



Australian Province of the Society of Jesus and University of Divinity Joint Statement

From 1 January 2021, Jesuit College of Spirituality (JCS), a work of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus (APSJ), will change its higher education provider and cease to be a College of the University of Divinity. APSJ's Collegiate Agreement with the University of Divinity expires on 31 December 2020.

The move to another higher education provider is the outcome of a decision by APSJ, after reflection on the valuable work of the past and discernment on the needs of the future, in light of

1. the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Global Society of Jesus, and
2. the Priorities of the Australian Jesuit Province Apostolic Plan

both of which were announced in 2019.

The relationship between JCS and the University of Divinity has its origins in 2000 when the University of Divinity launched the Master of Spiritual Direction through the ecumenical Christian Spirituality Centre, the predecessor to JCS. This was the first postgraduate program in spiritual direction in Australia.

APSJ and the University of Divinity are grateful for the opportunities that this relationship has provided in the specialist study of Ignatian spirituality and formation for ministry. These opportunities have been realised in myriad ways, through the awards conferred on students and in the work and ministry of graduates. We acknowledge and give thanks for the contributions of the many members of staff at JCS and across the University of Divinity who have contributed to the success of this relationship.

APSJ and the University of Divinity reiterate their commitment throughout the transition period to support all students to complete their studies, whether through their existing awards at the University of Divinity or through new awards through JCS. The University of Divinity and JCS will contact all students to assist them in selection of their preferred pathway and to provide academic and pastoral support.

Signed:

Rev Dr Brian F McCoy SJ
Provincial
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Professor Peter Sherlock
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