



DIOCESE *of* PARRAMATTA

09 September 2016

Dear friends,

Re: Royal Commission Case Study 44 – Diocese of Parramatta

As I wrote to inform you in July, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Case Study 44) will begin its public hearings on Monday 12 September. The hearings are expected to take two weeks.

Case Study 44 will look at the response of Catholic Church authorities, including those from the Diocese of Parramatta, in response to allegations of child sexual abuse by John Joseph Farrell.

We will hear deeply disturbing evidence during this time. The actions of Farrell and other Church authorities will be examined. For many people, this will be a particularly traumatic experience as it means the reliving of the hurt that was inflicted upon them.

As a Church, our first duty must be to the survivors and their families. We must continue to support them and seek their forgiveness.

As the Bishop of Parramatta, I want to again humbly apologise for all our failures that led to the harm of the people entrusted in our care. I am sorry for the hurt that we have caused.

I appreciate for some that words might not be enough and no amount of forgiveness will heal their wounds.

Our Diocese will continue working openly and transparently with the Royal Commission and other authorities in order to ensure our child protection policies and procedures are strengthened.

Should anyone in your office require any further information please contact Claire Pirola, Manager – Office for Safeguarding & Professional Standards on 02 8838 3419 or safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au.

For any media related questions, please direct them to Joseph Younes, Communications Director on 02 8838 3435 or jyounes@parra.catholic.org.au.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Vincent Long OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta