

I again express my concern about your suitability for an appointment at this time.

The reasons are the same as those I enumerated to you in our conversation here in Armidale on 9th October 1991.

The matters of the alleged incidents with the boys in Moree together with the widespread knowledge and scandal have never been satisfactorily resolved.

The withdrawal by Bishop Heather of your mandate to exercise ministry in the Diocese of Parramatta gives rise for further concern to me about your suitability for an appointment.

I am therefore referring you to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Special Issues Committee. It is the task of this committee to evaluate the situation and to advise on ways of proceeding. An appointment has been made for you to meet with Father Brian Lucas in Sydney on the evening of 3rd September next. Please contact Father Lucas at the Sydney Archdiocese Chancery, 13th Floor Polding House, Sydney to arrange a suitable time and place to meet on that evening.

Since the Special Issues Committee will be acting on my behalf and the behalf of the Diocese of Armidale, I am requesting Father Wayne Peters of our diocese to be at that first meeting as an observer and representative of the Diocese of Armidale.

In my letter to you of 1st July last, I withdrew your faculties until you met with me on your return from vacation. I now renew that withdrawal of your faculties. That means you may not celebrate public ministry anywhere. (I now renew the withdrawal of your faculties and I suspend you from celebrating the sacred rites anywhere) (I now renew the withdrawal of your faculties and suspend you from the public celebration of the sacred rites anywhere). I shall of course review this decision when I have received advice from the Special Issues Committee.

I encourage you to give your full support and cooperation to the Special Issues Committee in the hope that some satisfactory resolution to these matters can be achieved. Without your full cooperation, it is difficult to see a solution to the concerns I have for an appointment for you anywhere.