



Graduating Class of 2024

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GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S WORK

Welcome

Welcome to the new-look Trinity News! Inside you'll find stories and updates from the College community in a fresh format, and we hope that it continues to help you in your fellowship with us.

This semester in College chapel, it's been a joy to work through Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church. It's a brilliant letter to consider in our context because Paul writes to a young church to lay out the fundamental elements of Christian ministry and life. And like almost all of Paul's letters, after the greeting he opens with a thanksgiving to God. Here we hear Paul thanking God for two particular things. First, he gives thanks that God is at work in the Thessalonians. God has worked faith and love and hope in them (1 Thess 1:3), as well as their acceptance of and suffering for the gospel (1 Thess 1:4-6). Second, he gives thanks that God is at work through the Thessalonians. God has used the lives of the Thessalonians as an example for believers to imitate in their repentance and faith throughout the entirety of Greece (1 Thess 1:7-10).

When we come to a thanksgiving passage like this, it is very easy for us to respond with anxious feelings about our own lack of thankfulness. Yet Paul does not write these words to make the Thessalonians feel guilty about their own hearts. Rather, he speaks of his thanksgiving to God because he knows that this is the best way to encourage the Thessalonians in their own walk with God. Rather than being told how well you're doing, how wonderful to be encouraged by being told that the Lord God Almighty is at work in and through you!

The beginning of the year at Trinity is a little like the beginning of 1 Thessalonians. It is a time for great thanksgiving, as a group of students graduates and we thank God for all that he has done in and through them in their time with us at College, and pray that he would continue to thus work as they take the gospel to the world.



We thank God for all that he has done in and through our graduates in their time with us at College.



Whether or not you were able to join us for graduation, we always set aside the first Trinity News issue of the year to share the stories of those whom we are sending out into the world. Our hope as you read them is that you would give thanks to God for all that he has done for these graduates. We hope, moreover, that, like Paul in 1 Thessalonians, you might even share your thanksgiving with others so that God might strengthen his church as more and more people give greater attention to God's work in the world.

Dan Cole
Principal

COMMENCEMENT & Graduation

This year's Commencement and Graduation was an evening of encouragement that reminded us of how God is at work through the College. Students, graduates, staff, alumni, supporters, friends and family gathered to praise God for his grace in and through all these people, especially the graduates and new students.

We also gathered to see Rev Dr Dan Cole installed as Principal of the College. Murray Thornhill, College Council Chair, led the installation which included Dan's affirmation of his trust in Christ alone, the absolute authority of the Scriptures, and commitment to prayerfully serve the College. College faculty and council members then joined Murray on stage to pray for Dan and his wife, Emily, as they begin this new season of ministry together.

God's faithfulness was clearly on display as 28 graduates (22 from degree studies and six from the Certificate in Christian Studies) walked across the stage to receive their testamurs. This year's graduates are already serving in various Word-based ministries, including full or part-time roles in churches and university ministries, or leading Bible studies and meeting one-to-one in churches and homes. Some are preparing to move overseas for long-term mission work.

The graduates expressed their gratitude to God in individual ways. Yet they all spoke of the riches of the gospel, and unity of the Bible pointing us to Jesus Christ as the common, powerful takeaway from their time at Trinity. The importance of the community—relationships with lecturers, staff and each other—was an equally recurring theme. A Master of Divinity graduate shared that the training he received at Trinity was never just about academics and head knowledge, but always targeted the heart. This was seen in the teaching and lives of the lecturers, just as it was modelled in the lives of the staff and fellow students.

Our keynote speaker, The Rt Rev Darrell Parker, Anglican Bishop of North West Australia, powerfully reminded us of the nature and importance of Christian ministry from 2 Corinthians 2:12-17. This passage shocks the sensibilities (and senses) as the apostle Paul compares his ministry to marching as a slave in Christ's triumphal procession, and his preaching as an aroma of salvation for some but death for others. Like it was for Paul, ministry is hard, often unimpressive, and never straightforward. And yet, God uses weak vessels, "treasures in jars of clay," to proclaim the glories of God in the gospel of Christ.

The evening concluded with praise and prayer and many warm conversations, some going late into the night. As with every year, Commencement and Graduation provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the fellowship we have in Jesus Christ, and to praise his name for his triumph through the gospel. What a joy it is to serve him together!



Australian University of Theology Deputy Vice-Chancellor Edwina Murphy and Trinity's Chair of Council Murray Thornhill



Dan Cole joined by his wife Emily as he is installed as Principal by Murray Thornhill, and members of council and faculty

GRADUATES OF 2024

Master of Theology (Research)

Steven Daly

Steven's 30,000-word thesis was entitled, "The Riddle of the Beloved Disciple's Anonymity in the Fourth Gospel," and examined why John calls himself "the beloved disciple." It was completed under the supervision of Grant Taylor and Allan Chapple. Both external examiners marked it as excellent. Since completing his MTh, Steven has served as an itinerant minister in several churches. He is grateful to God for the opportunity to work with and under his supervisors while digging deeply into John's Gospel.

Master of Divinity

Paul Iswariah

Paul serves on the pastoral team at North Coast Church, overseeing the Membership and Maturity areas. His time at Trinity deepened his understanding of Scripture and equipped him to minister with greater clarity, conviction and grace. He is grateful to his wife Natalie for her partnership, his kids for their support, and his church family for their encouragement.

Jordan Ongkili

Jordan serves as a Youth and Young Adults Pastor as he seeks to disciple young people. He valued many things about Trinity, but notes the teaching of the lecturers and the encouraging fellowship of the student body as two highlights.

Jacinta Patterson

Jacinta works at Providence Bayswater Church overseeing Membership and Kids Ministry. She appreciated the high calibre of the lecturers at Trinity. Jacinta also graduates with a Trinity Certificate of Ministry.

Aidan Smith

Aidan is a Ministry Intern at Vic Park Presbyterian Church. He appreciated the staff's commitment to seeing the gospel taught and obeyed, in the College and throughout WA. He says everything at Trinity was brought under the light of Christ, from grand theological themes to obscure Greek participles. It was an incredible privilege to be immersed in that for three years alongside good friends.

Michael Venter

Michael attends North Beach Baptist Church where he trained for ministry alongside study. He recently started a new job in logistics. He is particularly grateful for the wisdom, experience and care of the lecturers.

Bachelor of Theology

Thomas Measures

Since finishing his studies, Tom has returned to engineering and has been attending North Beach Baptist Church while waiting on the Lord's guidance for the next ministry. He's thankful for the lecturers' patience and care, the robust teaching, and the friendly community of fellow students.



Steven Daly



Back row (left to right): Aidan Smith, Paul Iswariah, Michael Venter
Front row (left to right): Thomas Measures, Danika Hamilton, Jacinta Patterson

Associate Degree of Theology

Danika Hamilton

Danika valued the community and the richness of teaching at Trinity. She says it was a privilege to study God's Word under faithful lecturers who love the Bible and seek to live it out by God's grace. It was also a blessing to develop friendships with many brothers and sisters along the way!

Advanced Diploma of Theology

Kelsie Stanford (in absentia)

Graduate Diploma of Divinity

Jasmine Blennerhassett

Jaz serves at Connect Christian Church in youth and music ministry. Trinity equipped her to explore Scripture deeply with an understanding of God's redemptive story. She looks forward to applying what she's learned in her relationships with young people in her church.

Anna Ling (in absentia)

Anna has been serving as a pianist at Gospel Methodist Church. She truly appreciates the learning experience, the supportive community, and the biblical interpretive tools she gained during her time at Trinity. These have greatly enriched her faith and continue to guide her in her ministry and service.

Kelvin Nguyen

Kelvin is now the Youth Coordinator of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church in Mirrabooka. He finishes College inspired for service, especially due to the relationships with staff and fellow students.

John Whittington (in absentia)

Diploma of Theology

Hermard de Bruin

Hermard works as a communications tech for the State Government and attends Calvary Chapel Secret Harbour. He appreciated the friendships made at Trinity, the quality of the library, and the chance to study church history.

Michael Green

Mick and his wife Mel attend Warnbro Community Church where he serves as an elder and Mel serves in the Kids Ministry. They are starting a Bible study this year for new Christians in the church. Through Mick's four years of part-time study, he has valued the Christ-centred, gospel-focused classes, and the friendships he made.

Kim Percival

Kim serves as a leader in Girls' Brigade and visits women in her church, WPC Bull Creek. She says her time at Trinity has grown her love for the Lord and deepened her understanding of the Scriptures. She also appreciates the supportive staff and students.



Back row (left to right): Jasmine Blennerhassett, Michael Green, Hermard de Bruin, Tjaart Bosua
Front row (left to right): Tiffany Bennett, Kelvin Nguyen, Kim Percival

GRADUATES OF 2024

Graduate Certificate of Divinity

Tiffany Bennett

Tiff serves her family and teaches the Bible at a women's growth group at her church, Providence Bayswater. She says her time at Trinity widened the eyes of her heart to the goodness of God and the excellencies of Jesus.

Tjaart Bosua

TJ works full-time in the construction industry and serves in youth ministry at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He enjoyed delving deeper into the Bible and gaining a deeper understanding of the gospel. He hopes to return to study at Trinity in the future.

Janice Marsh (in absentia)

Janice works as a registered counsellor, journeying with those seeking to find answers and solutions to their difficult life challenges. Studying at Trinity challenged her to dig deeper into Scripture and through this learning, gave her more confidence when she has conversations with believers and non-believers about God's Word and his truth.

Gale Ng (in absentia)

Gale realised that there are people who don't know the love of Christ in her current work circle. She appreciates Trinity, which has strengthened her in her walk with Christ through the lectures, courses and prayers.

Undergraduate Certificate of Theology

Caleb Ivers (in absentia)

Since finishing his studies, Caleb has moved to Bunbury with his wife and attends Australind Reformed Church. He found the Trinity staff team to be patient and supportive through every moment. He is highly appreciative of the godly example set before him by all the staff.

Advanced Certificate in Christian Studies

Robin White

Robin attends Rockingham Church of Christ where attending Trinity at Night equipped him further for Christian ministry. He hopes to continue studying at Trinity in the future.



Back row (left to right): Ruth McGill, Robin White, Hendrick Piek
Front row (left to right): Brian Collings, Annette Palmer, Mei-lee Beavis

Certificate in Christian Studies

Mei-lee Beavis

Mei-lee and her husband Ben recently moved to Geraldton where they attend Bluff Point Anglican Church. She graduates with a deeper understanding of the gospel and greater hope in the Lord Jesus thanks to Trinity's strong emphasis in teaching the Bible.

Brian Collings

Brian is a semi-retired GP and attends North Beach Baptist Church. He has immensely enjoyed the lectures and the reading for the Certificate, so much so he is now embarking part-time on a Graduate Diploma.

Ruth McGill

Ruth serves in Sunday School at Gnowangerup Community Church and enjoys one-to-one Bible reading with other women. She greatly appreciated the opportunity to study via audio recordings while living in a country town. Each lecturer's clarity encouraged her to study the Bible with greater depth and apply it to her daily walk with Jesus.

Annette Palmer

Annette expresses her gratitude for the opportunity to complete the Certificate as a regional student. She says that every unit broadened her knowledge and zeal for God's Word. She loved learning how the whole Bible points us to Jesus.

Hendrick (Riaan) Piek

Riaan attends Woodvale Baptist Church and practices law, which gives him many opportunities to share the gospel and be Christ-like. Trinity at Night was invaluable in teaching him how to handle God's Word more responsibly.

Prizes

Aidan Smith

Master of Divinity Prize

This prize is awarded to the student who has the highest Grade Point Average whilst enrolled in the Master of Divinity and is provided by Westminster Presbyterian Church Bull Creek.

Malachi Walker

The Mike Horgan Community Service Prize

This prize is awarded to the student recognised by the College community as having made the most significant contribution to College life through their service. The prize is provided by St Matthew's Anglican Church Shenton Park and named in memory of Mike Horgan.



Prize winners: Aidan Smith & Malachi Walker

Commencement & Graduation



FAITHFUL PREPARATION:

Reflections on Studying at Trinity

For recent graduates Jacinta Patterson and Aidan Smith, studying at Trinity was more than just lectures and assignments—it was a season of deep learning, friendships, and preparation for ministry. Having completed the Master of Divinity and now stepping into their respective roles—Jacinta as the Membership and Kids Director at Providence Bayswater, and Aidan as a Ministry Intern at Vic Park Presbyterian—they look back on their time at Trinity with great gratitude.



Jacinta and Aidan (right) with classmates

Equipped for ministry

Now in full-time ministry, both Jacinta and Aidan can see just how much Trinity has shaped them—not just in knowledge, but in faith and confidence for the road ahead.

“The best thing about Trinity is that the lecturers are world-class,” Jacinta says. Trinity’s lecturers aren’t just experts in their fields; they genuinely care about their students, investing time inside and outside the classroom. “They teach the Bible faithfully and help us see the holes we don’t want to fall into,” she reflects. Their wisdom has given her confidence to step into ministry.

Aidan wholeheartedly agrees, highlighting the invaluable guidance he received. “Trinity has given me confidence that when I bring God’s Word to people, I’m understanding it rightly,” he says. “It doesn’t mean I won’t get things wrong at times, but Trinity has kept me clear on the main thing—the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

But more than just equipping them with knowledge, Trinity has shaped their hearts. “You can’t spend years in an environment where the gospel is taught, preached and lived out without it doing something

to you,” Aidan reflects. “You’re continually reminded of your dependence on God, humbled by his Word, and have your heart gripped by the gospel. There are few better ways to start a lifetime of ministry.”

Learning beyond the classroom

Both Jacinta and Aidan say that the conversations and relationships built outside the classroom also left a lasting impact. “Some say 70% of learning is on the job, 20% is discussing what you’re learning, and 10% is being lectured,” Jacinta reflects. “Trinity was that vital 10%, and a highlight for me was having a study buddy in Aidan for that 20%. I learned so much from chatting things through with him!”

Aidan shares a similar sentiment. “The conversations outside of class were always a highlight. Having the space and time to talk about life, ministry, and theology was a real privilege. It’s the chats in the library, the prayers of friends, and the encouraging (sometimes challenging) words from lecturers that come to mind.”

Having been supported by others through their training and journey to ministry, Aidan and Jacinta value the prayers of the Trinity community as they serve in their ministry roles.

Aidan says, “Please pray that my wife Jess, son Riley, and I will settle well into Vic Park Presbyterian, investing deeply in relationships with people. Pray that I will be discerning and encouraging as I oversee the small groups ministry. Pray that the leaders would be well supported, and that the groups would be places of great depth and warmth with one another as they live for Jesus.”

Jacinta asks, “Please pray for God to help me to listen well to people as I consider what it means for each person to keep growing in their trust of Jesus. Pray that I would learn to trust God’s timing and not grasp control for myself. Finally, that I would be able to prioritise things well in my ministry role.”



INTERVIEW

With Dan Cole

We sat down with Principal Dan Cole to talk about why he's excited about being at Trinity and taking on his new role at the College.

Tell us about yourself and how you came to Trinity.

I'm married to Emily, and we've got three teenage kids (as well as a groodle). I grew up mostly in the Eastern states, although I did spend some time on the mission field in Taiwan with my family as a teenager. It was there that God opened my eyes to how much need there is for gospel ministry throughout the world. So after uni, I worked as a youth pastor in Sydney before spending four years at Moore Theological College training for ministry. After college, I served for a few years as an assistant pastor. Towards the end of that time, I felt the call to get further equipped for the possibility of moving into a ministry of training others for ministry. After a slightly winding road, I ended up writing my PhD under Don Carson at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (just north of Chicago). Towards the end of that process, a role teaching New Testament and Greek opened up here at Trinity. In God's grace and kindness, we've been here now for nearly eight years. It has been a great joy of my life to serve in a college that so clearly teaches the Bible as a whole that shapes the whole of life and ministry.

Why do you think Trinity's mission and work is valuable to gospel ministry in WA and beyond?

Our world and our churches have no greater need than the news of Jesus Christ. This gospel is what God promises to use to bring in the new creation. So God entrusts his gospel to every believer and every church to proclaim. Yet the infinite depth and piercing clarity of the gospel means those whom God calls to ministry (whether vocational or volunteer) have the responsibility before God to know and be shaped by this message as thoroughly as they are able. Trinity serves our churches and our world by equipping men and women for exactly this. We therefore have a twofold mission and work. First, we rigorously train students in how all the Scriptures proclaim the gospel of Christ. And second, we ensure students are trained in how the gospel shapes all their lives and ministries. Yet because we are preparing students for a lifetime of effective gospel-infused and gospel-shaped ministry, we structure our training around three invaluable frameworks—biblical theology for understanding every passage in the light of whole of the Scriptures, systematic theology for understanding every truth of God and his world in the light of all God's revelation,



Dan with his family

and philosophy of ministry for communicating the gospel clearly and contextually. We believe that the robust training Trinity provides plays a vital role in preparing individuals with the deep understanding and love for the Lord essential for effective gospel ministry and service.

What are you looking forward to in your role as Principal?

Because I am thoroughly convicted of the value of Trinity's mission, the biggest thing I'm looking forward to is seeing God at work in and through the staff and students at Trinity, as well as in the wider Christian networks in Western Australia and beyond. Although I've been encouraged by God's work in many ways in my time teaching in New Testament and Greek, I'm excited about getting a higher-altitude view of God at work through the College as a whole in this role. I'm also looking forward to even deeper fellowship in the gospel with the wonderful, dedicated team that God has given to the College as we work together for the cause of Christ.

How we can pray for you and the College?

I would love prayer for three things. First, please pray that we would constantly be shaped by the gospel in all that we do at College, and especially in abounding more and more in love for one another. Second, pray that God would make us both faithful and fruitful in the ministry to which he has called us as we equip students for gospel service. And third, personally, please pray that God would grant me his gospel wisdom to humbly lead the College community well.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Give thanks for:

- A great start to 2025 and Semester One.
- The 28 graduating students, and the 79 new and continuing students being equipped for ministry.
- The opportunity for students and faculty to serve on Mission Week in Armadale, Port Hedland, Katanning and Albany.

Pray for:

- Our graduates as they serve in their churches and head into ministry roles. Pray that God will direct their paths, and help them to persevere and hold to the truth of the gospel.
- Many new students to enrol mid-year, and that many prospective students would attend Info Night and Open Lecture.
- Trinity Enrich Conference, that it will be a great time of teaching, encouragement and fellowship for the women who attend.
- Principal Dan Cole, for God's wisdom and discernment as he leads the College.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 May Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
- 7 May Info Night
- 10 May Trinity Enrich Conference
- 13 May Open Lecture

Trinity at Night

Accessible, short units of theological study for people of all walks of life



Term Two (May-June)

Living in God's Grace: The Christian Life
1 & 2 Samuel

Trinity Enrich Conference

Saturday 10 May | 9am - 3:30pm
Trinity House

Speaker: Liana Hunt



REGISTER ONLINE



INFO NIGHT & OPEN LECTURE

7 MAY & 13 MAY

Find out how you can be equipped for Word ministry through our range of study options

MORE INFO



SENDING WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST



Ben Johnston
Development Officer

For about 20 years whilst in America I lived in a community that was surrounded by agriculture. I lived in the city, but not far from the city were fields of corn and soybeans as far as the eye could see. Occasionally, a farmer in our congregation would invite us to visit the farm at harvest time. My kids and I would ride in the large combine harvester that combines reaping, threshing and winnowing crops into a single operation. This is what a lot of modern harvesting now looks like.

Jesus also observed the fields and the harvest. He often spoke to the people in his day about sowing seed, the blessing of fertile ground, and reaping the harvest. Listen to what Jesus observed about the spiritual harvest. He says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matt. 9:37). Trinity Theological College, working together with many local churches, is sending out another crop of graduates for 2024. They have worked hard to complete their academic studies and theological training that will give them the tools to effectively serve our Lord in Australia and around the world.

Each and every graduate is the product of a community of people—pastors, lecturers, friends and family who have supported them on their journey. I also want to thank and acknowledge those who support the work of Trinity, because you are an important part of the class of 2024. Thank you for your sacrificial, generous and faithful giving that supports the equipping of these gospel workers for the harvest field.

Jesus tells us that since the harvest is plentiful, our calling is to "pray earnestly that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt 9:38). So, we continue to ask for your prayers and support because the workers in Australia are few. Your prayers and support of Trinity are an investment in cultivating and producing gospel workers. We are delighted to send out these servants of the Lord into his harvest field and thank God for your partnership.

PARTNER WITH US

By giving financially to Trinity, you are partnering with us to equip men and women for Word ministry.

You can give via our website (ttc.wa.edu.au/partner-with-us) or by filling in this form and mailing it to us.



All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

- I want to give:** \$100 \$500
 \$250 \$1,000
- Frequency:** Weekly Monthly
 Fortnightly Annually

Please use my donation for the:

- General fund (BSB 086 006 Acc No. 730 449 707)
- Library fund (BSB 086 006 Acc No. 560 085 401)
- Building fund (BSB 086 006 Acc No. 560 097 779)

One way of making a lasting investment in raising future ministry workers for generations to come, is by including Trinity in your will with a bequest.

- Please send me information about bequests

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*Cheques can be made payable to "Trinity Theological College"

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