



UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

GRADUATION

6.00pm, Thursday 12 February 2026

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Adelaide



WELCOME.

TONIGHT WE GATHER AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE,
TO WITNESS THE GRADUATION OF 74 STUDENTS.

On behalf of the Council of the University, I am delighted to welcome each graduand to tonight's ceremony. We honour your academic achievements in theology, ministry, education, and more.

It is a particular pleasure tonight to welcome our guest speaker, the Reverend Dr Sean Gilbert.

At this ceremony, each of you becomes a member of the alumni community of the University of Divinity. Our alumni are found in every corner of the globe, serving their churches and communities in extraordinary ways. As you join them, I trust that you will draw more on your attributes as a graduate of the University, as you continue to learn, articulate, communicate, engage and serve.

I thank all who have come tonight in support of our graduands, including family, friends, colleagues, and members of the University Council and the staff of its Colleges. Your support is invaluable to our graduands and to the University as a whole as it seeks to address the issues of our contemporary world through critical engagement with Christian theological traditions.

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD

BD 1993, MTheol 2006

Chancellor



*Graduation Address
delivered by*
Reverend Dr Sean Gilbert



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Reverend Dr Sean Gilbert served at Uniting College for Leadership and Theology from 2012 to 2025, as Director of Pastoral Theology and Ministry Practice, and most recently, Acting Principal.

Prior to that long and rewarding ministry placement, Sean was a congregation minister in both rural and urban settings within the Uniting Church Synod of South Australia. These multilayered experiences have gifted Sean with an appreciation for continual integrations of faith and life, coupled with a desire to encourage others on their own spiritual pilgrimage.

At heart, Sean is most attracted to a theology that sings well beyond its own preconceived or protected edges. This theopoetic practice is particularly important, he believes, within increasingly binary (adversarial) ecclesial and social environments.

Reverend Dr Sean Gilbert

BTh, DipPS, GradCertMS, MA(Hons), PhD

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Guests are asked to switch off mobile phones during the ceremony

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Please stand for the procession

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Robbie Young

WELCOME

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD

The Chancellor

OPENING HYMN

Shout to the Lord

OPENING PRAYER

The Reverend Paul Smith

Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia

SCRIPTURE READING

Colette Michelle Albino

DipTheol 2026

1 John 4: 16b-21

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

THE CEREMONY of conferring degrees and awarding diplomas and certificates is a time-honoured ritual performed at universities throughout the world. It is the moment when awards are formally made, and is a celebration of the achievements of the graduands.

Graduation ceremonies at the University of Divinity celebrate the academic excellence of our students, honour our collegiate structure and reveal the richness of the many Christian traditions which shape our identity.

The ceremony begins with the procession of the University's academic staff, doctoral graduands, distinguished guests, and members of the University's Council, ending with the University Mace and the Chancellor.

As befits a University of Divinity, the first part of the ceremony includes prayer, song, and a reading from scripture.

The formal graduation commences in the second part of the ceremony, when the Chair of the Academic Board certifies to the Chancellor that all graduands listed in the program, whether present or absent, have completed the requirements of their awards as established by the Council and the Academic Board.

Candidates for coursework awards are then presented to the Chancellor, grouped by Colleges and Schools, followed by candidates for research masters' degrees and doctoral awards.

The guest speaker delivers an address, and, following a final song and prayer, the ceremony concludes with the academic procession, now augmented by the new graduates.

SHOUT TO THE LORD



My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord, there is none like you;
all of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you!



HYMN

Blessèd Jesus, at your word

INTERCESSIONS

Tha Hlei Thang Aicawm

BTh 2026

Response: **Hear our prayer**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Andrew Georg

Organist

PRESENTATION OF COLLEGE PRIZES

THE GRADUATION

BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD



1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
only you work good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Music: LIEBSTER JESU 78.78.88

Later form of melody by Johann Rodolph Ahle 1625-73

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer 1619-84

tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 alt.

Together in Song #437

GRADUATION

The Chair of the Academic Board,
Professor Katharine Massam,
certifies to the Chancellor that all graduands
have completed the requirements of their awards.



AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Chloe Jane Clarke *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*
Samuel James Rentsch *Bachelor of Theology*

Sherree Helene Argent *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*
Garth James Schultz *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Thiago De Almeida Carvalho *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*
Jennifer Qariaqus *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*
Gianfranco Sgro *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*
Dawn Manuel Saji *Diploma in Theology*
Karl Raymond Zelesco *Advanced Diploma in Philosophy*
Ray El Fakhry *Bachelor of Theology and Diploma in Theology*
Benjamin Gandepuun Kombo *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Costantino Di Biase *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*
Miryam Asastyasih Prasetyo *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*
Grant Winter Eggleston *Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care*
David Ellis McManus *Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care*
Leander Cajetan Pancraccio Gonsalves *Graduate Diploma in Theology*
Marshall Dane Nichols *Graduate Diploma in Theology*

EVA BURROWS COLLEGE

Colette Michelle Albino *Diploma in Theology*
Beola Conteh *Diploma in Theology*
Nicole Bezzina *Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry*
Shui Yan Lee *Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry*

Keven Scott Williams *Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry*
Matthew Benjamin Ryan *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*
Leanne Mary Ruthven *Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology*
Angela Kim Rawlings *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*

PILGRIM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Rebecca Natasha McBurney *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Emily Alice Seinemeyer *Master of Theological Studies*



ST ATHANASIUS COLLEGE

Yuliana Dearthossian *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

Abanob Elkess Saleeb Farouk Nassif *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

ST BARNABAS COLLEGE

Max Andrew Meldrum *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

Patrick Paulinus Ozonwa *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

Susan Evelyn Nirta *Bachelor of Theology*

Wendy Ruth Kruger *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

John Daniel Bilney *Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology*

Neil Prasanna Roshan Fernando Wannaka Watte Waduge
Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology

Nicholas Northleigh Carter *Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Christopher Matthew Gann *Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Thomas Edward Higgins *Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Simon Eric Roberts-Thomson *Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Thomas Luke Snelling *Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Malcolm Leonard Schluter *Graduate Diploma in Theology*

Benjamin David Falcon *Master of Theological Studies*

TRINITY COLLEGE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Enzo A Reyes *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

William Scott Fowler *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Jiji Abraham George *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Samuel David McNamara *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Kay Kheng Tan *Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology*

Lynette Helen Shalless *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*

Laurence Christopher Gray *Graduate Diploma in Theology*

Elsa Christine Pereira Dias Gomes Carr *Master of Theological Studies*

UNITING COLLEGE FOR LEADERSHIP AND THEOLOGY

Pietta Jesse Brown *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

Qelisani Nkomo *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

Maria Natividad de Vico Arpon-Fe *Bachelor of Theology*

Max Alexander Kowalick *Bachelor of Theology*

Julie Michelle Martin *Bachelor of Theology*

Isaac Stewart Prior *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Dianne Veronica Young *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Karen Louise White *Graduate Certificate in Spirituality*

Gillian Ann Powis *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*

Robert Charles Stocker *Graduate Diploma in Theology*

WHITLEY COLLEGE

Lachlan James Scallion *Diploma in Theology*

Tha Hlei Thang Aicawm *Bachelor of Theology*

Tanya Louise Miles *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Thomas Patrick McDonough

Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision

Dean John McDonald

Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology

Leanne Joy Marshall

Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care

Dusk Alexandra Liney *Master of Spirituality*

Dean Lawrence Rompis *Master of Theological Studies*

WOLLASTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Kim Shane Chin *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION

John Khoury *Diploma in Theology*

Paul Edwin Targett *Diploma in Theology*

Ngoc Tan Nguyen *Graduate Diploma in Divinity*

Nehme Khattar *Master of Spiritual Direction*

Minh Hoang Do *Master of Theology*

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLAR 2026

Vice-Chancellor's Scholars are graduands who have demonstrated excellence in one or more of the University's Graduate Attributes. This may include academic excellence, contribution to the College community, and service to wider society. The award is made at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor on the nomination of the graduand's College.

Julie Michelle Martin

Uniting College for Leadership and Theology

Julie has been an outstanding student, consistently receiving Distinctions and High Distinctions. She is conscientious and skilful in her critical analysis of texts and contexts, and in evaluative interweavings of traditional and contemporary resources. Her creative design flair has also brought innovative perspective into her theological studies.





VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Julie Michelle Martin
BTh 2025

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Reverend Dr Sean Gilbert

FINAL HYMN

Be thou my vision

CONCLUSION

The Chancellor

BLESSING

The Bishop

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Please remain standing until the procession has concluded and all graduates have exited the Chapel.

REFRESHMENTS

All are welcome to refreshments in the foyer, generously provided by the Lutheran Laypeople's League and hosted by Australian Lutheran College.

BE THOU MY VISION



1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only the first in my heart;
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of Heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Music: IRISH TRADITIONAL MELODY
Harmonisation by David Evans 1874-1948
Words: Gaelic c.8th cent.
tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1880-1931
Versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull 1860-1935 alt.
Together in Song #547

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council of the University of Divinity thanks the Principal and staff of Immanuel Lutheran College for provision of the Chapel for this Graduation Ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Sam Winderlich

ORGANIST

Andrew Georg

Cathedral Organist and
Assistant Director of Music
St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide

Processional Music
Ceremonial March
Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)

Recessional Music
March from the 'Occasional Oratorio'
George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

OUR GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

LEARN

Graduates are equipped for critical study, especially of Christian texts and traditions.

ARTICULATE

Graduates articulate theological insight and reflection.

COMMUNICATE

Graduates communicate informed views through structured argument.

ENGAGE

Graduates engage with diverse views, contexts and traditions.

SERVE

Graduates are prepared for the service of others.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

The University of Divinity promotes the highest standards of scholarship in theology, philosophy and ministry. Through scholarship, the University aims to address the issues of the contemporary world. Founded in 1910 as the Melbourne College of Divinity, the University has a long history of pursuing and achieving these aims.

All students and staff join the University through one of its Colleges or Schools. Based in the Australian cities of Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth, each is a unique learning community that contributes to a theologically diverse and rich culture of scholarship at the University.

Through the Colleges, the University is supported by thirty partners in the churches and religious orders. These include the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Coptic Orthodox, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Church traditions. The University's work is further resourced by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, which provides support to the Colleges, University Council and Academic Board.

OUR VISION

To enable our graduates and partners to serve the common good and to be agents of transformation in the world.

OUR MISSION

To excel in education, engagement, and research in spiritual practices and Christian beliefs and their contemporary application.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Chancellor

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD
BSc(Hons) BD MTheol PhD

Deputy Chancellor

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM
BSc(Hons) PhD

Vice-Chancellor

Professor James McLaren
BA(Hons) MA DPhil

Chair of Academic Board

Professor Katharine Massam ASDA
BA(Hons) DipEd PhD





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