

Perpetual Day of Remembrance: The story so far.

Our response emerges from our understanding of who we are as a Church community. St Paul articulated it this way: when 'one member suffers in the body of Christ which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member' (1 Cor 12:26).

As a people of faith, commissioned by Jesus to live in remembrance of him, we know the importance of remembering. Our remembering not only functions to ensure that such abuse never happens again, more than that, it is penetrated with the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery and so becomes the source of our ongoing conversation and hope. Together we can be a sign of hope.



2017

- Following Lina's Project – a project of atonement that was facilitated by the diocese – first held on 15 September 2017, Bishop Bill Wright established September 15 as a *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* throughout the diocese with two components: a survivor-led event and a prayer response.



2018

- Resources were provided to all parishes for the celebration of Mass on Sunday September 16.
- The focus was on Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.



2019

- The Diocesan Liturgy Council established a Working Party to develop the Church's prayer response.
- Ongoing collaboration with Zimmerman Service Healing and Support, the Office of Safeguarding and the Bishop's Office.
- The Church's prayer response was named **Shine the light of Christ**.
- Three resources were developed: for parishes, for schools, agencies and groups, and for individuals and households.



2020

- The establishment of the 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance and National Child Protection Week Coordinating Committee', to facilitate collaborative planning of both events.
- The COVID-19 pandemic. Without the opportunity to gather people acknowledged the day as was most appropriate for them.
- A significant development was Bishop William Wright's [decree](#) inscribing *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* into the diocesan liturgical calendar and the accompanying explanatory [note](#).
- A focus group was held with a selection of school principals.



2021

- Focus was on the promotion of the Bishop's Healing Fund.
- COVID-19 continued to impact our prayer and worship response.
- The resources continued to be developed in response to feedback.



2022-2023

- 2022 marked five years since the establishment of 15 September as the Perpetual Day of Remembrance.
- Additional resources, including the Stations of the Cross and a recording of the hymn 'We Sing for those whose Song is Silent' by John Bell, were provided.
- In response to survivor initiative a musical work titled "The Innocents" (by David Banney) was commissioned.