



ST BERNADETTE'S CHURCH

49 Jugan Street, Mt Hawthorn, WA, 6016

Phone: (08) 9444 6131: Email: glendalough@perthcatholic.org.au

Mass Times: Monday to Friday 7.30am and 5.45pm

Saturday: 7.30am & 6.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9.00am and 7.00pm



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 24/7 in the Chapel

22 July, 2020

**A SUBMISSION DEFENDING THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION
AS PROPOSED IN THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BILL 2019
(BILL 157 - SECTION 124BA)**

The Confessional Seal is used as a means for God to bring healing and it is very effective.

1. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), God gives His Spirit called "Sanctifying Grace." When a penitent comes to Confession, they do so because they genuinely are repentant, and they want to be forgiven by God and they want the Sanctifying Grace to help stop them sinning again. If, however, the Priest is obliged to report a penitent, then the penitent will not come to Confession.
2. Also, the priest in the Sacrament receives God's Spirit so he imparts not his wisdom, but God's Wisdom. Therefore, the Sacrament is an effective means to bring repentance and healing to the penitent, leading the penitent to do all he/she can, to stop his/her crime which can mean handing themselves into the police. (The Priest will always offer to accompany the penitent to the police station to ensure that she/he does so.) The Church, more than anyone, wants this crime to cease, because the crime is the work of the evil one.
3. Also, Priests cannot breach the Seal, because if they do, they are excommunicated by the Church, and therefore, can no longer function as Priests. So, even if the State ruled that a Priest must break the seal, he would never be able to.
4. In the past the State and the Church have always maintained great respect for each other, and this is evident in the fact that the very core of our society's laws is based on Christian values and practices. It would be very disappointing if the State did not respect the Church in this matter.

Authorised by the Parish Council of
St Bernadette's Church
49 Jugan Street
Mt Hawthorn WA 6016

Chairman
Charles Lim

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Michael Chan

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