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Concerned Catholics Tasmania

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Concerned Catholics Tasmania statement to survivors of sexual abuse at Marist College and Marist Regional College

*“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” John 20: 25
(Thomas the Apostle speaking after the resurrection of Christ)*

Concerned Catholics Tasmania, like other Church communities in Australia, are challenged to:

- Listen to you and accept what you say;
- ‘Touch the Wounds’ of you who have suffer abuse;
- Stay close to the places of pain and trauma;
- Work for a “revolution of tenderness” (Pope Francis); and
- Offer healing and new life.

In accord with the sentiments expressed in *Continuing the Journey*,¹ we call for “a Church that heals wounds and warms hearts”.

We are confronted by the tragic history of sexual abuse of minors within our Church.

We note that “The shame, disillusionment and anger of so many members of (our) Church was evident in the submissions to the (Plenary) Council.”

We acknowledge that “The damage inflicted on those who have suffered this abuse continues to impact on their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being.”

We understand that “This suffering extends beyond the survivors to their families and friends, to the wider community of (our) Church, and to our society.”

We commit to “the healing of survivors.... accompanied by our mutual care and support for each other.”²

We ask that you help us to learn from and care for you as survivors of abuse and remind us that, at first, we did not listen and believe.

*A Ritual of Lament will be held on Saturday 20 March 2021 at 11.00 am at Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens
55 Breffny Road Romaine, RSVP comms@mrc.tas.edu.au*

¹ *Continuing the Journey Instrumentum Laboris (Working Document) for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia* was released on 25 February 2021.

² *Ibid*, para 106.