



Diocese of Armidale

Ph: (02) 6772 4971
Fax: (02) 5701 5140
Email: chancery@armidale.catholic.org.au

Catholic Chancery Office
3/131 Barney Street
PO Box 93
Armidale NSW 2350

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has announced today that a public hearing will be held from 12th September, 2016 in relation to ***The response of Catholic Church authorities to allegations of child sexual abuse by John Joseph Farrell.***

The scope and purpose of the public hearing is to inquire into:

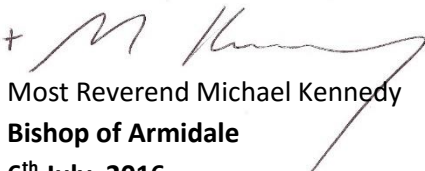
1. The responses of the Catholic Diocese of Armidale and the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta to allegations of child sexual abuse made against John Joseph Farrell.
2. The response of the Special Issues Group for the Province of Sydney to allegations of child sexual abuse against John Joseph Farrell.
3. Any related matters.

The Diocese of Armidale will fully cooperate in any way required in relation to this hearing. All Diocesan files and records have already been provided to the Royal Commission.

At this time the victims of Farrell's abuse are uppermost in my thoughts and prayers. These victims have suffered greatly over many years, and while it is very likely this public hearing will be a difficult time for his victims, I hope that it will also be a time of continued healing for them as a light is again shone on the dreadful wrongs committed by John Farrell and the way the Church let victims down.

I am mindful that, even if not directly affected, parishioners, students, parents, clergy, religious, staff and volunteers, may be disturbed by what is reported during the public hearings.

I encourage anyone who needs help during this difficult time to contact the Royal Commission, a professional counsellor or my office.


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Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale
6th July, 2016

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018