



Vianney Bulletin

A Publication of Vianney College, Wagga Wagga

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Ordination and First Mass of Rev. Fr. Connell Perry



Rev. Fr. Connell Perry
Sacerdos in aeternum

Such a life event as a graduation, significant birthday, or a marriage, is one that is usually marked with pomp, ceremony, and celebration. It is an achievement that deserves to be recognised due to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the person in question. An ordination to the priesthood is no different. After spending at least six years of intense study, prayer, and human and spiritual development, the man being ordained has been tried and tested and found worthy by Holy Mother Church to be ordained. This is why when he is called to ordination, it is not the bishop who calls the ordinand, but Christ Himself.

In many ways, the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Connell Perry was one of mixed emotions. Certainly, this was a day of great rejoicing – a man has been called to Holy Orders and received the ontological change through the laying on of hands and has been conformed to Christ. This Ordination Mass, which was expected to be rather muted due to a now non-existent local lockdown restrictions, was able to be celebrated with much pomp and ceremony.

The priests of the diocese gather to concelebrate the Mass of Ordination with the bishop, to pray with and for the ordinand, and lay hands on him. This demonstration of priestly fraternity demonstrates not only the union of the priests with their bishop and the ordinand, but also the union of the priests and bishop with Christ, who is the One who ordains. It was great to be able to see so many priests able to participate in the ceremony and to lay hands on and pray for Fr. Perry. The presence of many priests of the diocese gave rise to a greater ceremonial solemnity and allowed for a greater focus on the mystery of ordination and the conforming of the man to Christ.

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Recent News

After many years of waiting, Peterpaul Ikenne Chikezie was ordained to the Order of the Diaconate in Armidale by Bishop Kennedy. The Seminary community travelled to Armidale for the occasion.



(Source: Rev. Peterpaul)



On Wednesday, August 4th, the seminary community celebrated its Patronal Feast Day, the Solemnity of St. John Vianney. The day consisted of Mass in the morning with Bishop Edwards who was joined by the priests of the seminary faculty. Mass was followed by a succulent feast which was lovingly prepared by the faithful team in the kitchen (and gladly consumed by the seminary community). The afternoon was spent in relaxation before Solemn Vespers in the evening and the Relic of the holy Curé of Ars was displayed throughout the day.

On Wednesday, September 8th, the 30th anniversary of the Seminary Chapel, St. Mary's Chapel, was observed. This Solemnity replaced the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady which was celebrated as a votive Mass in the following days.



The eagerly anticipated event of the ordination of Rev. Connell Perry to the priesthood took place on Saturday, September 11. The whole seminary community celebrated with him on this joyous occasion.

The First Mass of Thanksgiving of Rev. Fr. Connell Perry was celebrated in his home parish of Lavington on Sunday, September 12. Most of the seminary community travelled down to celebrate with Fr. Perry and the parishioners of Lavington.



Outgoing and Incoming Staff

OUTGOING:



We were sorry to lose the services of Mr. Michael Green in August who served as secretary of Vianney College for two years. Michael brought with him many years of experience and expertise in administration and accounting as well as a love of artistic beauty. He was always ready to assist both staff and students when they needed help and will certainly be missed.

We wish Michael and his wife, Cathy, well in Tumbarumba to where they have relocated.

INCOMING:

We would like to warmly welcome Mrs. Katrina Cooper who has taken up the role of Secretary replacing Michael Green. We are sure she will settle in well as she gets to grips with the role and wish her all the best!



Seminary Faculty 2021:**Rector:**

Rev. Peter Thompson C.M.

Vice Rector:

Rev. Sean Byrnes

Spiritual Director:

Rev. Steven Ledinich

Dean of Studies:

Dr. Matthew Tan

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Recent Events:

25/7/2021:

Term 3 commenced

12/7/2021:

Diaconal ordination of
Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie
(Armidale Diocese)

4/8/2021:

Vianney Day

8/9/2021:

30th Anniversary of the
Dedication of the
Seminary Chapel

11/9/2021:

Priestly ordination of Rev.
Connell Perry
(Wagga Diocese)

itself. Peterpaul knelt before the Bishop who imposed hands and prayed the prayer of ordination. After being vested by the two other Deacons present, Mass then continued with Rev. Peterpaul assisting in his newly received office by preparing the gifts at the Altar, elevating the Chalice at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer and dismissing the people at the end of the Mass. Before the Blessing, Peterpaul gave words of thanks. He especially gave thanks to his parents and siblings because of their encouragement and prayer throughout his seminary life – he did not forget to thank anyone! Due to COVID, his family was not able to attend the ceremony and so it was livestreamed.

The Ceremony was followed by a reception which was organised by the parishioners. During this, Peterpaul gave a brief history of his background and his journey to the Diaconate. This he promised to repeat in full to whoever wants to hear the full version. It was good to be able to talk to Bishop Kennedy especially considering his nephew is a seminarian at Vianney College. The next day, after an early Mass with the priests of Wagga Wagga (who were assisted by the new Deacon), we had breakfast and headed back home.

– Br. Marvin Coonghe CCS
Fourth Year
Confraternity of Christ the Priest

A Long Awaited Journey

After the Sunday morning Mass on the 11th of July, the seminary community made a journey to Armidale for the Diaconal ordination of Peterpaul Chikezie. With the journey taking about ten hours, we stayed overnight at a motel at Coonabarabran, six hours drive from Wagga Wagga and passed through Parkes and Dubbo where we stopped for lunch. We departed at 8.30 the next morning for Armidale arriving there at 2.30 in the afternoon. After settling into our accommodation, we went to the Cathedral of Saints Mary and Joseph which was across the road, to prepare for the ceremony and pray the Divine Office. Some of the seminarians were serving, but due to COVID, singing was kept to the Cathedral choir who remained in the choir loft.



The ordination ceremony began at 5.00 p.m. and was attended not just by the seminarians, but by the local clergy as well as priests from the Wagga Wagga Diocese and the faithful of the Armidale diocese. Bishop Michael Kennedy (originally from Wagga Wagga) was the ordaining Bishop and was assisted by two Deacons. It was a beautiful ceremony. Peterpaul was called by Fr. Thompson, the seminary rector, who affirmed to the bishop the suitability of him to be ordained. The bishop then preached about the office of the deacon and his role in the Church.

Next Peterpaul was questioned and officially made his promises of obedience, celibacy and commitment to daily praying the Divine Office. Following this, the Litany of the Saints was chanted by Michael Perry and Br. Joseph while the deacon-elect lay prostrate before the altar. Next was the ordination



(Source: Jose Valentine Lim)

Image sources (unless noted): Rev. Peterpaul

Upcoming Events:

27/9/2021:
Term 4 Commences

18/10/2021:
Priestly ordination of
Rev. Rogelio Del Monte
(Broken Bay Diocese)

18-22/10/2021
Priests Retreat

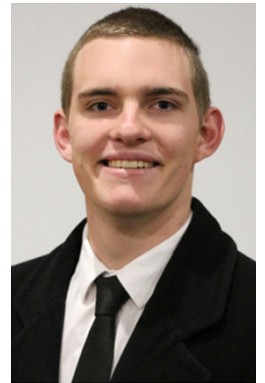
15-26/11/2021
Exam Weeks

26/11/2021:
Pastoral Placements
begin

Propaedeutic Peregrination...

The Propaedeutic Year is the first year of a new seminarians journey of formation. In it, the seminarian discerns whether God is calling him to the priesthood through formation. It is designed primarily to introduce the new seminarians to routine of prayer, daily Mass, the spiritual life and living in a community with other men.

My experience of this year with my fellow seminarians and first year formator was a very good one filled with prayer, good advice, and humour. It was a very new experience for me having not lived with many other people close to my age who were so very different and still so similar. We were very much focused on prayer and the spiritual life in our first semester with a slightly greater emphasis on study coming up later in the year.



The emphasis going into the Propaedeutic year for the first semester, is very closely focused on becoming used to living according to the seminary schedule, and on both human and spiritual formation. With less of a focus on study, it was a great time for personal prayer and reflection – especially during spiritual formation classes.

The human formation sessions and spiritual direction has played a huge role in forming me for my time here at the seminary and without it I would have greatly struggled to keep up my prayer life and later the study that is required for the classes.

Learning to live in close contact to other men closer to my age, also took some getting used to, but a few weekends of group activities very quickly brought us together with shared experiences and familiarity with one another. Once the initial ice was broken, inside jokes were formed and names could be remembered without prompting. We



began to bond as a small community of first years slightly separate from the rest of the larger seminary community. We did take part in larger seminary activities such as sports and visitations but first year was always slightly separate in how its program was run.



(Source: Patrick Drum)

The main challenges I faced during this first year, were losing a brother seminarian who had discerned that God was not calling him for the priesthood and the adjusting to becoming part of the larger seminary community at the end of the year.

In contrast, the many joys of first year were mainly meeting new men who would later become fellow brother seminarians and the activities we did together and the many great conversations that I have had with fellow seminarians and priests I have had the pleasure of meeting on my way through first year.

All in all, I think the Propaedeutic Year is something that every man should at least consider in his life and if God is not calling you to the priesthood, I would not consider the time spent discerning during first year a waste of time in any regard.

– Patrick Drum
Second Year
Wagga Wagga Diocese

Ordination and First Mass of Rev. Fr. Connell Perry (Cont.)

In these times of uncertainty, the homily of Bishop Edwards was one of hope. He emphasised the role that hope plays in the priesthood. Being ordained, the priest is called to be a father of hope. This hope, the bishop continued quoting Pope John Paul I, is founded in God who is omnipotent, a God who loves us immensely and a God who is faithful to His promises. The Bishop continued, stating that God sows hope in and through the priest in his various ministries. The homily was one of great consolation, surely not just for the priests of the diocese, but also for those aspiring to the priesthood.



(Source: Tom Denahy)

special by their power and the unity of Fr. Perry with his family and members of the parish and seminary communities.

This consecration of hands is not for any banal reason – not just to make the ceremony of ordination go longer or to make the newly ordained feel good about himself. In his homily, Fr. Murphy spoke about the significance of the consecrated hands of the priest. This consecration of hands, he said, takes place for the purpose of sanctifying. The priest uses his hands to bring God to man and man to God, in offering the Sacrifice of the Mass, in distributing Jesus Himself in Holy Communion, in the anointing of the sick and dying, and absolving sinners through the great sacrament of mercy – Confession. Mass concluded with the beautiful Marian Hymn, Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above. Following this, accompanied by his family, Fr. Perry knelt before Our Lady and consecrated his priesthood to her Immaculate Heart.



(Source: Perry Family)

This weekend of Ordination and First Mass brought home the importance of the priesthood. Described as a sign of hope, the priest gives hope through his administering of the Sacraments in which souls are saved. May Our Lady, the Queen of the Clergy, guide Fr. Perry as he acts in the person of Christ, ministering to God's people and guiding them to Heaven.

– Dominic Franssen
Second Year
Wagga Wagga Diocese

Priestly Ordination and First Mass of Thanksgiving Photos

Ordination:
(Source: Tom Denahy)



First Mass of Thanksgiving:
(Source: Perry Family)



Recent Ordinations:

Deaconal Ordination



Mr. Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie
Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral
Armidale Diocese
July 12, 2021

Priestly Ordination



Rev. Connell Perry
St. Michael's Cathedral
Wagga Wagga Diocese
September 11, 2021

Upcoming Priestly Ordinations:



Rev. Rogelio Del Monte
Broken Bay Diocese
October 18, 2021

Message from Msgr Marcelino Youssef, Vicar General of the Maronite Eparchy regarding the ordination of Rev. Michael Boudaher:



Rev. Michael Boudaher
Maronite Eparchy

Vianney College: 2015-16

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings in our Lord.*

Unfortunately, given the ongoing Greater Sydney lockdown and the repeated lockdowns in Melbourne, the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Michael Boudaher will not take place on Saturday 21 August 2021 at Our Lady of Lebanon, Melbourne. Once we emerge from this uncertain period, we will reschedule and announce the new date of the ordination.

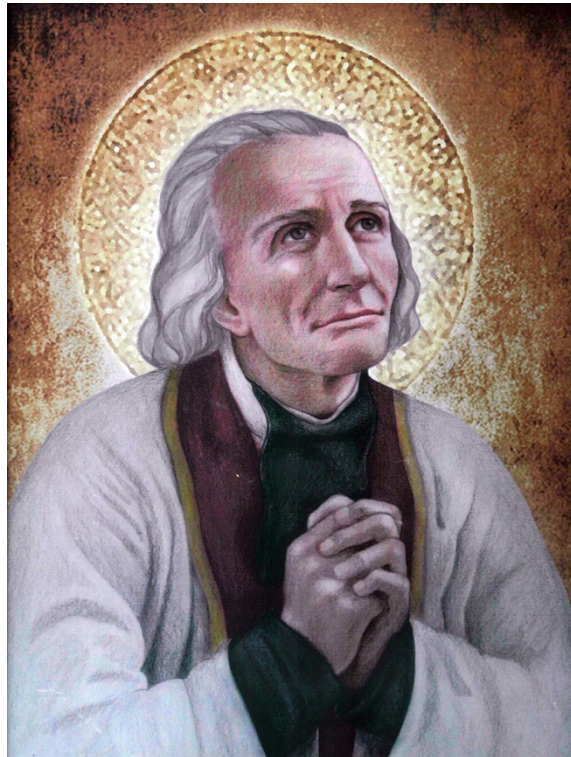
Until then, we continue to pray for Deacon Michael as he prepares to receive the gift of ordination and we also continue to pray for more fruitful and holy vocations in our Eparchy.

Let us persevere in our prayers for an end to this pandemic and for a horizon of hope and peace to return.

*Yours in Christ,
Msgr Marcelino Youssef
Vicar General*

Let us continue to pray for Rev. Michael Boudaher as he continues to prepare for his priestly ordination which will take place when God wills it.

Let us also continue to pray for an end to the pandemic.



*St. John Vianney,
Pray for us!*

Vianney College

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