



Diocese of Parramatta

27. 12. 92.

Dear Frank,

I have been using the holidays to catch up on some accumulated mail from recent months. Among it I found your letter re John Farrell. I know Bishop Kevin had taken up the matter with you so I thought it was not urgent that I reply.

My action in terminating John's appointment at Merrylands was taken after some reflection and advice. The particular issue only part of it. A number of priests in this diocese had long expressed dissatisfaction at having John among us. (I had taken him on at the request of Bishop Kennedy. My mandate to do so was not ended by Bishop Manning till the end of this year. I believe it would now be completely disrespectful all what happened at Merrylands).

I believe you are incorrect in holding that Bishop Manning would lift his suspension of John were I or another bishop prepared to take him. Perhaps you have by now realised that recent events have moved on a deal since you wrote. John has been referred, as you probably knew, to the provincial committee appointed to deal with matters of this type. The outcome of their conversations with John has not been favourable to his resuming his priestly ministry.

From an amount of publicity from here and parties from abroad you will be aware of the huge legal risks taken by the Church in such cases.

I appreciate your readiness to be of help to John. It is a tribute to your priestly charity. I also agree that John has many qualities that could contribute to a fruitful priestly ministry. But it seems to me he would be best advised to seek a career elsewhere. Perhaps our best efforts for him would be to help him in doing that.

My good wishes for 1993.

Sincerely,

10 Victoria Road, Parramatta N.S.W. 2150

Beale v. Hooper

Telephone REDACTED
Facsimile (02) 630 4813