

29 April 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am very thankful to God for each of you and particularly for your gracious response to the announcement of how we propose to fund our Redress liability. We need to take this seriously, and I acknowledge the sacrifice that we are going to have to make.

I know this has been a tough week, as many of us contemplate what the future holds for our church buildings and ministries. Amidst all the uncertainty, we need to cling to the fact that we as God's people are the Church and wherever we meet God is in our midst.

I wanted to write again this week, in my commitment to keep communicating with you, and to clarify a few things.

The Diocese only became aware of the magnitude of our future liability for redress on April 5, and have been working on a funding solution since then. We were not aware of it during the season of lament and repentance during Lent. I guess we now see how the Lord was preparing us.

As my last letter stated, as well as diverting a proportion of parish and diocesan funds, we propose using a proportion of the net proceeds of sale of properties to fund Redress. The exact proportion is yet to be determined, but our working figure is 25%. As is the case now with any sale, 25% of the net proceeds will go to the New Ministry Development Fund. The balance of funds (a working figure of 50%) will be retained in trust for local Parishes for future use.

This is intended to preserve some of the proceeds of sale for local ministry, to be the seed funds for whatever happens in the future. To use all of the proceeds of sale of fewer properties would terminate the ministry in those places, and make it very difficult for anything to happen in the future. Our plan to use a proportion of the proceeds helps us secure the future viability of the Diocese. In all of this we remember that the church is the people rather than the buildings, and God will keep it going.

This week I was reading Philippians 2:1-11. It is a great passage of scripture calling us to be like-minded, being one in spirit and of one mind. It reminds us that in humility we are to value others above ourselves, not looking to our own interests by to the interests of others. Would you commit to praying for this in the weeks ahead? Would you pray this for the Diocesan Council as it meets on Thursday?

I was encouraged by the words of Steve Fisher, from Beyond Abuse, this week, who said: *"I think the fact the church is willing to sacrifice so much shows people how seriously they've taken past abuse, and it finally gives survivors the validation they deserve. It's the first time I've seen an organisation put survivors before anything else"*.

I hope you will be encouraged by Steve Fisher's sentiments and in knowing that our sacrifice will help acknowledge survivors of sexual abuse. Please be assured of my continued prayers as we work through these difficult decisions.

With 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

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