

today in Scotland is the Catholic Church itself. The good efforts of many are undermined by the scandalous behaviour of some.

We all have our own faults and failings. This affair is not an occasion for us to condemn others but to take stock of our own lives and appreciate how our own imperfections get in the way of the gospel.

I offer my sympathy to all the clergy of the Diocese. They dedicate their lives to the service of the people, working hard as they persevere in the daily grind of parish work. But clergy morale is bound to be affected as yet another abuse conviction blackens the good name of all.

The Catholic Church in Scotland has just published new procedures for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. I am grateful to the many volunteers in parishes who work hard to establish a climate where abuse is unlikely to happen, ensuring that our parishes are safe spaces for our children. Much has changed in the last forty years, we are now much more aware of how common abuse is, and we are much more alert, I hope, to ensuring it does not take place.

May I ask you to join me in praying for the victims of abuse and in urging anyone who has been abused to come forward and report it to the authorities.

Regarding Fr. Paul Moore, he too needs our prayers. His case must be referred to Rome: a process whose likely outcome is that he will be dismissed from the priesthood.

Despite the problems we face in life, particularly in living our Christian faith, may the Spirit of God keep the joy of the gospel alive in our hearts so that it may shine through our frailties and those of the Church and bring joy to the world.

May God's blessing be with you and your families this Easter season,



+William Nolan

Bishop of Galloway