

*An Apology Service  
of  
Sorrow and Hope*



*The Vincentians &  
St Stanislaus' College  
welcome you to this evening's  
Service of Sorrow & Hope*

St Stanislaus' College welcomes all guests this evening.

Guests not comfortable being present for any part of this Service are very welcome to come and go as your level of comfort allows.

There are private spaces to withdraw to and be comfortable in, if you choose to be present only for the delivery of both Apologies.

Mental Health Professionals are available to assist anyone this evening who is in need of immediate emotional support.  
(They will be wearing name tags.)

## **WELCOME**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

We, the Community of St Stanislaus' College, acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land on which we gather, the Wiradjuri people. They have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years.

We also acknowledge their descendants who maintain their spiritual connections and traditions.

Let us always remember the millions of footprints that travelled the Dreaming pathways, and our own loved ones who have gone before us.

## **COME AS YOU ARE (SUNG)**

Come as you are, that's how I want you  
Come as you are, feel quite at home  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits  
No need to fear, love never ends  
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened  
Rest in my love, trust me again

Come as you are, that's how I love you  
Come as you are, trust me again  
Nothing can change, the love that I bear you  
All will be well, just come as you are.

© Deidre Browne

## **WELCOMING ADDRESS**

We have come here tonight from many places; from east and west, north and south, from pain and disillusionment, from anger and confusion, and from sadness to look for hope. We come together to hear the formal apology from the Vincentians and St Stanislaus' College. In doing so, we hope it is a step in the healing process for all. We raise our hearts and voices to God. We do this in the hope that we all may be healed of our brokenness and know the transforming and surpassing power of God's love.

## **PSALM OF HOPE – The Lord's My Shepherd (SUNG)**

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff my comfort still.
4. My table Thou hast furnished me  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore,  
My dwelling place shall be.

## **THE APOLOGIES**

- Fr Greg Brett CM, Provincial, Oceania Province,  
Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians)
- Dr Anne Wenham, Head of College, St Stanislaus' College

## LITANY OF LAMENT

Still bearing the marks of our wounds, we cry... Refrain

Struggling to overcome our fears, we cry... Refrain

Mourning our loss of innocence, we cry... Refrain

Not knowing where to turn in our misery and isolation, we cry... Refrain

Wondering how God permitted this, we cry... Refrain

Bowed down by the weakness of human frailty, we cry...  
Refrain

Longing for families who can bear our truths with us, we cry... Refrain

Looking for justice where none seems possible, we cry...  
Refrain

Searching for the kind of faith that once sustained us all, we cry... Refrain

Covered in shame and confusion, wanting to stand safe and secure again, we cry... Refrain

Hoping for kindness and truth to meet, justice and peace to embrace, we cry... Refrain

Desperate for the courage to face our own demons, we cry...  
Refrain

Wanting to acknowledge the truth and live in wholeness, we cry... Refrain

Outraged by the actions of those who should have known better, we cry... Refrain

Bearing with one another the burdens of our own and not of our own making, we cry... Refrain

Lost, looking for guidance and direction, we cry... Refrain

Amidst the shattered images of godliness and ministry, we cry... Refrain

Out of darkness of our despair, we cry... Refrain

Into the cloud of our unknowing, we cry... Refrain

Not even knowing how to help each other or where to go from here, we cry... Refrain

## **INVITATION TO RECEIVE A SYMBOLIC GIFT**

All present are welcome to come up to the table and take a flower. You may like to come up in pairs, as a group, or individually. The jonquil is a flower which welcomes the start of spring after a long and cold winter and thus is a symbol of a time for renewal.

## **WORDS OF HEALING AND HOPE**

A way beyond these painful days,  
To heal these victims, Lord we pray.  
Enflame our lives with fires of love,  
With healing mercies from above.  
Renew the church now wracked by sin.  
With Holy Justice let us win  
The hearts of faithful led astray.  
In strife, confusion, make Your way.  
Dispel the darkness, enter in.  
Make clean our hearts, forgive our sin.  
Make us Your sacrifice of love  
The hope of victims, Christ Your Son.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen

**PRAYER FOR PEACE (SUNG)**

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet,  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet,  
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet,  
Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet,  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

© 1987, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. 7404 Sth Mason Ave, Chicago IL 60638.  
All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*Everyone is welcome  
to remain for refreshments  
after the service.*