



18 July 2025

To All Staff of the Diocese, its Agencies and Schools

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Re: Perpetual Day of Remembrance 2025

Since 2017, our Diocese has observed the Perpetual Day of Remembrance as a public acknowledgement of the deep harm caused by the Church in the past, particularly the pain and suffering endured by survivors of abuse, their families, and those that have been lost. It is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to remembering what happened so as not to allow those things to be repeated. In 2020, Bishop Bill Wright formalised this commitment through a Decree, embedding the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our Diocesan Liturgical Calendar. It has been commemorated each year on the Sunday on or prior to 15 September

In more recent years, this important observance has coincided with National Safeguarding Sunday, a day introduced in 2021 to reflect on and strengthen our collective commitment to protecting children and adults at risk within our Church and wider community.

Though these days began separately, they share a common spirit of acknowledgement, accountability, recovery, and hope, and each year they occur on either the same Sunday or on consecutive Sundays. In 2024, we invited feedback from across our diocesan community about how these days might be best observed moving forward. We are deeply grateful to all who took the time to share their thoughts and experiences through the survey.

The strong and consistent message from your feedback was that these days are deeply connected in meaning and purpose. In light of this, from 2025 onwards, the Perpetual Day of Remembrance will be commemorated on National Safeguarding Sunday.

This unified day of reflection will next be held on Sunday, 14 September 2025. It will be an opportunity for our whole faith community to come together in prayer and remembrance—honouring survivors, acknowledging the wrongs of the past, and renewing our commitment to building a Church that is safe and life-giving for all.

This step reflects our shared desire to remember with honesty, act with justice, and walk together in faith, now and into the future.

Yours in Christ

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

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