THINKING WITH ROME:
SPACE, PLACE AND EMOTION
IN THE MAKING OF THE FIRST
WORLD RELIGION

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE
SIMON DITCHFIELD

What happened to Rome and the idea of Rome in the age of the Counter-Reformation and of the missions to America and the Indies? Even as Roman Catholicism was ‘going global’ to an unprecedented extent, that pre-eminent symbol of its claims to universality, Rome, was being re-invented to a degree which arguably had not been seen since the fourth century CE. The papal Jubilee of 1575 effectively relaunched the city not only as a pilgrimage destination but also as a setting for the daily processions of what surely remains the most kinetic of world religions. This lecture will also examine how Roman Catholics all over the globe ‘thought with Rome’: not only via the Daily Office (and Roman Martyrology with its information about the city’s martyrs), but also via its relics which were being exported at an unprecedented rate from the late 16th century.

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