



REFLECTION ON

The Prime Minister's National Apology

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Today is a very important day when the Prime Minister of Australia will say sorry to all the people in Australia who, in the past, were hurt as children when they were supposed to be loved and cared for by others, including people in our churches and schools.

The Prime Minister will not only be saying sorry to the people for the hurt they have suffered, but he will also acknowledge and recognise their courage in telling their stories. These brave people were able speak out and ask for help. It has meant that many of those who caused the harm have been brought to justice, and other children have been saved from harm. It has also helped us as a community to learn from the past so that we can do our very best to not let this happen again.

Students and staff in the Diocese are joining together today to acknowledge the *National Apology*, to remember the children who were hurt, and to give thanks to those who found the courage and strength to come forward.

PRAYER OF HEALING AND HOPE

Loving God

We pray for the people in Australia who were hurt as children when they were supposed to be loved and cared for.

We give thanks for their courage and strength in telling their stories, and we pray for their healing.

We also give thanks that through their stories, other children have been saved from harm.

We pray that we all learn from the past so that we can do our very best to not let this happen again.

We offer this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(Courtesy of Diocese of Wollongong)

