



Litany of Lament

Tragically during our history students of Marist College were sexually abused by members of staff. Terrible things happened in a place which should have protected those boys. The abuses were carried out by staff (Brothers and lay) who betrayed the trust given them to care for and nurture the students of this Marist Catholic school. The responses by leaders and those in charge at the time when told of the abuse were unsatisfactory and brought pain and shame and suffering to the victims and to their families. As Headmaster of Marist College, I acknowledge the failures of the past that allowed these evils to occur.

- To every student who was abused, sexually or otherwise, while attending Marist College, I say sorry, we say sorry.*
- To the families of those students who have taken their own lives because of the abuses they suffered here, I am deeply sorry, we are deeply sorry.*
- To those abused who have self-harmed or continue to experience pain and suffering because of the abuse they suffered here, I am sorry, we are sorry.*
- To the parents, family members and friends of those who were abused here, for not protecting the students, I say sorry, we say sorry.*
- For not responding appropriately when told of abuses, I am sorry, we are sorry.*
- For those times we have not always given victims and their families the surety that we stand with them, I am sorry, we are sorry.*
- For my own, at times, lack of awareness in fully appreciating the pain, hurt and suffering experienced by the victims of abuse, I am sorry.*
- To present and former students, members of staff, families and Marist people who have become disillusioned in Marist College and ashamed that we were not the safe and nurturing school we should have been, I say sorry, we say sorry.*

As Headmaster of Marist College I apologize for the sexual abuses which took place here. I apologize that the College did not respond appropriately when those abuses were made known and I apologize for the pain, hurt and suffering experienced by the victims and their families. For these failures I am sorry. We are sorry. We ask your forgiveness.

A plaque will acknowledge the shadow cast by the abuses. It will also allow us to look forward as our determination to learn from the past and be a place which is safe and protects present and future Marist students.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path"

Psalms 119:105