

The Reverend Canon George Parker
PO Box 253
MAYFIELD NSW 2304

26 February 1996

CAZ.....PRK'GEO.SAM

Dear Fr George

Greetings and peace.

I write this letter with some degree of hesitation though I do believe it would be helpful to acknowledge perhaps some of the pain that has been caused by your reluctance to accept a farewell from this Diocese. As one who has served here faithfully, and for whom I have a most profound respect given the excellent work you have done in many areas of diocesan life, I find the decision not to allow anyone to farewell you rather difficult, though I can sense the pain and anguish that must be a part of travelling from a familiar community into an unknown region.

I want to reiterate that the Diocese does owe you a debt of gratitude and that the issues surrounding the ordination of women to the priesthood has not, certainly in my hearing, been canvassed as a reason for your departure.

I realise that the changes that have been made during my episcopate in this diocese have not been easy for many, I realise that the vision for acknowledging Baptism as the central vocation for all Christians is found difficult by many who see the sacerdotal priesthood as the primary order within the Church from which other orders and authorities derive.

Whatever the difference we may have had, I want to say that I have always found you to be gracious, hospitable, caring and someone I would count as a priest with a deep sense of call within this diocese. I pray you will allow us to love you and acknowledge your worth as you leave us. As you take up your next task I hope you will celebrate your priesthood which has been well-received and acknowledged in this part of God's world. I would be happy to discuss these matters with you.

With the assurance of my thoughts, prayers and love for you.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Roger Herft



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