



Dear Parents/Carers

The Archbishop of Perth, The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, has this week written an open letter to the community to reaffirm the inclusive and welcoming nature of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Perth.

The letter follows comments made by the Archbishop of Sydney last weekend, which included asking some people to 'leave our Church'.

Part of the Archbishop of Perth's letter states:

Over the last few days, many people have been in touch with me following comments made by the Archbishop of Sydney last weekend, including asking some people to 'leave our Church'. Those who have contacted me are parents, brothers, sisters, friends, students, teachers, chaplains, lay people, priests, agency CEOs, school principals, singles, marrieds, some heterosexual, some not. I am so sorry for the distress that has been caused to so many in our Church and the wider community by these comments.

In 2017, the year of the national debate plebiscite about same-sex marriage in Australia, the Synod of the Diocese of Perth passed the following resolution:

That this Synod:

- Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of their race, sex, economic background, political affiliation and the particular temptations that they face as human beings in a fallen world;
- offers a heartfelt apology to those who have been hurt by our failure to treat all people as precious in the sight of God;
- in particular we apologise to, and seek forgiveness from, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer whom we have hurt by words and behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done and repent of such ungodly behaviour;
- commits the Anglican Diocese of Perth to teaching its members to respect difference and to understand the struggles that others endure as we walk together in humble, faithful discipleship in obedience to the word of God;
- commits to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, no matter their background or struggles. In particular we desire to be places where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe; and,
- asks and encourages local churches to demonstrate our repentance in changed attitudes and conduct.

In the Diocese of Perth, we are committed to welcoming people as Jesus did, with the promise of his love which leads us out of the shadows of shame into the full light of God's new day in Jesus Christ.

We welcome people. I encourage you to be a voice for the inviting good news of God's love.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:11- 12

The Anglican Schools Commission wholeheartedly supports the Archbishop's stance and we assure our school communities that our schools are also welcoming, inclusive communities for all.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Laurence".

The Reverend Peter Laurence OAM
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