
Amanda Zaicos

From: Amanda Zaicos
Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2010 10:51 AM
To: Bishop Brian
Subject: FW: MEDIA STATEMENT Regarding Fr Peter Rushton

From: Richard Appleby [mailto:REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2010 10:40 AM
To: Amanda Zaicos
Subject: Re: MEDIA STATEMENT Regarding Fr Peter Rushton

Dear Brian,

What a sad situation. Thank you for informing me.

When I came to the Diocese of Newcastle at the beginning of 1983 Peter Rushton was coming to the end of his time at Wallsend. You mention that you think other clergy may have been involved and that there may have been an organized group at the Wallsend rectory on Sunday evenings. I can assure you that I have absolutely no knowledge of either other clergy or such a group. I did however know that quite a few people went to Wallsend for Evensong in those years (not least because of the good preaching) and often went to the Rectory afterwards for supper. These were adults with never any reference to inappropriate behaviour.

I certainly pray for you each day and especially as you deal with this situation. I appreciate how awful it must be to have to judge someone as guilty who has no chance to present his side of the story. May God be merciful

With my ongoing prayers,

+Richard

On Tue, Oct 19, 2010 at 4:23 PM, Amanda Zaicos <AmandaZaicos@angdon.com> wrote:

To Bishop Appleby

Dear Bishop,

Very sadly I have to inform you that today I have released a media statement as below concerning allegations against the late Father Peter Rushton.

I have interviewed those making the allegations from the parish of Wallsend. They have indicated that I had to make such a media release.

There may well be other complainants come to the fore as a consequence of this release. I think there were other clergy involved with these allegations; there may have been an organized group who met in the Wallsend Rectory on Sunday evenings.

Please pray for us here in Newcastle.

Grace and peace,

+Brian

Dr Brian Farran Diocesan Bishop Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

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Media Statement in relation to Fr. Peter Rushton

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle wish to announce information of concern in relation to the late Fr. Peter RUSHTON.

Fr. Peter worked in the Diocese of Newcastle from 1963 until his death in 2007. After completing his training at St John's Theological College in Morpeth he ministered in Cessnock, Wyong, Weston, Wallsend, Lake Macquarie and Maitland.

Following his death, significant allegations and information of concern has been brought forward in relation to Fr. Peter's involvement in the sexual abuse of minors. The Diocesan Director of Professional Standards has been investigating these matters and is fully co-operating with NSW Police. The Diocese has also been supporting persons who have come forward in relation to these matters.

In recognition of this situation the Bishop of Newcastle, The Right Reverend Dr. Brian Farran held a service of recognition and reconciliation at the parish of St. Luke's, Wallsend earlier this year that was well received.

The Bishop wishes to publicly apologise to any person adversely affected by these deeply regrettable events and urges any persons with any information about such matters to come forward and speak with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle's Professional Standards Director.

For further details please contact Eclipse Media, Events and PR on 49613200

Released: 19.10.10

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