



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

May 30, 2018
18/583

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The events of the last weeks have been profoundly disturbing, and I write to tell you that my heart and thoughts go out to you all.

Over the years I have spoken with many survivors of childhood abuse, some very close to me, and I have learnt that for most the impact of abuse never completely disappears, not for the whole of a lifetime. Every time the issue arises in public, painful memories and struggles rise to the surface again.

It is so important for us to be parishes, schools and communities where survivors are honoured, welcomed, listened to respectfully, and responded to with justice and care.

We are committed to be communities where every child is as safe as it is humanly possible to be.

That requires our skill and resources, along with our personal humility and love. It is why we ask so much of our ministers, workers and volunteers, and I am grateful that you are being so generous.

We also need to look forward.

Our life is focussed on the vision of the world God wants. That is a world where practical love and care is shown to those who are hurt or considered least, to those who are hungry and have little; where children are led to full and beautiful lives, and where God is known and loved.

This is our purpose. I have come to know so many of you personally and as communities. I know your goodness and commitment. We are servants of a vision that is greater than us, and now is the time for us to throw ourselves into that with all our hearts, to be the church God wants and work for the world God wants. It is not a time to falter in our commitment to care for all humanity, creation and one another.

May God who loves you with tender love, hold you in the very depths of God's heart,

Yours sincerely,

Fr Philip Marshall
Vicar General