

# Radical Inclusivity

## Living the Call of the Gospel

Statement of the Parramatta Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Parramatta Diocesan Pastoral Council, a lay advisory body to the bishop, is united in its support for Bishop Vincent's Gospel inspired vision of a church community that is welcoming and inclusive.

Grounded in the Gospel, this vision reflects the radically inclusive teaching of Jesus: "there are many rooms in my Father's house" (Jn 14.2). In these words, Jesus makes it clear that there is room for everyone, that all are included, no matter what their life experience or situation, or where they rest in their spiritual journey and expression of faith. For example, Pope Francis, in a pastoral response to parents who have children with diverse experience of sexuality and gender said, "God loves your children as they are" and "the church loves your children as they are because they are children of God."<sup>[1]</sup>



Das Mahl "The Meal" By Fr Sieger Köder  
from the Lenten veil, Hope for the Excluded, 1996

Bishop Vincent's foundational vision for our Diocese is for the church in Parramatta to become "the house for all peoples; a church where there is less an experience of exclusion, but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness and solidarity".

Echoing the pastoral response of Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent continues, "by that I mean there must be space for everyone, especially those who have been hurt, excluded or alienated, be they abuse victims, survivors, divorcees, gays, lesbians, women, or disaffected members."<sup>[2]</sup> In his homily for the Solemn Chrism Mass, Bishop Vincent said, "the challenge for us today is to be the Church on mission for those who long for healing, affirmation, encouragement, justice and love."<sup>[3]</sup>

As members of Christ's faithful, we are called to have hearts that are a place of welcome for all people and to be witnesses of Christ's compassion and love. The Parramatta Diocesan Pastoral Council asks parishioners, parish and deanery leaders, priests, and all who engage in ministry and education to create opportunities that mend where there has been division, to invite where there has been rejection and to heal where there has been hurt, without judgement or expectation. Bishop Vincent, our Pastoral Leader, calls all of us, as the Body of Christ, to live authentically the prophetic message of the Gospel.



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

[1] [www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/09/17/pope-francis-parents-lgbt-children-god-loves-your-children-they-are](http://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/09/17/pope-francis-parents-lgbt-children-god-loves-your-children-they-are)

[2] [www.catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-long-ofm-conv-delivers-2016-ann-d-clark-lecture/](http://www.catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-long-ofm-conv-delivers-2016-ann-d-clark-lecture/)

[3] [www.catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-homily-from-chrism-mass-2021/](http://www.catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-homily-from-chrism-mass-2021/)

Image: "Das Mahl" aus dem Misereor-Hungertuch "Hoffnung den Ausgegrenzten" von Sieger Köder © MVG Medienproduktion, 1996.