

## National Committee for Professional Standards

ABN 35 339 924 339



PO Box 7132  
Alexandria NSW 2015

Phone: 02 9669 6218

Fax: 02 9669 6216

Email: [timmsc@ncps.org.au](mailto:timmsc@ncps.org.au)

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### RE: CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 4 – 10 September 2017

Dear Safeguarding Coordinators,

The Australian Catholic *Ordo* lists Child Protection Sunday for 10 September 2017. The Sunday concludes Child Protection Week celebrated across Australia.

In 2017 besides providing resources for the Sunday liturgy, we are circulating resources for a possible liturgy for a Day of Prayer and Penance called for by Pope Francis during 2016.

This letter contains information and resources relating to:

- 1. Child Protection Sunday (10 September 2017)**
- 2. Pope Francis: Day of Prayer and Penance for the Victims of Sexual Abuse**

A similar letter will be emailed to the Bishops, Congregational Leaders, Ministerial Public Juridic Persons, Catholic Education Offices and Professional Standards Directors. We hope that these materials will assist you in promoting Child Protection Sunday within your Diocese and encourage everyone to have a listening heart that sees and hears the voice of each of our children.

Please feel free to contact the National Office for Professional Standards on (02) 9669 6218 with any queries and for any assistance.

Yours sincerely



Fr Tim Brennan  
Executive Officer



Sr Annette  
Executive Officer



## **1. Child Protection Sunday (10 September 2017)**

The Australian Catholic Church's Child Protection Sunday runs in conjunction with National Child Protection Week. This year we are focusing on a Royal Commission's key element that when children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously an institution is better prepared to be child safe. Our theme is:

### ***"See Me, Hear Me"***

In the first reading for Child Protection Sunday the Prophet Ezekiel speaks of "being a sentry to the House of Israel'. That image captures well one element of the role each of us has in regard to Children.

As Pope Francis outlined before leading the crowds in the Angelus prayer in March last year it is important to "Listen: this is the key word. Do not forget, listen to the sick and marginalized, or among families." As a sentry, each of us plays a part in listening to what the children have to say, making sure that every child is safe and protected from abuse and harm.

As we have done in previous years we propose that you raise awareness of your policies, procedures, initiatives, and recent training in this important area, and specifically during Child Protection Week publicise them widely through the pulpit, on noticeboards, in bulletins, newsletters, and websites.

***This year we have commissioned a video and brochure through the Australian Catholic University on what children think about their safety. You may choose to use them during Child Protection Sunday Mass or throughout the week. The video is approximately 6 minutes in duration.***

Child Protection Sunday resources include:

1. **Listening to children: an Essential Voice** to be found in Dropbox or at [https://youtu.be/KzVbB\\_1qml4](https://youtu.be/KzVbB_1qml4)
2. Brochure: **What do Children and Young People Think about Safety**
3. Suggested Prayers of the Faithful for Child Protection Sunday
4. Homily Notes for Sunday 10 September
5. A prayer ***"See Me, Hear Me"***
6. Newsletter abstract
7. Children's Mass or Liturgy: ***"See Me, Hear Me"***
8. Suggested Poster Competition to create local relevant messages and images to display in Churches, schools and other places of ministry



## *National Committee for Professional Standards*

Due to email size limitation, we have only attached resources 2 – 8, however all the resources can be found in the Dropbox. Please Ctrl+Click to follow the link

[Child Protection Sunday 2017 Resources](#)

**If the click on link to the material is not working the actual link is**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zn7aq1bis5bp5ar/AADtXoznky5XO6MPvb5QGxgga?dl=0>

You may choose to print some of the above or you may make them available on your own websites. Alternatively, you may choose to provide links in your newsletters or websites. Some additional resources may be found at <http://napcan.org.au/resource-hub/>



## **2. Day of Prayer and Penance for the Victims of Sexual Abuse**

In 2016, following a proposal from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Holy Father established a 'Day of prayer and penance for the victims of sexual abuse and to ask God for a greater awareness of the responsibility of the members of the Church towards the underage people entrusted to them'.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has decided to observe the day of prayer and penance for the victims of sexual abuse on Child Protection Sunday.

The resources for the **Day of Prayer and Penance** are available for optional use in parishes on Sunday, 10 September, according to circumstance. The resources include rites for Evening Prayer, a Holy Hour and a Common Penitential Celebration.

Where the pastoral demands of the Sunday make it difficult to celebrate an additional liturgy, the rites for the Day of Prayer and Penance might be anticipated, for example on the preceding Friday evening. Some prayers for victims of child sexual abuse are also included with these resources.

These resources can be found in the Dropbox. Please Ctrl+Click to follow the link

[Day of Prayer and Penance for the Victims of Sexual Abuse](#)

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[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w9kdptbzlgblbkq/AADaXQAI94IIIZFEOdvlS\\_MBa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w9kdptbzlgblbkq/AADaXQAI94IIIZFEOdvlS_MBa?dl=0)