Diocesan Formation Gathering – Building Communities of Belonging

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE, SHEPPARTON | Saturday 11 October 2025

Workshop F: Welcome, hospitality and belonging in Scripture

The essential and foundational role of welcome, hospitality and belonging in the biblical narrative.

Welcome:

Hospitality:

Belonging:

6 Scriptural Texts

	Reference and comment	Quote
1	Genesis 1:1-2:4 everything and everyone **belongs** – first creation narrative	God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)
2	Genesis 18:1-15 **welcome** and **hospitality** offered by Abraham and Sarah to three men (see also Matt 25:40, Hebrews 13:2)	Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)
3	Leviticus 19:33-34 Command to **welcome** the stranger and the alien (sojourner)	The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt (Leviticus 19:34)
4	Luke 14:7-14, 15-24 Jesus at a meal with a leader of the Pharisees – humility, **hospitality** and inclusion/**belonging**: go out and invite those who cannot repay you	He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.' (Luke 14:12-13)
5	Luke 15:1-2 **welcome, belonging, hospitality**: everyone belongs	Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' (Luke 15:1-2)
6	Luke 24:13-24 **hospitality**: Jesus, the stranger (alien or sojourner) walks with the lost disciples, and at a meal becomes their host. There is a link here between hospitality and the gift of the Eucharist for failed and failing disciples, even those who abandon the Lord.	**The Walk to Emmaus (PTO)**

Dr Chris Cotter (Sandhurst Director, Mission and Pastoral Life) and Team (Sacred Heart Yarrawonga)

The Walk to Emmaus

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles
from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had
happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with
them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognising him. 17 And he said to them, 'What are you
discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of
them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only **stranger** in Jerusalem who
does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' 19 He asked them, 'What
things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed
and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him
over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to
redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took
place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this
morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had
indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us
went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' 25 Then he
said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets
have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then
enter into his glory?' 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them
the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going
on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, '**Stay with us**, because it is almost evening and the
day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and
they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, 'Were not our
hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the
scriptures to us?' 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the
eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed,
and he has appeared to Simon!' 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he
had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.