



Ad Clerum

17 October 2019

Dear sisters and brothers

I write in the absence of the Archbishop who is currently on leave.

I am aware of the deep distress felt by some in our diocese in response to widely reported recent comments of the Archbishop of Sydney. In addressing the Sydney Synod this week, the Archbishop is reported to have suggested that some members of the Anglican church should leave the church, given their views on marriage, sexuality and gender. The Anglican Church in Southern Queensland has taken a different view, expressing its desire to be a welcoming and safe church for all and together to work through admittedly complex issues on which people hold diverse views.

Most recently the Brisbane Diocesan Synod has:

- exhort[ed] “all members to respect one another's differences, seeking at all times to listen respectfully and to understand beliefs and opinions that differ from our own”
- affirm[ed] “with thanksgiving the Anglican Tradition, its historic formularies, Anglican Method in theology, and the rich and dynamic diversity of expression in Anglican prayer, theology, and ethical living”
- affirm[ed] “that Anglican Schools are to be places where all people, including those who are transgender and gender diverse, are welcomed, loved and supported.”

Jesus’ life, ministry and teaching were characterised by his love for all God’s people, ultimately shown in his death on the cross. As God’s church we are called to demonstrate this same love as we seek God’s Kingdom on earth as in heaven.

Despite the challenges often posed for our life together, all God’s children are welcome and affirmed in the Anglican Church Southern Queensland and no one is asked to leave. We treasure the unity of the church and the reconciliation of all people and the whole creation wrought by the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Asking people to leave the church undermines this fundamental truth. Rather we affirm the importance of remaining together as we wrestle with difficult issues and seek to enter more deeply into the truth revealed in and through Christ. We hope that ultimately we will see apparent paradoxes and contradictions resolved in the faith of Christ. In the interim we are called to work together, with respect and charity, to contribute to the mission and ministry of Christ’s church, for the benefit of the world he loves.

Please feel free to share this Ad Clerum with those who may have an interest in these things.

Grace and peace,

The Right Reverend Jeremy Greaves
Archbishop’s Commissary