

FILE COPY14th April, 2005.

Ms Lorraine Coffey
Manager
The Armidale Express
113 Faulkner Street
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Dear Ms Coffey,

I am writing to inform you that I have received complaints about the behaviour of Mr John Farrell at the Memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II held on 7th April 2005 at Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral. Mr Farrell's coverage of this Mass appeared in the Armidale Express on Friday 8th April.

The complaints I received were from a member of my own staff, a teacher from St Mary's Primary School Armidale and a teacher from St Mary of the Angels Primary School, Guyra.

The complaints relate to Mr Farrell approaching students both inside and outside the Cathedral. One complaint includes the inappropriate placing of Mr Farrell's hand on one year six female student's shoulder in the Cathedral.

I would also take the opportunity to inform you that, in March 2000 after consultation with Bishop Matthys, I sent a letter to all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale informing them that Mr Farrell does not have permission to enter our Catholic Schools. Mr Farrell was advised similarly by letter dated 15th March 2000 to him.

I provide you with this information in the best interests of the Armidale Express and the children in our Catholic Schools.

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Johnston
Diocesan Director of Catholic Schools