



## **Biennial Deacons' Conference 2022 13 - 16 October 2022.**

Dear Sponsor,

As the Conference convenor, I would like to invite you and your organisation to become a sponsor for the 2022 National Deacons' Conference. The Conference will be held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at St. Joseph's Conference and Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills. We are planning for approximately 100 to 120 delegates to attend the Conference, and these delegates will be coming from every State of Australia.

As host, the Parramatta Diaconate community is a vibrant community, consisting of 16 active deacons and 11 deacons-in-information, together with their wives. The Parramatta diaconate community is representative of the Diocese in its ethnic mix and supports bishop Vincent in his vision and ministry in the Diocese.

The theme of the Conference is 'Going into the deep – Speak, Lord, Your Servant is listening.' This theme reflects the coming together of the local with the national – our local bishop's call for the diocese to go into the deep in service of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in the Diocese, together with our national diaconal response - 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening'. This listening is also a response to the question posed by the Plenary Council "What do you think God is saying to the church in Australia today?"

Being held just 4 months after the final session of the National Plenary Council, the National Deacons' Conference represents a unique opportunity to discuss and discern how the Diaconate Community, both locally and nationally, can support the church as it moves towards implementing the outcomes of the Plenary Council.



As a sponsor partnering with the Deacons of Australia in serving the Australian church, your support provides a valuable and important contribution to the financial sustainability of the Conference. We would like to invite you and your organisation to consider responding to the call to church renewal that is an outcome of the Plenary Council. There are several levels of sponsorship, from bronze to platinum, that you can elect to sponsor. A list of the benefits of each level of sponsorship is on pages 4-5 of this invitation. It is also possible to sponsor part of the conference programme, for example, the Conference dinner, or a 'high tea' during the Conference.

I look forward to hearing from you and to begin a conversation as to how you can support the National Deacons' Conference 2022 as the deacons of Australia gather to consider how they can serve the Post-Plenary Council Church in 2022 and beyond.

Some photos of the Conference venue and the Parramatta Diaconate Community are included in this sponsorship package. In addition, a description of the Conference Cross, by the Aboriginal artist, Vicky Clark, is also included for your interest.

Blessings!

*Deacon Michael Tan*  
*Conference Convenor*



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## National Association of Deacons Biennial Conference

13th – 16th October 2022  
St Joseph's Conference Centre  
Baulkham Hill NSW

### Sponsorship Package

Conference Sponsorship is a good way to reach a large audience, with exposure leading up to the Conference, as well as strong acknowledgement at the Conference itself. There are several levels of sponsorship available at the Conference as follows:

#### Platinum Sponsor \$4,000

#### Benefits:

- 4 tickets to Official Dinner
- Full page advertisement space in the Programme
- Insert into the conference satchel
- Company Logo on the Programme
- Sponsorship table throughout the conference
- Prominent placement of company banner/s in conference Hall
- Opportunity to promote your organisation for 5 minutes to all delegates.



**Gold Sponsor**  
**\$2,500**

**Benefits:**

- 2 tickets to Official Dinner
- Half page advertisement space in the Programme
- Insert into the conference satchel
- Company Logo on the Programme
- Sponsorship table throughout the conference
- Display of company banner/s in concurrent sessions
- Opportunity to promote your organisation for 3 minutes to all delegates.

**Silver Sponsor**  
**\$1,000**

**Benefits:**

- Quarter page advertisement space in the Programme
- Insert into the conference satchel
- Company Logo on the Programme
- Sponsorship table throughout the conference

**Bronze Sponsor**  
**\$750**

**Benefits:**

- Insert into the conference satchel
- Company Logo on the Programme
- Sponsorship table throughout the conference

## Conference Prayer

### ***Spirit of the Living God,***

We welcome you into our Community, our Lives, our Church in the Parramatta Diocese, guided by Bishop Vincent.

As we prepare to welcome all delegates to the National Deacons' Conference in 2022, form us, mould us, melt us and renew us as a welcoming community for our visitors.

Inspire and lead us with gifts of wisdom and knowledge as we respond to the invitation to consider what God is asking of us in Australia at this time through the Plenary Council, as well as to discern how we can implement the outcomes of the Council.

May the national Diaconate Community play its role of servant leadership in communion with the Bishops of Australia as we seek to grow into a Christ-centred Church that is synodal in these ways:

- Missionary and Evangelising
- Inclusive. Participatory and Synodal
- Prayerful and Eucharistic
- Humble, Healing and Merciful
- Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community
- Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform

***Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this place.***

***Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us***

***St. Patrick, Pray for us***

***St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop,***

***Pray for us. 7***



## **2022 National Deacons Conference Song**

### ***'Speak Lord Your Servant is Listening' lyrics***

#### **Chorus:**

Speak Lord, your servant is listening  
Speak Lord, your servant is here  
Speak Lord, in the depths of our hearts today

#### **Verse 1:**

Here before me is Your Word  
Give me grace to believe what I read  
Help me to teach what I believe  
And to practice what I teach

#### **Verse 2:**

Morning by morning I come to You  
Eager to do Your will  
You awaken my ear to hear Your voice  
That I may comfort the weary

#### **Bridge:**

O Lord, open our lips  
And we shall praise your name

O God, come to our aid  
Lord, make haste to help us

## Conference Cross

The NAD was presented with this Cross at its recent conference in Melbourne.



## The National Association of Deacons Cross

ABORIGINAL artist, Vicki Clark, presented the cross pictured above to the National Association of Deacons at its Conference in 2015. She was one of the speakers at the Conference. Vicki had just stepped down after 25 years as coordinator, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria.

The Cross is rich in symbolism. Vicki explained the meaning of the various symbols to conference delegates. Fr Charles Balnaves has provided us with these notes:



1. Red background: the colour of the earth of this country and the generosity of the custodians of the land to allow us to walk upon it as deacons and share the presence of the Creator Spirit through the land.

2. The Southern Cross: pointer to Bunjil (Creator Spirit); guide for the people on the paths they take and for the seasons of many plants.

Not mentioned by Vicki I think but, while there are many stories about the Southern Cross one that Betty Pike (elder and writer in residence at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry) finds most apt is the one that names the Southern Cross as Mirrabooka, a man who cared for the people so very much that he was placed in the sky to watch over them forever (a presentiment of Christ).

3. A 'U' shape with a small one inside and a bar below: this is for women and children: the wife and sons and daughters and grandchildren of deacons. And their important role – hence the symbol is right up the top.

4. Ten 'patches' around the borders of the cross: the ten commandments.

5. Seven 'U' shapes with a vertical bar beside: this is the men with 'spears' ready to go out to the world – the seven men of Acts we were chosen and commissioned and sent out (precursors to deacons).

6. Red Sash from left shoulder to right hip: Keeping Christ and his body and blood (especially) close to our hearts; (deacon as minister of the Blood).

7. Four hands: the four gospels with 208 dots around each representing the broad 'church' of people with whom / to whom deacons bring the Word.

Also saying that what we do make a mark on the world, a handprint of the deacon's presence.



Parramatta Diaconal Community

