

At my suggestion, on Friday, 10 September 2003 John Farrell came to see me at 5.30pm at the Chancery Office.

On July 20 he had gone to Sydney for a week to take the assessment course at Encompass. Since he had gone there at my suggestion, and since I paid the \$2000 fee, he promised to tell me about his time at Encompass.

(Whilst at Encompass, he would not agree to let me receive a copy of the Report of their assessment. He had earlier refused to let Mgr Wayne Peters sit in at the round table conference at Encompass. I was unable to be there myself.)

John bumped into my presence, cheerful and self-contented. He reported that he had not learnt anything new about himself. He admitted to them, he said, that he had abused boys in the past. He stated that he had been diagnosed some years ago by a psychologist, that he was sexually immature and undeveloped.

After half an hour of self-exaltation, I requested that he write down for me what had transpired, and his summation of his five days at Encompass. I stressed again to him that he consider a "career-change" as he understands very well that he will never be allowed to minister as a priest. I told him his mother won't live for ever. That, after her death, he should go far away, preferably outside Australia, take a new name and a new identity. He pondered over this, did not disagree or agree.

On Tuesday, 14 October, he has to go to Sydney where he was subpoenaed to give evidence in an extortion case. The man so charged was a "victim" of John's – and John had paid the man blackmail money.

The day after John spoke with me – Saturday – the police asked him to come to the Armidale police station. The man charged with extortion has made a statement to the police in Sydney/Parramatta, apparently accusing John of sexual abuse. John went to the police station where he was asked to make his statement about the allegations. He did so. John was not arrested, as he was afraid would happen.

I shall await John's written summation as he promised me.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

+ *Luc Malloy*

**Bishop of Armidale**