2002, Willow Publishing Pty Ltd
 Courtesy of Willow Publishing Pty Ltd

“Healing River”

Written by Hellerman/Minkoff
 Appleseed-Music, Inc.
 Administered by: Essex Music of Australia Pty Ltd

“The Power Moves”

©1991 Laura Brearley

“Stay with Me”

Song from Taizé – music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
 © Ateliers et Presse De Taizé
 71250 Taizé, France

“We Choose Life by David Haas”

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“Eriskay Love Lilt”

Traditional

"Ode to Joy"
Written by Ludwig van Beethoven

"We Shall Not Be Moved"
Traditional

Dedicated to Mike and Stacey

Executive Producer for Compass
ROSE HESP

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Commissioning Editors
DASHA ROSS
CHRIS THORBURN

Principal Investor



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WILD FURY

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THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Credit Block

SCREEN AUSTRALIA, TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S in association with
AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, SCREEN QUEENSLAND present **THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S**
director of photography **PETER HEGEDUS** original music **PETER WALTERS**
editor **AXEL GRIGOR** associate producer **ANNIE HOLDEN**
produced by **PETER HEGEDUS** and **VERONICA FURY** written and directed by **PETER HEGEDUS**



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ABC
Television



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THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S: Technical Notes

Production Format:	HDV 16:9 Anamorphic
Release Formats:	Digital Betacam 16:9 Anamorphic
Sound Configuration:	Tracks 1 & 2 Stereo Mix, 3 & 4 M&E
Date of Production:	2011
Release Date:	2011
Duration:	55 / 72