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Media Release

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Maintenance Work on St Patrick's Cathedral Fence

The Diocese of Ballarat is planning much needed maintenance work on the fence around Ballarat's St Patrick's Cathedral.

The cast iron fence is of high heritage value, with significance for the Ballarat community generally as well as for the local Catholic parish community. Unfortunately, the fence shows considerable deterioration and needs repainting. Following consultation with the cathedral parish council, Bishop Paul Bird has asked that this maintenance work be done as soon as it can be arranged.

In 2015, during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the LOUD Fence movement began the practice of tying ribbons to fences in Ballarat and beyond, as a sign of solidarity and support for those who suffered abuse.

Bishop Bird has contacted members of the LOUD Fence movement to invite them to meet with him and representatives of the cathedral parish council to discuss the process for the removal of the ribbons from the cathedral fence so that the maintenance work can proceed and also to discuss various ways of supporting those who have suffered abuse.

The diocese looks to work together with others to promote a safe community for all.

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