



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF TASMANIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND
DR RICHARD CONDIE
BISHOP OF TASMANIA

7 June 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last weekend the Synod met in Launceston and among other things they considered the Redress Fund Ordinance. This Ordinance was passed by the Synod with a strong majority and provides the means for raising the funds needed to provide redress for survivors of child sexual abuse in our church. A Fact Sheet is included below, which outlines the details.

The meeting was very respectful as we considered various alternative points of view. People spoke with grace and gentleness, and we stopped to pray on several occasions. Someone remarked at the end how godly and grace-filled the Synod had been.

As we now have a clear direction, I have been left with a mixture of emotions. Sadness that we have been forced into doing this because of the evil actions of a small minority. Sorrow over the impact on church communities and the wider public who will be affected by the sale of church property. Compassion and relief for the survivors of sexual abuse because we have told them clearly that we care. Gratitude for the Synod who have made such a bold sacrificial stand for others, not thinking of their own interests. Hope because we are people of the resurrection and we know that God will lead us to a confident future, even in these difficult days.

I know that some of you will be feeling anxious and troubled. I want you to know that we will be supporting you in the days ahead, and that you are not alone. We have arranged for consultants to work with Parishes as they respond to the Redress Fund Ordinance. Your Archdeacon is also available to help you. There will be plenty of opportunity to engage with us about your particular buildings and funds. Final decisions will be made by the Diocesan Council in December.

In my Synod address I urged Synod members to consider our response to redress as a matter of discipleship. When we were called by Jesus, we were called to deny ourselves, take up our crosses daily and follow him (Luke 9:23-24). Our relationship with God is a spiritual one, and it is only in him that we find security and hope; not in our money or our buildings, our possessions or the opinions of others. As we make costly sacrifices, we have the opportunity to increase our trust in his provision.

My hope is that the Anglican Church in Tasmania will show the society around us what really matters to us. Jesus, and him alone.

My hope is that we would be SO in love with Jesus that we WOULD deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him on the costly path of discipleship. And, that we would do it gladly without murmuring, and with courage and thankfulness.

Please be assured of my prayers, and the prayers of many people around the world, as we work out these matters. God is walking this road with us.

Warmly in Christ,

The Rt Revd Dr Richard Condie
Bishop of Tasmania

FACT SHEET – REDRESS FUND



Why are we doing this?

The Anglican Diocese of Tasmania believes that providing redress (a payment, counselling costs, and the opportunity for a direct apology) for survivors of child sexual abuse is the right thing to do. It provides restorative justice, recognition and support for survivors.

With a significant number of child sexual abuse cases taking place in the 1960's, 70's and 80's, the Diocese has decided to join the National Redress Scheme, an independent government scheme to provide redress. We anticipate that around 150 survivors may come forward for redress, and that our liability will be in the order of \$8 million over the next ten years.

The Diocese cannot fund \$8 million out of its operations, nor can it fund the repayment of a loan of that magnitude. It does however have assets, including property and investments from the proceeds of previous property sales, it can utilise.

What will we do?

The Synod decided on 2 June 2018, to establish a Redress Fund for the Diocese to cover claims made against the Anglican Church of Tasmania. Funds will be derived from:

- Around \$2.9M from levies (of 25%) on funds from past property sales by the Diocese and parishes;
- Around \$1.1M from direct contributions by some larger parishes; and
- Around \$4.7M from levies (of 25%) of the net proceeds of the sale of 108 properties owned by the Diocese.

The Synod agreed to a [list of properties](#) that may be sold, and a [list of funds](#) that may be levied.

Properties: <https://tinyurl.com/y7rkwn7> Funds: <https://tinyurl.com/ydajapqc>

The proceeds of the sale of property will be directed as follows (see graphic: <https://tinyurl.com/yavl8x49>):

- 25% to the Redress Fund;
- 25% to the New Ministry Development Fund, of which 15% may be reclaimed by the Parish; and
- 50% to remain in trust for Parish use.

The aim of this is to enable ministry activities to continue where property is sold with up to 65% of the proceeds available for local parish use.

How can you respond?

The Diocese will engage in a process of consultation with our parishes and with local communities to determine if properties or funds should be excluded from the lists for sale or levy. An independent Probity Advisor will oversee this process. The key dates in that process are:

- 1 September 2018 – deadline for community submissions to the General Manager of the Diocese.
- 1 October 2018 – deadline for Parish Council submissions to the Diocesan Council.
- December 2018 – Diocesan Council meets to consider submissions and may exempt some buildings from sale or delay sales.
- Sales of properties that remain on the list will take place in a controlled manner over the following 2-3 years.

All correspondence should be directed to The Registrar/ General Manager, Mr James Oakley, GPO Box 748, Hobart 7001, or registry@anglicantas.org.au

Further information can be found here: <https://anglicantas.org.au/redress-proposal/>

Information about cemeteries can be found in the FAQ here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7w8g7ev>