



Message from Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ on the national apology

Monday October 22 2018

Today the Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison will deliver the [National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse](#) at Parliament House in Canberra.

Events are being held around the country including at the Adelaide Convention Centre where the Minister for Child Protection, Rachel Sanderson, will deliver a State Apology on behalf of the [South Australian Government](#). Five regional events will also be held in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Berri, Port Augusta and Mount Gambier.

The Prime Minister has stressed that the day is for people who were abused, and their families and supporters. To respect the wishes of people who were consulted about the apology, institutions – including churches – will not be represented at the events.

This will be a day of significance for our country when we express our sorrow for the great pain and suffering experienced by survivors of abuse and their families.

For the Church, it is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our own shame and contrition for the abuse of children and vulnerable people in our care.

We can never erase the hurt inflicted on so many in the past but we must continue to listen to and respond to survivors, and be vigilant in ensuring all in our care are safe.

I'm sure you will join me in holding all those impacted by abuse in our thoughts and prayers.

Bishop Greg O'Kelly
Apostolic Administrator, Adelaide Archdiocese
Bishop of Port Pirie Diocese