



Archbishop's Office
GPO Box 89
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

9th March 2017

Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Leaders,

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

We are all aware that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse over these past four years has had an enormous impact on the lives of so many at various different levels. The hearings into the Catholic Church have recently concluded.

In a sincere gesture of pastoral care on this fragile matter, I intend to visit the Archdiocese in the final weeks of Lent, and listen carefully to the sentiments of those who wish to gather with me.

This Lenten season seems the appropriate time to gather together and walk alongside each other. We are to listen carefully to our stories and place them at the foot of the Calvary Cross. We then wait in hope for the Resurrection that will surely come.

Please find below the dates, times and location for these listening sessions.

Sunday, 19 March, 1.30pm	Rheinberger Centre, Conference Room, cnr Weston & Loch Sts, Yarralumla
Wednesday, 22 March, 7.00pm	St Joseph's School Hall, 111 Loftus Street, Temora
Tuesday, 28 March, 7pm	Mary Queen of the Apostle Parish Meeting Room, Verner Street, Goulburn
Wednesday, 29 March, 11.00am	St Patrick's School Hall, Gipps Street, Bega
Wednesday, 29 March, 7pm	Star of the Sea Parish, 9 Canty Street, Narooma

Please advertise the gathering that is nearest your community. I would appreciate if you could invite, on my behalf, your people, but especially victims, their families and friends.

I also propose gathering for an appropriate Liturgy of Healing and Lament at the Cathedral, just before Holy Week. It is on Tuesday evening (7.30pm), 4th April 2017.

Like the Road to Emmaus scene (Luke 24:13-35), it is important that we continue over the years ahead to walk and accompany each other, especially those most affected by the scourge of sex abuse.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn