



## Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Diocese of Port Pirie

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12th February 2020  
20/064

### **Letter to the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie**

Dear Sisters & Brothers

#### **Concerning Walk for Life**

I wish to extend my thanks to all those who were able to participate in the Walk for Life, in which a great crowd of more than three thousand stretched itself from Parliament House down to the Adelaide Oval to let our wider society, and its leaders, know the passion that so many of our citizens have to protect life.

The event was very well organised, carried out respectfully and without clamour, a strong and even reverent demonstration of a deeply held feeling of revulsion at the proposed legislation which would have abortion legal up until the day of birth. This is the recommendation from the South Australian Law Reform Institute. That Institute has asked for no gestational limit. It is expected that a Bill will be placed before the Parliament by the Attorney-General some time through March or April. I know that there are many who would like to have participated in the Walk, but other commitments and distance prevented this. People came from many parishes and many different non-Catholic Churches. I was invited to speak at the Parliament House venue, along with the newly consecrated Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia, and three women who gave very moving accounts of their own experience post abortion, a full refutation of the claims that abortion has no psychological impact on the woman. Numbers of people did make the effort to travel big distances, and I know there were numbers from the Diocese of Port Pirie from Crystal Brook, Kadina and Port Pirie.

Despite what the media said, the Walk had nothing to do with President Trump's example! It was people of genuine conviction from many faiths and no faith, from the devout to the secular. Uplifting was the number of young people participating especially young women.

I attach a copy of the speech I gave, for those interested. It will also be placed up on the website for the Adelaide Archdiocese and the Diocese of Port Pirie, and can also be downloaded from there.

Again my thanks to the organisers, and especially to the participants. It was very reaffirming to note the size of the crowd spilling out of North Terrace, in numbers large enough to make any politician take notice and hopefully also the medical practitioners of abortion who by their involvement bring shame to the medical profession.

The Walk took place on a Saturday, a day on which it is traditional to express devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the Mother of all mothers. May her blessings be upon all those who strive to preserve and protect the sacredness of human life.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read '+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ  
**Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie**  
**Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Adelaide**