

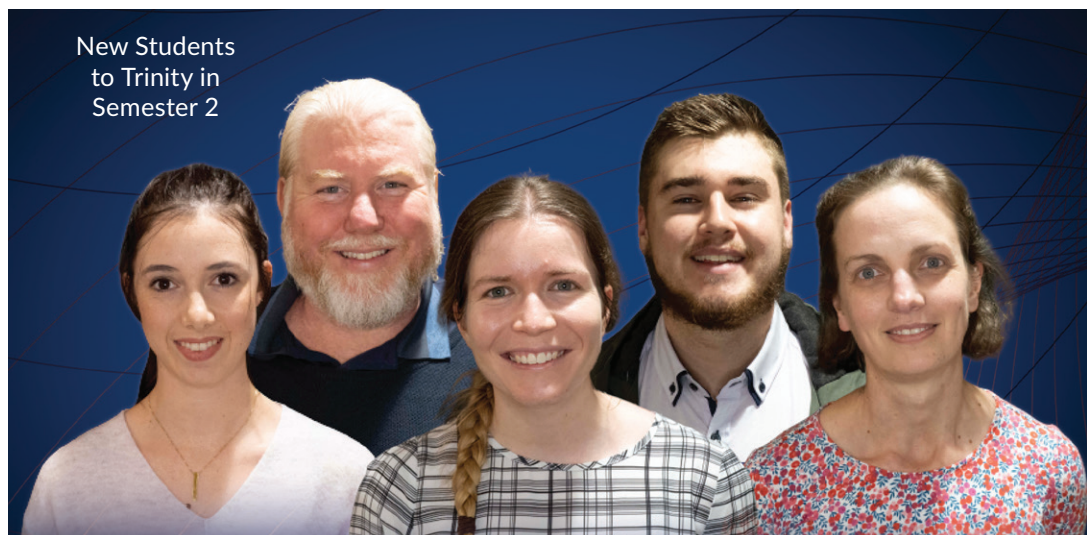


Mercy and Strength

This semester I again have the privilege of teaching in our main pastoral care unit with Jill McAlpine. We have a reasonably full class of students who are learning in a COVID-19 world and heading into churches and other contexts where the visible and invisible effects of this virus will linger well beyond the end of their degrees.

COVID has changed the way all of us live, work, and “do” church. Some of the consequences have been positive: the need to slow down and check in with people, the inclination to pray with others on the phone—without calling a meeting, or the opportunity to serve non-believers who are struggling, and so on. Let’s pray that these things will continue.

But the unwelcome consequences are many and serious: the “scariness” of the Delta strain (as the Lifeline CEO put it recently), the beeping sound of hospital monitors, compassion fatigue, frustrations which boiled over into an angry email or conversation (which is still unresolved). Some churches and ministries are experiencing falling attendances, financial pressures, and/or staff absences, resulting in a lack of cohesion or feelings of despondency.



New Students
to Trinity in
Semester 2

Going forward, pastoral care will no longer be a “thing” leaders and churches do among many other tasks, but an essential component of everyday gospel-shaped ministry. We will need to think about pastoral care proactively as well as reactively.



Don West

Proactively we will ensure our staff teams, homegroup leaders, elders, youth and children’s teams, etc., receive specific input from the Bible on how the gospel applies to the whole of life; how we are all members of one another, a people who strive by the Spirit to be “completely humble and gentle; patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2). We will be aware that our enemy seeks to

undermine our unity in the bond of the Spirit, tossing in disrupters like disunity, gossip, and complaining. We will become more aware that the gospel of Christ, brought through earthen vessels, is the Holy Spirit’s instrument of love, unity, compassion, and even salvation for others (see 2 Corinthians 4:7-18).

Let us pray for our churches and other ministries which seek to equip people to serve the Lord Jesus in our present time. Please pray for the College, our students, faculty, staff, and Council, that we will look to Christ, who is fully able to sympathise with our weaknesses and who will grant mercy and strength in our time of need. 🙏

Yours in Christ

Don West
Principal

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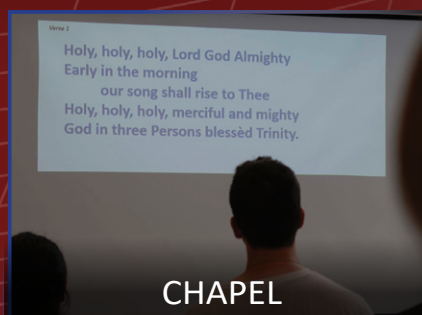
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Persuasive Evangelism by the Persuasive Church

In the book of Acts, Luke tells us that the small group of believers in Thessalonica were accused of 'turning the world upside down.' (17:6).

Here was a revolution, wrought not by Christians in positions of political power and influence, but by the spiritual power of the gospel, proclaimed by a freshly-formed and suffering local church, winning many for salvation. It's a striking picture. But perhaps for many of us in Australia, such a thing seems unlikely in our neighbourhoods. Sure, the gospel turned the world upside down in the past, and maybe it is turning the world upside down in other parts of the world, but that stuff doesn't happen here anymore. Our culture has moved on. My unbelieving neighbours and friends aren't interested. The best we can do as Christians is survive.

In his 2021 Trinity Annual Lecture, "Persuasive Evangelism by the Persuasive Church," our lecturer David Robertson challenged us to resist such thinking, and reinvigorated us in the work of reaching the lost through our local churches with cheerfulness, creativity, and gospel expectation. In an immensely practical lecture which wove together theological reflection, cultural insight, and encouragement



David Robertson joined us via Zoom

from David's own experience of gospel growth in rural and urban Scotland, several points stood out as particularly vital.


First, there are endless opportunities for evangelism, if we're willing to be imaginative and prayerful in seeking them out. Far from viewing the scope for sharing the Lord Jesus as a narrowing one in our culture, David encouraged us see a wealth of possibilities. From an outreach event in a café to posting testimonies on YouTube and TikTok, from engaging with art and music to exploring the Christian history of our cities and towns, there are countless areas of engagement available to us if we're prepared to broaden our horizons.

Second, evangelism is the work of the church more than it is the work of the individual, and the local church is itself the greatest apologetic for the gospel. We don't

need to feel as though we each must be bold evangelists who have all the answers; God has supplied his church with the gifts needed to undertake the mission of the gospel as a team. And indeed, it won't simply be our words, but the life of love that marks the Christian community which will powerfully commend the gospel to those who experience it.

Third – and most importantly – the greatest spur in persuasive evangelism is a renewal of our own love and enthusiasm for the Lord, and our confidence in his unique beauty and incomparable goodness.

The desire to share Jesus with others is not properly the product of a sense of duty or guilt; rather, as we see in the woman at the well (Jn. 4:28-30, 39), it flows from excitement and conviction about the person of Jesus and the eternal life he offers us.

Such a delight in the one who loved us and gave himself for us is what will reenergise and sustain us in evangelism, and grant us a joyful expectation for the world to be turned upside down in our time and place too, for the honour of his name. 

Thom Bull

Lecturer in Theology

Registrar Eleanor Lyons speaking with Khim & Eugenie Harris



Learning That Changes Your Life

Jacinta Patterson is a Master of Divinity student at Trinity. We asked her to share some thoughts about her studies.

"Completing my first semester at Trinity has exceeded my expectations of what College would be like. In contrast to my university studies, actually being required to attend classes in person was a shock to me but has been really beneficial, along with the lecturers actually caring about us and how we are going. I have found myself recommending Trinity to people with great confidence since I have started here, whether that be the night classes or the diplomas and degrees.

"I was not looking forward to learning Greek, however in God's mercy it has been enjoyable to see much hard work paid off when you can translate a sentence! As Dan [Cole] consistently (and helpfully) reminds us, "It's all going to be OK". I have enjoyed the various units this semester which have solidified some foundations and stretched me in different areas. I have walked away from one semester at Trinity with a deeper conviction that the God of the Old Testament is the same God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and with a clearer picture of how the cross of Christ and his

coming return is the overwhelmingly brilliant and totally appropriate fulfillment to the Old Testament promises. I'm looking forward to digging deeper in the years ahead.

"Another surprise has been meeting heaps of students I didn't already know from churches that I hadn't heard of who are on about the Lord Jesus. I have rejoiced to see my knowledge of the evangelical network of vocational ministry workers and churches in WA grow in my time at Trinity.

In the hecticness of life and study I have really been wrestling with the idea that God intends everything for my sanctification. The sovereignty of God is one of my most loved doctrines and yet my attitude often does not reflect the truth of this belief when I'm in the valley. I think this semester has helped to persuade me of what I know and so I'm praying that the semester ahead is one where I lean into what God is doing to sanctify me, rather than run from it." 🌿

Jacinta Patterson

MDiv Student



Jacinta in Greek Class



Dan Cole teaching the Greek class

Hope of the Gospel


Mike Welham graduated in 2021 with a Master of Ministry. At the start of the year he moved with his family to Geraldton to start in his role as Assistant Minister at the Geraldton Anglican Cathedral, with a focus on youth and children. Mike shared with us about his abrupt entry into full-time ministry...

"I was still unpacking boxes after moving from Perth to Geraldton when my phone rang. It was 6:15am and the kettle had just boiled for my morning coffee. It was the principal of Geraldton Christian College, who informed me that a well-loved Year 11 student had ended his life and I was needed to come and offer pastoral support to students and staff as the news broke that morning.

When I arrived, the Year 11 and 12 students were just getting the news from a distraught teacher who could barely get the words out. In the time that followed, I sat with students as they processed the sad news. Everyone was crying. Some students went home. Some staff and students just sat with their heads resting in their hands.

The Bible was opened, and people heard the hope of the gospel. I was able to pray with grieving people, or just sit with them silently. It was surreal. I spent most of the day with the teacher who last saw the young man alive. This teacher had even noticed something was amiss and offered him help. The response was that he was fine.

My time at Trinity Theological College prepared me to know with certainty that the gospel is what all

people need. It's easy to feel powerless and unsure of what to say in moments of tragedy, but God's Word is timeless and applicable in all situations. I opened the Bible with people and offered them real hope. Studying with Trinity also helped me to understand that God is always good, and that power for comfort and change can be found in Christ alone. I'm so thankful for the faithful staff, faculty and students who continuously opened the Bible with me. Now I get to do this with others." 

Mike Welham

*Minister to Children and Youth
Geraldton Anglican Cathedral*

*If you or someone you know are
having suicidal thoughts, please
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Mike Welham

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Student Profile

Our Purpose: Preparing people for effective Christian service

It is only with your partnership in financial support and prayer that we can prepare men and women like TJ for Word ministry

My name is Tjaart (TJ) Bosua and I'm married to my lovely wife, Ronelle; we have three lively children.

I grew up in a Christian family, however it was at the end of 2015 that the Lord stopped me in my tracks and confronted me with the fact that I am a sinner,

only a part-time Christian and a rather poor representative of Christ. God has changed my heart, so I am now studying for my Graduate Diploma of Divinity.



I chose Trinity after receiving recommendations from friends and through my church as well as having done some research. I am unsure where my theological studies will lead, however I believe the Lord has a path planned for me and I'll faithfully follow where his Spirit leads.

Please pray for my family and raising children with hearts for Christ. Please also pray for the challenges of full-time work and study, and for clarity on where my studies will lead. 🌿

TJ Bosua

Student (GradDip Div)

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Trinity Stories

Gladly Trusting in Jesus

Former Trinity Council member and current Trustee, Kanishka Raffel has been elected as Archbishop of Sydney, the first person from a non-European background to hold the position.

"I'm humbled and somewhat daunted by the responsibility given me by the Synod," Archbishop-elect Raffel said. "We believe that the Lord works through his people — both in making this decision and in enabling the Archbishop to fulfil his role. Like every Christian, I gladly trust in Jesus."

Kanishka has been the Dean of Sydney for six years, previously leading St Matthew's Anglican church in Shenton Park, Perth for 16 years.

"Globally, Anglican Christianity is ethnically diverse and our multiculturalism in Sydney mirrors that. I'm glad that our Diocese reflects the changing ethnic make-up of our cities and values the participation of Australians of all backgrounds in our church life together. Our team of Bishops is almost equal part Asian-background and Anglo. That is contemporary Australia."

To the Synod, he said, "You have elected a weak servant, and you too, are but weak servants. But we have a mighty Saviour - full of grace, sovereign, sufficient, supreme; having the supremacy in all things so that through him God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through his blood shed on the cross. If I can make a pledge it is this - to stand at the foot of the cross, weak, dependent and forgiven, and from there to seek to serve, as he enables."



Kanishka and Cailey Raffel

We reached out to Kanishka and he has this message for the Trinity community:

"It's a privilege to continue as a Trustee of Trinity, and a joy to pray with you all for the work of the College and the progress of the gospel as graduates take up positions of service around the State and the world. The pandemic has only served to bring into crystal focus the urgency of the proclamation of the gospel of God's grace in Jesus to a world that is in bondage to decay. Thankfully, God is not on mute, Jesus is not in lockdown, the Spirit is with us and the Word is not chained! I'm deeply thankful to God for all that is being undertaken at Trinity for the building of the Lord's church." 🌿

Portions of this article first appeared on the Sydney Anglicans website www.sydneyanglicans.net

Don West and Kanishka



Making Sense of the Bible

Sarah Booker graduated from our Certificate of Christian Studies course in 2021 and has now gone on to further studies with Trinity, enrolling in our Graduate Diploma of Divinity. Here she looks back at her time learning through Trinity@Night.

"I am from Perth and am married to Simon, we have two children Oscar and Isla, and I work part-time as a GP. I enrolled in a Trinity at night course as I was interested in digging deeper into the Bible and the 2 hour evening session worked well as a time to attend.

The first unit I did was The Big Picture: Seeing the Bible as a Whole, and while I at first thought this sounded like an ambitious topic, it piqued my interest and I signed up. I was so glad I did; the sessions were very engaging and interactive, and Simon (the teacher) was able to tackle a wide variety of questions that were thrown at him

with knowledgeable answers. This unit was a real revelation to me in understanding how the whole Bible fitted together and how the Old and New Testaments complimented each other and reflected the same God with grace and judgement clearly shown throughout both testaments.


I had grown up in a Christian family and always attended church, I knew a lot of the Bible stories but I didn't really have any framework as to how everything was connected and to be honest found it hard to understand the relevance of large parts of the Bible. So, with this new knowledge I became a lot



Sarah Booker

more excited about the Bible because it suddenly made sense how everything fitted together.

I then signed up for further units and have found them all to be of high quality and have really enjoyed the journey of finding out more of God's Word. As a result, I now feel a lot better equipped to

discuss bible topics and questions. My husband and I are now leading a Bible study group at our church. I would highly recommend Trinity's Certificate in Christian Studies to anyone interested in looking at the Bible in greater depth." 

Sarah Booker

GradDipDiv Student

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you dig deeper into God's Word

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Prayer and Giving

What a blessing it is that our good Lord doesn't only answer our prayers, but he gives us so much more! This edition of Trinity News has given us an amazing privilege of glimpsing our God at work in and through the College, and I hope it has encouraged you as much as it has me.

Your support through prayer and giving is vital for Trinity's ministry training to continue, and for our community to thrive.

We also gratefully acknowledge God's provision for the financial needs of the College, and the generous support of faithful donors. Trinity continues to depend upon him for every provision.

With less than four months to go, we still need approximately \$300,000 in order to cover our operating costs for 2021. Becoming a pledge supporter enables the College to plan its ministry more effectively.

If you can partner with us in equipping students in this practical way, please fill out the form on page 5 or head to the website: ttc.wa.edu.au/partners. All support is greatly appreciated. 

Yours in Christ,

Nathaniel Brown

Development & Communications Coordinator

☎ 08 9228 9067 ✉ development@ttc.wa.edu.au

Prayer & Praise

Give thanks for:

- Praise God for our faithful supporters; for those who pray, volunteer and give regularly to ensure that the work of equipping men and women for gospel ministry continues
- Praise God for David Robertson's Annual Lecture via Zoom and for its inspiring message
- Praise God for the enthusiasm and engagement of our students
- Praise God for Trinity graduates across the world, faithfully serving him by sharing the Gospel

Pray for:

- Pray for Open Week 12-14 October; that many who are considering training for ministry or allied vocations would attend.
- Pray for more early enrolments for 2022
- Pray for our graduates in all areas of ministry, especially at this challenging time
- Pray that God would grant our students understanding as they dig deeply into, and meditate upon, his Word.

2021 DATES

12-14 Oct	Open Week & Information Night
7 Nov	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
12pm 24 Dec – 9am 3 Jan	College Closed



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