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Most Reverend Christopher C Prowse DD STD  
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13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Most Reverend Christopher C Prowse DD STD,

I write to ask your support in promoting a Diocesan initiative which I am very keen for you to know about.

***Lessons from the Long Paddock*** is an online econference event being offered from June 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 via our Diocesan website.

For many people, experience of Catholic faith and life is challenging. In the light of recent times and challenges, the need for us support others to reflect and think again about 'who we are' and 'what matters to us' is very clear and urgent. You might feel, as I do, that the current climate draws us to draw others to return to the *experience* of God, to the reality of Christ and to the capacity we all have to find spiritual strength again, not only in our sacramental tradition, but in our ordinary lives.

I think, as Church, we need to help all our people to engage in a process of conversion. We need to help our people turn back to the spiritual foundations which underpin all we do and rediscover the radical faith and fidelity of Jesus. We can do this, in part, by supporting them to listen anew to the Good News of our stories of faith and by listening to experiences of the Divine in our ordinary lives.

In this context, and with a desire to do all we can to initiate ongoing formative and restorative conversations, the Diocese of Wilcannia- Forbes is offering an econference online event which will be accessed via our own Diocesan website called:

***Lessons from the Long Paddock.***  
**To be launched on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am.**

Interested people can go to our [website to register](#) or to our [Facebook page](#) for more information. This online event opens the conversation for many people who are curious about what the *experience* of faith might actually feel like from both a traditionally Catholic perspective and from the perspective of the ordinary lives of good people who seek meaning and purpose but who are yet to be exposed to our tradition. Through the lens of the lived experiences of specific characters from the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes – most of them Catholic but some not - participants accompany others into a glimpse of some of the themes which lie at the heart of what might be

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understood as an authentic spiritual life. Participants engage with conversations which signpost essential spiritual markers relevant to knowledge about what leads into fuller humanity from a Christian and Catholic perspective. This econference draws participants to seek Christ at the heart of human *experience* and nurtures a capacity to trust that individuals have all they need to begin the journey into the constant conversion which is discipleship.

The econference will be of value to many people of faith, particularly those entrusted with teaching about our Christian tradition to the young in our schools and to those working in Catholic agencies and organisations which profess unique values and mission identities. It will also be of value to those outside our faith tradition who are curious about who we are and what we value. The Diocese also seeks to use these conversations as a catalyst for formation workshops specifically designed for Church based and values centred communities.

**Lessons from the Long Paddock** this year has two keynote speakers: Myself and **Fr Frank Brennan SJ**.

We will discuss Australian and Outback Spirituality.

Please consider promoting this econference by making information about it available to all your Catholic agencies and school offices.

The workshops will be facilitated by Kate Englebrecht, Diocesan Director of Mission in Wilcannia-Forbes.

For more information please contact Kate on: 0420 309 689

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE  
Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese