

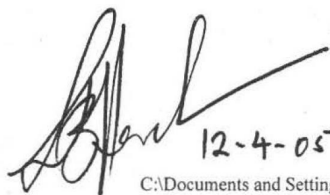
Report on Incident in Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral  
7 April 2005

During the Communion Procession at the Memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II held on 7 April 2005, I witnessed John Farrell come up in the procession and place his hand on the shoulder of a young female student from St Mary of the Angels School Guyra approaching her from behind and lean over to her closely and whisper into her ear. The child subsequently blushed and responded. This was also witnessed by one of the teachers from the school and staff from our office.

After Mass had concluded I approached the teacher, Mrs Sue Miller and advised her to keep a close watch on her students following Mass.

I phoned Mrs Miller to find out what had happened that afternoon; Mr Farrell had asked the student what school she attended. This would seem an unnecessary question given that from where Mr Farrell was sitting he would have been able to clearly see the seat labels indicating the name of the school. The labels were on both ends of the pews. Mr Farrell had been sitting on the organ seats opposite the children from Guyra.

Later in the day I was telephoned by the REC from St Mary's School Armidale, concerned that a male student from the school had been approached and interviewed by Mr Farrell, the REC, Belinda Burton, stood by the child while the interview took place. The REC questioned whether the press had a right to interview students without parental permission and whether they could be named in the newspaper. She also raised the question as to whether or not Mr Farrell was able to make contact with the children given that all schools had been advised that he was not a person allowed on school property or to have contact with students in our schools.



12-4-05

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Head of Religious Education Services.