

Media news about our diocese

Like me, you'll have felt hurt by the recent news items about our diocese. The sadness and shame of the details alleged about the Cathedral, its priest at the time, who tragically is no longer with us, and questions about our retired bishop and others leaving apparently unresolved issues.

These are all very troubling and disturbing matters. Our Diocesan trustees are anxious to establish facts. They have initiated inquiries and are cooperating fully with a range of experts and investigators required and welcomed by Church authorities, the Charity Commission and Police to learn as much as possible and beyond speculation. Nothing less than complete transparency is acceptable. I have contributed to an initial focus group of priests and will be in contact with other important and significant people who are exploring, checking and assessing all available information and inviting further help from anyone who can contribute additional matter.

It continues to hurt when despite all the great and good people we know in our parishes, our collective reputation is left damaged and suspect. Yet the same goodness is precisely what's behind the cooperation and skill being brought to bear to establish and learn from the fullest truth beyond innuendo and assumptions.

A huge and impressive amount of work is already under way and we will learn of the findings in due course. Thoroughness and professionalism are being brought to bear. This does not take away the hurt, the possible anger at what a small number of individuals can do to the rest of us but nothing is being hidden and everything is under rightful scrutiny.

If anyone has any questions or wants to contact me about this, I'm happy to help as much as I can. You'll appreciate that it's too early yet to have results. That will take some time given the scope and depth of work involved. My phone number is 01388 603431. Don't let this stop us all from being our constant and brilliant best.

Thank you.

Fr Dennis