



Facing the past Shaping a healthy future

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In light of the recent tragic circumstances regarding Fr Campbell Brown, The Right Reverend Greg Thompson, Bishop of Newcastle has made the following statement:

“As we continue on the journey of *Facing the Past, Shaping a Healthy Future*, we are learning that the burdens people carry can lead to awful consequences. We know first hand that the abuse history in the church and community has brought terrible consequences on people and their families. Responding to this history with listening, compassion and care has enabled many to have their story heard and for survivors to be supported in their recovery.”

“I pray for the family of Fr Campbell Brown at this time of sorrow and grief, and invite our Diocese to enter a time of prayer and reflection on their loss and heartache.”

“The service this Friday evening at Christchurch Cathedral Newcastle will be one of lament and standing with all those who have suffered and are suffering. We will be praying for those who are hurting within our church and wider society because of the abuse of children and vulnerable people. Synod members are invited to carry a stone to represent the burdens upon people and place them at the foot of a wooden cross.”

“On Saturday morning as part of the Bishop’s address to Synod we will be hearing a recorded interview of two survivors who are also members of Synod.”

“We encourage people to be mindful of those who bear great struggles of mind and spirit and how important it is to share the burden with others.”

Bishop Greg