The Easter celebration in recent days, of the victory of Jesus Christ over violence and death, has been overshadowed throughout the Catholic world and beyond by allegations that the Pope and Bishops have failed to respond in an appropriate manner to the scourge of sexual abuse by a significant number of priests over many years.

It has been a salutary reminder that we must never overlook or minimise the suffering that has been caused to the victims and their families by these crimes. They must never be forgotten or ignored as they deal with the wounds that they carry. I renew the pledge that I made in my Pastoral Letter published in March 2007 that I shall do all that I can to ensure that such events will not happen again in the story of our Diocese.

In times such as this it can be helpful to reflect upon the insights of others. Two recent articles which offer such insights are “Should I stay or should I go?” by Timothy Radcliffe OP found in the April 18, 2010 edition of “The Tablet” and “Abuse cases teach Church deportment under fire” by Andrew Hamilton and published in “Eureka Street” - April 15, 2010.

Meanwhile I shall continue to endeavour to assist the survivors of such traumatic events in practical ways along the road towards healing. I ask your prayers for them and for us all.

+ Peter J. Connors
  Bishop of Ballarat

The articles can be found here:

“Should I stay or should I go?” by Timothy Radcliffe in “The Tablet” – April 18, 2010
http://www.thetablet.co.uk/article/14543

“Abuse cases teach Church deportment under fire” by Andrew Hamilton in “Eureka Street” - April 15, 2010