

Thursday 19th April 2018

Graduates Should 'Find Joy & Radiate Joy'

Graduates from The University of Notre Dame Australia's Sydney campus have been encouraged to not only strive for professional success but also to "find joy and radiate joy" in their daily lives.

In her address at Sydney Town Hall on Friday (13 April) Vice Chancellor Professor Celia Hammond told more than 900 graduating students that they should balance their career ambitions with a sense of personal humility.

Quoting from sources as diverse as Eminem, G.K. Chesterton and St Paul, Professor Hammond told the class of 2017 that they should remember the lyrics of Eminem's *Walk on Water*: "I walk on water but only when it freezes."

"You are smart and have received an excellent training and a thorough education, but please balance that with humility," she said. "There are likely to be days ahead when you will think you are walking on water. Enjoy and be grateful for those days when everything is going well but do have the humility to realise that the water is frozen and when that ice melts you might need a friendly face or a helping hand."

Professor Hammond also told the assembled graduates and their supporters that they should recall the famous quote from G.K Chesterton: "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly".

"Please take what you do in your personal and professional lives seriously," she said in her address. "Strive to excel, strive to improve. Be earnest and diligent, but do so with a lightness. Remember to laugh, to embrace life, to live life and to enjoy life. Find joy, and radiate joy."

Students from the Schools of Arts & Science, Education, Theology & Philosophy, Business, Law, Medicine and Nursing were formally presented with their degrees before a capacity audience. A number of postgraduate awards and special commendations were also made. Recipients included Angela Galanopoulos (University Medal), Mark Henshaw (Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching), Abigail Brown (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Prize) and Jacinta Vella (The Archbishop of Sydney Prize for Excellence in Postgraduate Theology).

Guest of honour at this year's Graduation Ceremony was the newly-appointed Chancellor of Notre Dame, the Honourable Chris Ellison. The former WA senator has been a director of the university since 2015.

Each year two students who have achieved outstanding academic results and also made a major contribution to student life at Notre Dame are invited to give farewell addresses after the morning and afternoon ceremonies. This year's speakers were Tonia Marshall (Bachelor of Education) and Helena Obermair (Doctor of Medicine).



qit.edu.au



CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED BY STUDENTS



10 YEARS OF 5-STAR RATINGS

– Good Universities Guide

Media Release

Last week's celebrations commenced with a Graduation Mass on Wednesday (11 April) at Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. The service, which was conducted by Fr James Baxter OP, was well attended by graduands, their families, friends and supporters. Apart from celebrating Mass, the congregation was treated to fine music from the Cathedral choir under the direction of Thomas Wilson – the program included selections from Handel and Thomas Tallis. The graduation service culminated in the presentation of special wooden crosses to graduands.

“We hope that this cross will be a constant reminder of your time at Notre Dame,” said Professor Hammond. “And that like Jesus you too are called to transform the communities in which you live and work.”

Ends

Media Contact – **Mark Chipperfield** +61 2 8204 4044 | **0414 987 130** | mark.chipperfield@nd.edu.au

Caption 1: Notre Dame Vice-Chancellor Professor Celia Hammond on stage during the Graduation Ceremony.

Caption 2: Graduands, guests and VIPs gather in Sydney Town Hall for the Graduation Ceremony.

Caption 3: Notre Dame Chancellor the Honourable Chris Ellison confers a degree during the Graduation Ceremony at Sydney Town Hall.

Caption 4: Happy graduates pose on the steps of Sydney Town Hall.



qit.edu.au



CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED BY STUDENTS



10 YEARS OF 5-STAR RATINGS

– *Good Universities Guide*