



DR BRIAN FARRAN
Bishop of Newcastle

22 October 2010

Emailed & mailed
22/10/10

The Parishioners
Saint Luke's Parish
Cnr Metcalfe & Brown Streets
WALLSEND NSW 2287

To the Parishioners of St Lukes Wallsend on Sunday 24 October 2010

Dear People of God

This past week has been a very difficult and painful week for the Diocese of Newcastle with the report in the Newcastle Herald concerning Father Peter Rushton. I appreciate that many people have been greatly disturbed and dismayed by the Herald story.

Whatever the trigger for these young adults feeling able now to relate their stories, it is important for us all to appreciate that this takes courage and can be very challenging, as the detrimental effects of the original abuse resurfaces for them in the telling of those stories.

I have personally listened to their accounts in my capacity as the Bishop, the authority figure for the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, and always I have felt great distress, anguish, regret and shame.

It will be very important that the parishioners of Wallsend understand what a difficult process these young people have endured. We must be empathetic, even though it will be disturbing to learn such information.

We need at this time to be true to the Christian Faith and bear one another's burdens, lovingly.

Grace and peace,

+ Brian Newcastle

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Bishop of Newcastle**

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