

My Dear Brother Priests

I wish to send you a note of encouragement as you deal with the fallout over Cardinal George Pell's conviction on charges of child sexual abuse. I am aware that members of your parish could contact you with their concerns about this matter. This requires from each of us a genuine pastoral response. I believe the most important point for us all, as priests and pastors, is to prayerfully entrust ourselves and anyone affected by these recent events, to Christ. Recent events will be met with mixed emotions and we must renew our efforts to serve the people entrusted to our pastoral care with generosity and sincere charity. My own response to this situation is contained in the short statement below, which I ask you to read at the end of Masses and insert in your bulletin if possible.

**STATEMENT TO BE READ AT MASSES 2-3 March 2019**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I wish to make a short statement in relation to the news of Cardinal George Pell's conviction on charges of sexual abuse, which will be met with mixed emotions. Given that Cardinal Pell is appealing his conviction, it is inappropriate for me – out of respect for natural and procedural justice – to make any comment except to say that I hope the outcome will be marked by truth, justice, and healing for everyone involved. I invite you to join with me in praying for all those who have been abused and their loved ones. We commit ourselves to doing everything possible to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, especially the young and vulnerable.

Bishop Brian Mascord

**MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD**

Bishop of Wollongong

T 02 4222 2402  
F 02 4222 2419  
[bishop@dow.org.au](mailto:bishop@dow.org.au)  
[www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au)

Office of the Bishop  
Xavier Centre  
(PO Box 1239)  
38 Harbour Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500



This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Unless explicitly attributed the opinions expressed in this message are the personal views of the sender and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong.