

**Words of Gratitude from Fr Cay Trinh-  
Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood  
St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat,  
Saturday, November 23, 2024**

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I believe most of us here would know Fletcher Jones, who developed in Warrnambool a successful clothing industry, named his autobiography "Not by Myself." It is true for me also because what has come today is not by myself. It has not been a lonely journey but accompanied by many people in many shapes and forms. So, I would like to take this great opportunity to gratefully thank those who have offered their help and support so that I can become who I am today.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Almighty God for the gift of priesthood that he has given me. I know that God has loved me first, and God is always faithful, though I may not be faithful. So today, I entrust my faithfulness to God.

To my parents, thank you for giving me this life, nurturing me and offering me to God. Thank you for always being supportive of my decisions. I am grateful for your presence here today.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Bishop Paul Bird, who has welcomed me to the Diocese of Ballarat. Bishop Paul, thank you for travelling 7500kms to find me, accepting me into the diocese, ordaining me today and especially for always being a great supporter to me.

To Bishop Peter Vien Nguyen, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Vinh, Vietnam, thank you for bridging me to Bishop Paul. Your constant support is greatly appreciated.

To the priests of the diocese and beyond, I am grateful for your presence here today. Thank you for your witness and example of living out the priestly life that has deeply motivated me. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the Lord's vineyard. A special thanks to Fr Neville Stanislaus, Fr Ed Moloney, Fr Paddy Mugavin and Fr Cao Nguyen. I am eternally grateful for your constant support.

Thank you also to Fr Matthew Thomas, Fr John Corrigan, Fr George Kuruvila, Fr Anthony Nagothu, Fr James Kerr and Fr John McKinnon, with whom I have been privileged to work.

I would also like to thank the wonderful parishioners of the parishes I have spent time with. The parishes of St Patrick's Camperdown, St Joseph's Timboon, the parishes of St Mary's Robinvale and St Joseph's Oyen, the Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee, St Mary MacKillop Hamilton / Western Border Parish, Saints Anne and Joachim's Parish Sunraysia. I have received great support and affirmation from so many people. May God bless you all. Like Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians, "I thank my God every time I think of You..."

My heartfelt thanks also goes to the staff of Corpus Christi College, past and present. Thanks to the former Rector, Fr Denis Stanley, the current Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes and staff Fr Jake Mudge, Sr Frances Baker, Deacon Jim Curtain and Fr Terry Kennedy. Thank you to my formators—Fr Ed Moloney, Fr Think Nguyen (the Auxiliary Bishop-elect of the Archdiocese of Melbourne), Ms Maria O'Donnell and Fr Brian Nichols. Thank you for forming who I am today.

To the staff of Catholic Theological College, past and present, thank you for the theological formation that I have received over the past 7 years. It will become a token for my future ministry.

To my brother seminarians and religious friends, thank you for your friendship and for coming here today to pray for and with me.

A big thanks to those who have helped prepare the liturgy and have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this celebration possible. Thank you to Julie Boyd, Dr Susan Crowe and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Djurdja Klaric Executive Secretary to Bishop Paul, Fr Marcello Colasante, Vicar General of the Diocese, Fr Ed Moloney, Administrator of the Cathedral and to Fr Gary Jones, the Master of Ceremonies this morning.

Saint Augustine said, "Whoever sings, prays twice." But maybe we could say whoever sings well like our choirs have today, are on a hat trick for God. Thank you Roger Hillman, Br Trieu Nguyen msc, our conductors and the wonderful choirs. Your singing has indeed given praise to God and lifted our spirits.

Thanks also to our altar servers from Corpus Christi College, the readers and the welcomers. To the sacristans, ushers, flower arrangers, cleaners, caterers and livestream operator, you deserve my sincere thanks.

To all who have travelled near and far to be here today and to those who are watching this celebration virtually, thank you for your prayerful presence.

Finally, it is a privilege to be ordained in the 150th anniversary year of the Diocese of Ballarat. I would like to pay tribute to the early communities of our diocese. Thank you for sowing the seed of faith. I am inheriting its fruits. May the seed of faith continue to grow and flourish in the years to come.

The Scripture verse for our 150th anniversary year is "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12). May it also be a motto for my priestly life. I recognise that I need God's help in what I do and so I am faithful in prayer, seeking God's help day by day. The help also comes from my parents, mentors, friends, colleagues and communities. This is because it is "Not by Myself." Thank you.