

Healing, Forgiveness and Rebuilding Trust

Comments and Questions

Deep hurt in the community and sadness that people don't come back to Mass.

How do you heal the hurt?

How do we stop silence and secrecy?

Past cover ups - not just perpetrators but those who did not speak the truth.

Healing comes through listening so that people can move forward.

Different starting points - thoughts about moving forward together.

We in our church need to find a way to rebuild trust: address the loss and betrayal by offending priests and hierarchy. How do we do this? To be present to the needs of the abused and aware of the need to give prayerful support to Bishop Michael and our faithful priests.

Language is very important. We need to see ourselves as survivors and not victims.

All of us as Catholics have been affected.

Seeking of justice to bring things into the open and to rebuild trust.

We acknowledge we all have different needs, history.

We have our own hurt and pain.

Forgiveness and compassion for all involved.

We are human and our institutions are human.

We need help to be people of Compassion, justice and share common humanity Building the community.

Our need: finding the path to letting go of this burden.

We need to move forward with courage.

Accept the errors/pain/deception of the past.

We need to accept what has happened and move forward.

Where To From Here: Emerging Needs and Suggestions

Allegations when raised need to be dealt with through law: people need to be innocent until proven guilty.

We need a greater awareness of the pain and suffering of many people because of this issue.

Prevention through awareness of past history of abuse; openness and precautions so that it will never happen again.

We need to protect the children of now to ensure it doesn't happen again.

To remain open to each other as a community, as a church.

To continue to listen to each other, to the survivors and to believe the stories that are told.

We need to be heard and nurtured through the difficulties.

Listen with an open heart and try to understand the pain caused.

Resources (people) made available for conversation, pastoral and professional counselling for support on a one to one basis that is less formal than Zimmerman House (perceived as a drastic step).

Opportunity for someone to talk to and mull over their feelings and issues: local resources.

Legal system: accused and accuser need appropriate process.