

27th January, 1981.

Rev. John Farrell,  
P.O. Box 2,  
SOUTH TAMWORTH. 2340.

My dear John,

It is with pleasure that I am writing to advise you of the next two phases of your programme:-

- (i) From February 4th. to February 19th. you are granted recreational leave . If it is feasible you might like to join our Seminarians for a couple of days during their annual holiday at Kendall. The presence of one, who only last year was with them in the Seminary, would be a source of encouragement to them as they move towards the Priesthood.

You have permission to be absent from the Diocese during that period, should you so wish.

- (ii) From February 20 to April 28 (both dates inclusive) you will be appointed to St. Xavier's Parish Narrabri. A copy of that programme is enclosed.

During your time in Narrabri you will be under the guidance of Father Harry Lois. You will find him an experienced, kind, and able pastor. You will find his advice a great help as you develop your own style of ministry.

Your stipend will be met by the Salary Committee. Your car allowance will be paid by St. Xavier's Parish together with the legitimate travel costs. You are entitled to a day's recreational leave each week. While you may prefer to accumulate several days leave over a number of weeks, it is important that you have a regular "day off". It will help you to function more effectively in your ministry.

I cannot stress too strongly, the importance of regular prayer in your life. The adjustment to parish life can be somewhat disorienting and the pressures and excitement of pastoral work so absorbing that our former prayer routines no longer function. But, the success of our pastoral ministry ultimately depends on our openness to the Spirit and that depends upon the degree that we are men of prayer. Let your ministry be imbued with your prayer, John. The time we "waste" in prayer with the Lord is blessed so very richly.

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I am sure that you will find the Narrabri experience of your programme both enjoyable and most rewarding.

Begging God's Blessings on you and your apostolate.

I remain,

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

(Most Rev.H.J.Kennedy)  
BISHOP OF ARMIDALE.

per: (T.Schmude for the Bishop).