



DECREE OF THE BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Decree on the Addition and Celebration of a Perpetual Day of Remembrance to
The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Liturgical Calendar

5/2020

In light of the dreadful history of sexual abuse of children by clergy and other people working for this diocese, we have undertaken all available measures to ensure the safety of children in our community today. We have also tried to meet the needs of survivors of abuse for support and redress, while acknowledging that their on-going suffering cannot be healed by measures of financial redress or any other one-off measure or assistance alone. Among the needs expressed to me by survivors of abuse, there is also the need for the Catholic community to fully acknowledge the crimes and failures of the past, in public ways, and to ensure that neither those who suffered nor the crimes themselves are ever allowed to fade from memory.

Though it is not on the same level as the pain of those who were abused, there is also much hurt in the wider community. Many people can't get over being deceived and betrayed by individuals whom they took for good priests or religious, teachers or fellow parishioners. We have all to some extent lost our innocence. It is important for all of us, then, that we do not try to deny or suppress those hurts, but bring them into the realms of faith and prayer, both as a means of community healing and as a stimulus to greater care for the survivors among us and for the generations of children yet to come

For several years we have marked the Sunday on or before September 15th as Remembrance Sunday, an undertaking that I gave in the context of *Lina's Project* in September 2017. Experience has taught, however, that the Mass texts of the day are not always well suited to the occasion. So, to provide for greater adaptability of the liturgy to the character of the Day of Remembrance, and to ensure its perpetual observance, its elevation to a Feast in the diocesan liturgical calendar seems desirable and necessary.

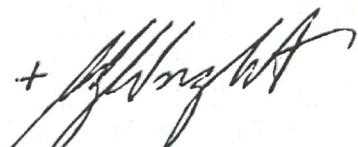
And so I decree that:

A Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday, a Feast Day, is to be inscribed into the Diocesan Liturgical Calendar to be held on the Sunday on or prior to the 15th of September.

The readings and proper to be used are those prepared from the Lectionary and Missal by the Diocesan Liturgy Council. In addition, the Council will make recommendations for music, intercessions, opening introduction, and other parts of the Mass.

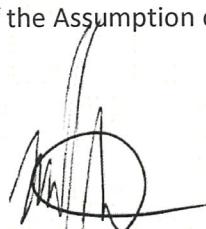
This particular law is promulgated by its publication on the diocesan website (CIC83 c. 8). A petition for revocation or emendation of this decree is subject to canons CIC83 1732-1739, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Hamilton, NSW this 15th day of August 2020, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



+ William Wright

Most Reverend William Wright
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Matthew Muller

Reverend Matthew Muller
Chancellor