

Private and Confidential

REDACTED

20 December 2010

Rt Reverend Dr B Farran
Bishop Of Newcastle
PO Box 817
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Bishop

At a time when we should be preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord you will surely be aware that there is a substantial anger and turmoil in the Anglican community in Newcastle and the reasons for that anger and turmoil. The Newcastle Herald 17/12 refers to it as a crisis for Anglicans and I believe that is indeed the case.

I was surprised to read in that Herald edition and also in the Herald 18/12 that you had distanced yourself from the events that have taken place. I refer to a sermon you preached on Epiphany 4 2010 wherein you said

"The local minister is the Bishop ... all ministry in a Diocese is derived from the Bishop and authorized by the Bishop ... through the person of the Bishop."

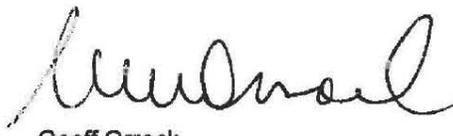
It seems to me that in this remark you have recognized and restated a well known principle that the Chief Executive of an organization is responsible for all that happens in the area under his control. In other words you as the Bishop must accept personal responsibility for every event in the Diocese. It is your leadership and management that has placed us in this situation and where others under the control of the Diocese have carried out actions you must still accept responsibility.

I firmly believe that healing of this terrible situation cannot commence while you remain the Bishop of this Diocese.

Accordingly, and in the interests of allowing the commencement of a healing process in a wounded community now, I respectfully ask you

- to apologize to the Anglican community for leading us into this situation.
- to ask the General Synod to appoint a manager for the Diocese until a new Bishop can be found.
- to retire with grace and dignity immediately.

May our Lord guide you in your considerations.



Geoff Orrock