



## The Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE D.D

Bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes  
Mercedes House  
16 Johnson Street  
Forbes NSW 2871

*"Do not fear, for I am with you"*  
Isaiah 41:10

### STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL DECISION OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

26th August 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week Cardinal George Pell's appeal was rejected in the court of appeal in Victoria. Two judges rejected the Cardinal's appeal while one judge believed the appeal should have been granted. I am in no position to comment on the innocence or guilt of Cardinal Pell, nor can I comment on the complainant's testimony in the case.

I note that a significant number of people both in Australia and overseas, including respected members of the legal fraternity, are questioning last week's outcome in the Court of Appeal. The divided opinion, even amongst the judges themselves, indicates that questions remain unanswered. This uncertainty is causing concern and division not only amongst Catholics but within the broader community is plain to see. I hope and pray that these concerns are looked at and are addressed.

Meanwhile, it seems that the case of Cardinal Pell could go on if the Cardinal is successful in taking his conviction to the High Court of Australia. If this is the case, the fallout from the case will certainly go on.

My Brothers and Sisters, as faithful Catholics we must stand firm and continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and actions. We must continue to work for the safety of our children and make it a reality, but amongst all of this, we must continue to serve Jesus Christ by our service to the poor, the marginalized be that through our parishes, schools, hospitals and social services of the Church. Everyone has to go through tough times in life and it is through adversity that we learn and become resilient. Jesus told us to expect adversity and persecution for following him, but we need to learn and grow from it. What can we learn from what is happening in the Church here and now? Humility? Strength? Faith? Perseverance? Love and forgiveness? Correction?

We must place everything in the hands of Our Lady and trust that she will guide us to truth and perseverance in these difficult times.

Yours in Christ

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#### Chancery Office

•16 Johnson Street Forbes NSW 2871 • P.O. Box 775 Forbes NSW 2871 • Phone (02) 68539340  
•chancery@wf.catholic.org.au •www.wf.catholic.org.au