

9th. June, 1981.

Rev. John Farrell,  
Bishop's House,  
ARMIDALE.

My dear John,

It is with pleasure that I appoint you to the parish of Moree under Monsignor Frank Ryan from June 11th. to August 3rd. both dates inclusive. Moree is a fascinating parish and Monsignor Ryan is one of our most capable pastors. I am sure that you will find ~~it~~ a most worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Each priest develops his own pastoral style and as you develop yours it would be well worth while observing at close quarters the skills of Mgr. Ryan, particularly the way he relates so effectively with people. The times are changing and perhaps more so than in the past - the priest of tomorrow will need to be a man who can mix easily with all types of people and gradually bring them round. The Moree experience will provide you with a great opportunity to develop your skills in that area.

I have asked Monsignor to arrange supervised pastoral experiences for you in the following areas: - the Aboriginal apostolate, the ministry to the poor and outcast, youth ministry, State and Catholic School Catechetics, preparation of School and Youth Masses and Liturgies, Homilies, preparation for and the celebration of Baptisms and Marriages. Do not hesitate to seek advice; listen attentively to any suggestions offered; and observe closely the way that the local priests go about a pastoral situation seeking to understand the rationale behind this strategy.

Your salary will be met by the Salary Committee. Your car allowance and legitimate travelling expenses will be met by the Moree Parish.

The date of your priestly ordination draws closer. The time is right for you to begin practising the saying of Mass and the development of your presidential style both at Mass and at Reconciliation. You are asked to make the appropriate arrangements with the Priest of your choice in that regard. I would be grateful for your advice within a fortnight who that priest is and for confirmation of the fact that you have commenced that practice. The Vocations Team will contact you in due course to arrange for a "celebrst" and for a couple of discussion days or seminars in key areas relating to Reconciliation and Anointing. It is important that you keep Mgr. Ryan informed at each stage what you are doing.

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It is extremely important that you keep in close contact with your spiritual director. These final weeks of your preparation for Ordination are all important. Your spiritual director will have much to offer. Above all keep up your prayers. The moving from one place to another can disrupt a regular prayer routine. And the temptation can be to let things slip and to rely on our pastoral skills. Nothing, however, can replace our union with God. That only comes from and is kept alive by prayer. It is only prayer which can produce the fruit that will last. So keep up your prayer John. Pray especially to the Holy Spirit that He may fill your heart with a burning love for the Lord and a great zeal for the Church.

Bagging God's Blessing on you and your apostolate.

I remain,

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

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