



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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30 October 2025

Prayer Service of Lament

12 November 2025 - St Patrick's Cathedral Grounds, East Melbourne: 11.30am–12.00pm

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Communities,

In this Year of Jubilee — a sacred time of mercy, renewal, and reconciliation — the Church is called to a deep and humble work of reparation. As the Body of Christ, we acknowledge the wounds within our community and the profound suffering endured by survivors of child sexual abuse, and the shared hurt of their loved ones. Through prayer and lament, we stand before God in truth and hope, asking that His grace bring healing to what has been broken.

I invite all those who have been affected and impacted by abuse and violence across the Archdiocese to join in a **Prayer Service of Lament** on **Wednesday 12 November 2025**, in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral. Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 1.00pm for those who wish to remain in prayer before the Lord.

This gathering expresses our shared lament for the abuse that has occurred, as well as our commitment to those who have suffered abuse within the Church in our ongoing journey of reverent listening and repentance. Survivors and their loved ones will be at the heart of this Service. Through word, ritual, and music, we will pray for all who have suffered and for the continued conversion of our Church.

In the week leading up to the Service (**5–12 November**), Parishes are invited to join the wider Archdiocesan community in prayer and reflection. Resources will be provided to help incorporate these intentions into daily and Sunday liturgies. Please share this invitation among your communities so all may have an opportunity to gather in prayer.

Being sensitive to survivors and their families that may attend the Cathedral grounds, and mindful that this is our first such gathering, Parishes are asked to send only 1–2 official representatives. The Service will also be live-streamed via the Archdiocesan YouTube channel for those joining online.

May this moment of communal lament become, by God's grace, a sign of hope — a step toward truth, healing, and renewed trust within the Church of Melbourne. With every blessing and gratitude for your ongoing pastoral care.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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