

St John of God brothers (Marylands) Case Study & Public Hearing

A Resource for Catholic School & Parish Leaders
to support their communities during the Royal Commission

What is the *Hospitaller Order of St John of God (Marylands)* Case Study?

As part of the investigation into abuse in the care of the Catholic Church the Inquiry is running a case study on abuse by the St John of God Brothers.

In particular the Commission will focus on events that occurred at Marylands School in Halswell, Christchurch. Marylands was a residential school for boys, many with disabilities. It originally opened in Middleton, Christchurch in the 1950s and then moved to Halswell, until closing in 1984.

Details of the Public Hearing

This Public Hearing is planned to take place from **9 - 17 February 2022** in Auckland.

This Public Hearing is also looking into any abuse by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God brothers at Hebron Trust, an organisation in Christchurch for at-risk youth operated by one of the brothers of St John of God.

The Commission will also hear from some witnesses who were also resident at St Joseph's Orphanage, located in Halswell, who had interaction with Marylands.

What is being investigated

The Royal Commission will investigate the nature and extent of abuse that occurred at Marylands and other institutions, why it happened, and the impacts of abuse that may have occurred at the hands of priests, religious or lay members of the Church.

The process of disclosing abuse and seeking redress is an important and difficult step for survivors on the long journey of healing.



Why it is being used as a case study

The abuse that will be described by survivors in this Hearing highlights a dark and appalling part of the Church's history in New Zealand.

The period of time and events relating to Marylands and the early days of the Hebron Trust have been the subject of many court cases and subsequent settlements and resulted in much media coverage during the 1990s and 2000s. This will also inform the Commissions investigation and whether there are any systemic, structural or other factors which contributed to the abuse occurring and the adequacy of the response by the Catholic Church to allegations of abuse.

These accounts, combined with those of many other victims and survivors of abuse in the care of the Catholic Church, at Marylands or elsewhere, will help the Royal Commission to make findings about what happened and why, and any appropriate recommendations for change.

www.tautoko.catholic.org.nz/marylands >

www.abuseincare.org.nz/marylands-school >

