



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Friday 19 March 2021

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor. Thank you for inviting me to speak on behalf of the graduating students this year.

Today I am graduating with a Master of Theological Studies. This is actually my third post-graduate theology qualification from the University of Divinity. It seems that I just can't get enough of studying here, and I am sure I am not alone. Each of us has kept coming back, lecture after lecture, unit after unit until we have completed our courses, despite the COVID pandemic.

It has been a privilege to study with the University of Divinity. To be able to learn about the Christian faith and how it can apply to key issues today. My capstone essay was on "Hope and Mission in a time of Climate Change". I am sure all the graduating students have equally interesting and relevant essays from their studies. We have grown in our ability to articulate faith and theological insights. I have been enriched by exploring feminist theology, post-colonial theology and theology written by a great diversity of people from around the world and I am sure other graduates have also encountered this diversity. My studies have helped prepared me to serve as a Deacon in the Uniting Church. As you look around at the graduating students, you will see many Christian leaders ready to serve the church and the world.

On behalf of all these who are graduating today, we want to thank everyone who has supported us through our studies, particularly our partners, families and friends. Thank you so much for being there, supporting us and encouraging us.

We want to thank the faculty who have taught us. Thank you for doing your job well and in many cases going above and beyond what is expected, especially during last year's rapid transition to online learning. We also want to thank the administrative and tech staff who have supported our studies.

Finally, I want to thank God. I know there were many essays I would never have finished without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So, I praise God, whose mystery keeps drawing us into theological study, I praise Jesus, whose life, teaching, death and resurrection is a constant source of nourishment and challenge, and I praise the Holy Spirit, who offers wisdom, comfort and inspiration. Praise to the Trinity of love. Amen.

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