



**Independent Inquiry  
on behalf of the  
Catholic Diocese of Armidale  
&  
the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta**



### **Terms of Reference**

The Bishop of Armidale and the Bishop of Parramatta have jointly commissioned an independent inquiry of the processes related to the management of "Fr F" who has been the subject of media reports in relation to allegations of abuse of children. "Fr F" was incardinated in the Diocese of Armidale and, for a period of time, was also engaged in ministry in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Taking into account the historical context within which the activity under consideration occurred, the inquiry shall examine:

1. The history of appointments, ministry and activities of Fr F during the period of his priesthood in the Dioceses of Armidale and Parramatta
2. The nature and quality of the management of complaints received by alleged victims of Fr F when they were received by the Diocese of Armidale or the Diocese of Parramatta including the response of Armidale and Parramatta to:
  - 2.1 the complaints received by alleged victims
  - 2.2 those who were responsible for supervising Fr F's ministry
3. The nature and quality of the processes that facilitated Fr F's transfer to the Diocese of Parramatta in 1989.
4. The sequence of events that led to Fr F's termination from ministry.
5. Information related to the 1992 meeting(s) of the Catholic Bishops Special Issues Resource Committee held in respect of Fr F's ministry
6. Whether the action taken by each of the Dioceses of Armidale and Parramatta in the management of Fr F was appropriate.
7. Comment on any other matters deemed relevant.