



4 May 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are all feeling very heavy of heart today, as we hear the extent of the impact of our proposal to fund redress for survivors of sexual abuse. Every one of our 48 Parishes will be impacted by this.

There is no doubt that the road ahead of us is hard, and that many will be feeling very unsure. Quite a few people have written to me directly to communicate their anger, sadness, and distress. I know that the pain is very real, and I can assure you, I am feeling it too.

As hard as it is, I am convinced that it is the right thing to do- to reach out to survivors of sexual abuse who have been hurt in our churches in this way. Many survivors have lifelong scars including psychological distress, depression and anxiety. Many have failed marriages and have found it hard to keep meaningful employment because of their trauma. Their stories are truly heartbreaking.

Redress payments go some way to alleviating the monetary costs of the abuse in survivor's lives. But more than that, redress gives clear acknowledgement from us, that the abuse happened, and provides a means for ongoing support through counselling. I beg you, when counting the cost of redress in your Parish, to remember these people. They are our primary concern.

I have been asked many times in the last weeks why we should have to suffer for the sins of others. The best answer I can give, is that this is the way of the cross. The Lord Jesus suffered for the sins of the whole world, including mine and yours, so that we could find forgiveness and restoration. In a small way, our sacrifice now models his sacrifice for us. It is a profoundly Christian thing to do.

We feel very connected to our heritage in the good things we have – the history, memories and buildings. In the same way we are connected to the sad and difficult parts of our history too. The bad things come with the good. This is why the recommendation to the Synod will be that the costs of redress will be shared across every Parish, rather than by a few.

We want you to be part of the process of deciding our future. You will have a chance to contribute through your Synod representatives in the Synod meetings in June. Parishes will have the opportunity to seek a review of the decision to sell a property, making a case for its exemption, before Diocesan Council make its final decision in December.

I will personally be visiting Parishes in the next weeks and will be meeting your Synod Reps at the pre-Synod meetings.

Please join me in praying for God's comfort and strength at this time.

Warm wishes in Christ,

The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie (Bishop of Tasmania)

ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF TASMANIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND
DR RICHARD CONDIE
BISHOP OF TASMANIA