



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor1.23

Tuesday 26 February 2019

## **STATEMENT**

As is now publicly known, Cardinal George Pell has been found guilty of historical sexual crimes relating to two young people at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. This follows two trials, the first of which could not reach a verdict.

While acknowledging the judgement of the jury, I join many people who have been surprised and shaken by the outcome of the second trial.

I fully respect the ongoing judicial process, noting that Cardinal Pell continues to protest his innocence. An appeal against the verdict has been lodged. It is important that we now await the outcome of this appeal, respectful of the ongoing legal proceedings.

All other charges relating to Cardinal Pell, except those subject of the appeal, have been discontinued.

My thoughts and prayers are with all victims who have been abused by clergy, religious and lay people in the Archdiocese of Melbourne at this challenging time, and I renew my personal commitment to do all I can to ensure victims of such abuse in Melbourne receive justice and healing.

At this time, I also acknowledge all in the Catholic Church who are walking with survivors and communities harmed by the scourge of abuse, and who are committed to building a culture of safety for our children and vulnerable people.

At this time, may I assure you that I keep all involved in my prayer.

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne

