



**DIOCESE OF
PALMERSTON
NORTH**

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To the people of the Diocese of Palmerston North

You may be aware that there have been incidents in the last year or two where survivors of sexual abuse by clergy or religious have tied ribbons to fences at churches and schools.

The movement "*Loud Fences*" began around the country about 18 months ago. In this movement, coloured ribbons are hung on fences to show solidarity with victims of sexual abuse and to encourage victims and survivors to appear before the Royal Commission.

I would like to reiterate my support for survivors to be able to place ribbons at church gates or fences and create "*Loud Fences*" as part of a valid and important way to work through the healing process. If you are approached by survivor groups, please be respectful of this process. This is an important opportunity for the Church to accompany survivors/victims through this journey.

You may need to pass this message on to your communities as sometimes people have not been aware of the significance of the "*Loud Fences*" and have removed the ribbons. Removing the ribbons can be viewed as deeply disrespectful to survivors/victims and can be retraumatizing. Please inform your communities about this and if people do have doubts or questions please explain the significance of "*Loud Fences*" and how helpful this can be for those who have suffered from abuse.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Yours sincerely in the Lord

John A Cardinal Dew
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Palmerston North

