



(Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019)

### **PRAYING FOR CHANGE**

As we gather for worship this weekend this week the Vatican Summit on the Protection of Minors will also be concluding. The outcome may take some time to be known.

Beforehand, Archbishop Mark Coleridge who is attending in his role as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, wrote, *'For me over the years, it's been a journey of seeing abuse as a sin, to seeing it as a crime, and then finally seeing it as a culture. By which I mean abuse and its cover up were aggravated and probably caused by cultural elements within the Catholic Church.'*

*'It took me a long time to see that and see therefore the need for cultural change and go to the root of the crisis and not just treat the symptoms. And that will not be easy because cultural change is the hardest thing of all. But we're here for hard work.'*

The summit was to be attended by 190 participants, and include 14 presidents of bishops' conferences, leaders of Vatican departments and male and female religious superior.

Charles Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta, the Pope's most trusted advisor on child protection issues summed up his thoughts leading into the summit.

*"The summit should not be seen as a "three-day wonder" which would solve all the problems of abuse, adding that the "follow-up work" will be crucial. Structures are important, legislation is essential, but it is people who have a change of heart that will lead us to the safe pastures we need to be in. That is something the Holy Spirit needs to give to his Church. We need it badly and we need to pray for it."*

We can only echo those sentiments and add our own prayers.