



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

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01 March 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I write, as your Bishop, with a heavy heart. The events of this week have been challenging for all of us in the Diocese of Rockhampton and as members of the Catholic Church. I wish to acknowledge the pain it has caused especially to those who are survivors, who have suffered sexual abuse from members of the Catholic Church. Again, I offer my apology.

I recognise the hurt and pain that everyone is feeling at this time.

The first reaction, including my own, has been one of extreme disappointment and emptiness. I believe I am not alone as many of you are feeling much the same way. Our church is hurting, and we are all hurting.

I have been among you for nearly five years and it has been my priority to ensure our church is a safer place for all of our children and youth, and healing for those who are survivors through the Towards Healing process, legal recourse and redress.

If you have any concerns, please contact:
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & SAFEGUARDING OFFICE
Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton
Freecall: 1800 830 113
P: 07 4887 3080
E: pssso@rok.catholic.net.au

In a few weeks' time, we begin the season of Lent where we are called to prayer, fasting and good works. For me, it will be a time to ask God for forgiveness and healing for the Church, for ourselves and for all who have been affected by sexual abuse.

I pray that Christ, who is our guide, will walk with us during these difficult times and we will not lose hope.

Yours sincerely

f Michael McCarthy

Bishop Michael McCarthy