



UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

GRADUATION

6.30pm, Thursday 30 April 2026

CHAPEL

WOLLASTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Perth



WELCOME.

TONIGHT WE GATHER AT WOLLASTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,
TO WITNESS THE GRADUATION OF II 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 professional practice.

It is a particular pleasure tonight to welcome our speaker, Professor James McLaren, the Vice-Chancellor.

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
Chancellor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council of the University of Divinity thank the Principal and staff of Wollaston Theological College for their hospitality in welcoming the University community to the Chapel and providing refreshments.

Pianist: Tim Chapman

Photographer: Luke Riley

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.

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 MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

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



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor James McLaren joined the University of Divinity as its second Vice-Chancellor in April 2024. He previously held major leadership roles at Australian Catholic University, most recently as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), and before that as the University's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Foundation Director of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

Professor McLaren completed his early studies at the University of Melbourne, graduating with a BA with Combined Honours from the Department of History and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies in 1983, and a Master of Arts by Research in 1985.

He subsequently undertook a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford, under the supervision of Professor E.P. Sanders and Professor Martin Goodman.

Professor McLaren's major research interests span several fields in the study of history, with his primary focus being the social, cultural, and political history of the ancient Mediterranean world. He is one of the leading international experts in the study of the life and times of Flavius Josephus, and has an extensive track record of publications on the pivotal period of Jewish and Roman relations in the first century CE, especially in relation to the war of 66-70 and its aftermath.

For his contributions to the profession, he has been awarded the prestigious Krister Stendahl Medal in Biblical Studies by the Graduate Theological Foundation.

Professor James McLaren
BA(Hons), MA, DPhil



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WELCOME

Dr Graeme Blackman AO FTSE FAICD

The Chancellor

BD 1993, MTheol 2006

HYMN

To God be the Glory

OPENING PRAYER

The Most Reverend Dr Kay Goldsworthy AO

Archbishop of Perth and

Metropolitan of Western Australia

DD 2024

The Archbishop: The Lord be with you

Response: **And with your spirit**

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 12-22

Jennifer Anne Hammond

GDPS 2026

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

INTERCESSIONS

Rong Fu

GCDiv 2026

Reader: In your mercy

Response: **Hear our 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.

HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Tim Chapman

Pianist

THE GRADUATION

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Renae Louise Barker

GCDiv 2026

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Professor James McLaren

Vice-Chancellor

HYMN

God gives us a future

CONCLUSION

The Chancellor

BLESSING

The Archbishop

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

*Please remain standing until the procession
has concluded.*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY



1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in,

Refrain

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! great things he has done!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
and every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Music: William Howard Doane (1832-1916)

Words: Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820-1915 alt)

Together in Song #147

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The second staff ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and the initials 'D.C.' (Da Capo).

1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
Refrain

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.
Refrain

CHANNEL OF PEACE

Words and Music: Sebastian Temple (1928-)
Based on an anonymous prayer (french) (c.1900)
Together in Song #607

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

Susan Jean Daley *Advanced Diploma in Counselling*

EVA BURROWS COLLEGE

Rong Fu *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Benjamin Aaron Hollis *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Kirsten Louise Gibson *Graduate Diploma in Theology and Graduate Certificate in Theology*

Benjamin Lyle Alexander Baillie *Master of Theological Studies*

WOLLASTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Robert John Lydon *Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity*

+ Emily Clare Bowser *Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry*

Renae Louise Barker *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Christine Margaret Kain *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*

Lydia Rose Goldstone *Master of Divinity*

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION

Jennifer Anne Hammond *Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care*

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.

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. The award is made at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor on the nomination of the graduand's College.



Renaë Louise Barker

Wollaston Theological College

Dr Renaë Barker is an established scholar in her own right, with a focus on continuing education and development. Beyond her excellence as a student, her ongoing engagement in sharing her scholarship publicly through the media, and her service as Advocate for the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, demonstrate an outstanding commitment to service to church and society.

GOD GIVES US A FUTURE



1. God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.
2. We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives us hope, and insight
and the strength we lack.
3. Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life,
and find our future there.

CAMBERWELL

Music: John Michael Brierley b.1932

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (UD Alumna) b.1956

Together in Song #687



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Α | Λ | C



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