



*For all things give thanks.*  
1 THESS 5:18

## **Pastoral Letter from Bishop Brian Mascord**

My Sisters and Brothers

Today I address you on a serious matter that is causing many to feel hurt and bewildered.

As you may be aware it has been reported in various media outlets this week that a priest of our Diocese is the subject of charges of indecent assault against a child in 1993 at Fairfield.

The priest who has been charged is not currently involved in ministry or in any other Church activity.

A statement from NSW Police indicates that the matter will first appear in court for an initial hearing on 15 May 2019.

As this matter is before the court it is important that the criminal justice process is fully respected, and as such, and to respect privacy, further comment cannot be made at this time.

I wish to reassure you and the broader community of our total commitment as a Diocese to the care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people. We have rigorous child protection processes in place across our Diocese and we will continue to take all appropriate steps to minimise the risk of harm to anyone in our care.

If you desire any assistance, please speak with your local priest or contact the Diocesan Director of Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Ms Asante Viswasam on 0408 512 163. If you would prefer to speak to an external organisation for support, LifeLine is available on 13 11 14.

Yours in the Lord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

22 March 2019

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