

Ordination Speech

Praised be God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and honour to his Blessed Mother for the wonderful gift of the priesthood with which Fr. Galbert, Fr. Jessie, Fr. Jack and myself have been bestowed. Being the Benjamin of the group I've been tasked to express our collective sentiments, a task not so simple. However I do so with great joy as this day marks the beginning of a vocation modelled on Jesus Christ the High Priest. A vocation of love, filled with love, and made with love.

Of course a moment like this does not happen with a click of a finger. There are a few people we'd like to thank. Firstly to those responsible for accepting us into the seminary; Archbishop Anthony Fisher for Fr. Jack and myself, Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning for Fr. Galbert, and Fr. Peter Williams and Fr. Christopher de Souza for Fr. Jessie, thank you for accepting us into the seminary to discern God's call.

To the Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Long, thank you for ordaining us priests of Jesus Christ. This is a day we will never forget. We are forever grateful to you for bestowing upon us the gift of the priesthood, a gift that is not for oneself, but for the people of God. Thank you, Bishop.

To the rector of the seminary, Fr. John Hogan and the seminary faculty, thank you for your fatherly love and support throughout our formation. Special thanks to Fr. John; thank you for being present to each of us throughout our ups and downs. Your guidance during our seminary years has allowed us to flourish in so many ways and we ask that you continue to guide and support us as we begin our lives as priests. Thank you Fr. John.

To the Bishops present, Most Reverend Bishop Robert McGuckin and Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here with us. It's always an honour to see a Bishop, and here today we have three! Please keep us in your prayers.

To our brother priests here present. Thank you for welcoming us to the presbyterate. Your kind words leading up to the ordination have been nothing short of encouraging. We ask that you please, please, help us along the way. We aren't perfect and we'll make mistakes, but we hope you'll be there for us, for that's what brothers do. Please pray for us brothers.

To the seminarians, what a journey! Thank you for being brothers to us over the years. We are grateful for all we've shared with you throughout our time in the seminary, and we look forward, please God, for many more joyful memories in the years to come as brother priests.

To our respective parish communities, St. Anthony of Padua, Toongabbie; St. Aiden's, Rooty Hill, Holy Family, Luddenham, Sacred Heart, Westmead, and the Parish of Richmond. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms and blessing us with the gift of your lives. Each of us can firmly say that we've grown immensely whilst being in the parish. We'll never forget the love you've shown us. May God continue to bless each community abundantly.

To those whose made this day possible, Chris Ohlsen, the Master of Ceremonies and Bernard Kirkpatrick and the Cathedral Choir, thank you for all you've done to make this such a solemn occasion. Thank you also to the communications team for your work in live streaming this event so our loved ones overseas can also witness this occasion.

And there are so many others who have helped us along the way. I can't mention you all as we'd be here all night but you know who you are. Thank you for everything you've done for the four of us.

And finally to our families, thank you for all you've done and continue to do for us in our lives. To our parents, thank you bringing us to the faith at an early age and nurturing it throughout our lives. Who would have thought that the gift of faith in baptism all those years ago would eventually lead to the gift of the priesthood for your sons. Thank you for unconditional love and support, the many sacrifices you've made over the years and your constant guidance. We're blessed and honoured to have come from such loving families and we're proud to be priests of our families! We love you all very much.

I'd like to end this note of gratitude with a request from the four of us to all of you. Please pray for us. Please pray for your priests. And please pray for more priests. Pray that all priests conform themselves to Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd; that their hearts and minds are one with Christ and so bring His love to the ends of the earth.

God Bless you