



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Diocese of Port Pirie



17th March 2020
20/106

Letter to the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie

Dear Sisters & Brothers

I prepared this several days ago but in the whirl of events I omitted to send it. The statement is as follows, addressed to both dioceses:

Starting on 17 March the ABC will release a three part series called *Revelations* in which a convicted and jailed paedophile priest and brother will be interviewed. This will be distressing to many who are victims and survivors of childhood abuse. What is said will also be distressing to Catholics, and all good people. The image of the Church that will be presented will doubtless be repelling, but we must think first and foremost of those innocents injured by such evil, and reinforce our efforts and practices to eliminate such evil travesties.

We should also recall that the response of the Church to care for victims and to implement practices to ensure child safety is accompanied by the need to live more earnestly of the works of mercy which the Church does so consistently, all the good done all the time through the hospitals, the schools, aged care and hospices. The care for the marginalised and the desperate, the kindness of Vinnies, the prayerfulness of laity and Religious, the pastoral work of the priests.

We are in Lent. We acknowledge with profound sadness the suffering of victims, and recognise our need to reform all the factors that brought about this suffering and alienation. Love is found in deeds rather than words, said Saint Ignatius. Let us live more earnestly in Lent the works of charity and mercy and dispel whatever has hurt others and disfigured and corrupted the mission of the Church.

Yours in Christ

+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie
Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Adelaide