

On matters of Christmas importance

WHAT are we all celebrating this Friday?

TV

CHOICE

Patricia Brennan, from the Movement for the Ordination of Women ushers in the season tonight in **Talking Shop** with Terry Lane, former Church of Christ Minister and broadcaster.

In tonight's program women, religion, sex, the Church (which Lane describes as "the last gasp of male chauvinism") and God come under scrutiny from these two who are not ones for mincing their words or shirking the hard questions.

Brennan ferrets out some furious discussion on women becoming priests, whether Lane would go back to being a clergyman again and why the Church, with its tremendous wealth and power, lacks democratic principles despite the fact that it is based on the teachings of a man who was crucified because was "a religious anarchist".

If Jesus Christ were born again, how would He fit into today's Anglican and

Talking Shop: ABC, 10.50pm
Music in China: SBS 7.30pm

Times and programs may vary.

Catholic bureaucracies given their domination by the upper class and their perceived roles as liberators and oppressors?

To one side there is the Catholic Church's entanglement with Somoza in Nicaragua; on the other there is the link of Daniel Berrigan with the Sandinistas which leads Brennan and Lane into a lively debate on the issue of compromise by the Church in secular activities.

Where, asks Lane, was the Church during the civil rights activities in the '60s, with the anti-war, liberation and women's movements?

Has Christianity had its day? Where are all the young Christians and when did the decline of its appeal set in? Has it lost its

spiritual and intellectual credibility?

Of course it can be argued that the same laws of survival apply to the soul business as Wall Street and all successful religions, be they Hinduism, Buddhism or any ism, stay around only when they stick to the rulers. But in a society which is totally impoverished spiritually and obsessed materialistically, spiritual and secular lives become mutually exclusive.

Brennan's intellect searches out and destroys the first hint of hypocrisy providing some good Christmas dinner table conversation for those who dare.

On a lighter note tap away to the post-revolutionary tunes with **Music in China**.

Enjoy musical freedom without even questioning the struggle behind it. China's traditional instruments, musical dramas and operas were forbidden once but now times have changed as this fascinating musical tour of China demonstrates.

— BERWYN LEWIS



Patricia Brennan
lively debates