

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY & BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP**

17 July 2012



**Independent Inquiry commissioned by
Most Rev Michael Kennedy, Catholic Bishop of Armidale
&
Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Catholic Bishop of Parramatta**



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.

Bishop Kennedy has announced his commitment to conducting an independent inquiry in relation to this matter. As this matter also relates to the Diocese of Parramatta, Bishop Anthony Fisher OP shares that commitment.

Former Federal Court Judge, the Hon. Antony Whitlam QC has been appointed to conduct this inquiry. Further details of the inquiry process will be developed in consultation with Mr Whitlam QC.

This inquiry is not intended to supplant or replace any investigations that the police or other appropriate authorities may intend to undertake.

Bishops Kennedy and Fisher extend their deepest sympathies to victims of child abuse and their families, and reassure the community of their commitment to see justice achieved.

For immediate release

Media inquiries should be referred to:

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