



*For all things give thanks.*

1 THESS 5:18

## **Statement from Bishop Brian Mascord on the death of Mr Peter Lewis Comensoli**

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

I wish to inform you that Mr Peter Lewis Comensoli passed away on 24 January 2019. A private funeral was held.

Mr Comensoli was a priest of the Diocese of Wollongong until his laicisation from the priesthood in 2015. In 1993, Mr Comensoli was removed from all forms of ministry. He was convicted the following year on indecent assault charges relating to crimes committed between 1979 and 1983. In 2016, Mr Comensoli was further convicted of historical offenses relating to crimes committed between 1966 and 1968.

In solidarity with Bishop Emeritus Peter Ingham, I wish to offer my sincere apology to the victims and survivors of these crimes, and to their family and friends, and all in our community that have been affected in any way as a result of this dark chapter in the history of our diocese. They showed great courage and resilience in speaking the truth and seeking justice. The trauma and pain endured by victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and their families is real and is acknowledged. I further offer a heartfelt apology to all those who have suffered abuse by any person who was associated with the Diocese of Wollongong.

I wish to assure all that the diocese is totally committed to the protection of children and vulnerable people above all else, and in remaining transparent and open in our communications to ensure that the safety of

children and young people remains paramount. We are resolute in ensuring that concerns or allegations brought forward are responded to with sensitivity and determination. We have well-developed child protection processes in place for dealing with complaints of abuse, and we give full cooperation to all police investigations and child protection authorities.

I strongly urge any person with a complaint of mistreatment or abuse to come forward to the appropriate authority. They can contact the police through the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or contact the diocesan director of professional standards and safeguarding, Ms Asante Viswasam, on (02) 4222 2405. The diocese also wishes to offer support to anyone who is impacted by this news. We ask that they contact Asante so that arrangements can be made for the appropriate support.

Yours in Christ

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

20 March 2019

**MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

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