

MEDIA RELEASE



TJHC to join Bendigo community at ‘Spirituality in the Pub’ re child sex abuse Royal Commission

23 June 2016

The CEO of the Catholic Church’s Truth Justice and Healing Council, Mr Francis Sullivan, will meet with members of the Bendigo community in Bendigo on Monday 27 June as guest speaker at Spirituality in the Pub in discussion about the child sexual abuse Royal Commission and the history of abuse in the Catholic Church.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church’s response to the Royal Commission and is also driving the Church’s reform agenda.

Mr Sullivan will listen to the many questions and concerns parishioners and community members have about child sexual abuse in the Church. He will also outline a range of new initiatives that have been put in place across the Church over the past three years.

These include changes to the way civil claims of child sexual abuse are dealt with by church leaders; calls for a national independent redress scheme for abuse survivors; a new structure to develop, monitor and report on child and vulnerable adult safety standards in Catholic organisations; and more.

Mr Sullivan said he is looking forward to meeting with members of the Bendigo community, hearing their concerns and answering questions about the Royal Commission, the historic response of Church leaders and more recent changes.

‘It is always encouraging to come to community meetings such as this one and hear how ordinary people on the streets and in the pews are responding to the Royal Commission and to the changes being made in the Church.

‘The Catholic Church has an appalling history of child sexual abuse in its parishes, its schools and other places.

‘While much has been done over the past three years and major changes have taken place to the way in which church leaders respond to child sexual abuse claims since the mid-1990s more needs to be done,’ Mr Sullivan said ahead of the meeting.

Spirituality in the Pub is an initiative of Catalyst for Renewal. You can read about its origins [here](#).

Bookings essential.

What: Spirituality in the Pub Community meeting to discuss the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Where: Queens Arms Hotel 23 Russell Street Quarry Hill Bendigo
When: Monday 27 June 2016, discussion starts 7:30pm (meals from 6.00pm)
Contact: Anne on 03 5441 6474, Peter on 0417 217 325, Maria 0401 181 030

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