

Amanda Zaicos

From: Amanda Zaicos
Sent: Wednesday, 20 October 2010 2:53 PM
To: Bishop Brian
Subject: FW: MEDIA STATEMENT Regarding Fr Peter Rushton

From: Alfred and Joy Holland [mailto:acjmholland@REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 October 2010 11:58 AM
To: Amanda Zaicos
Subject: Re: MEDIA STATEMENT Regarding Fr Peter Rushton

Dear Bishop Brian,

Thank you for informing me of this dreadful business. I have also, through the web, seen the article in the Newcastle Herald. Needless to say, I shall be deeply interceding for you and the diocese, including the victims and their families, but especially for you because of the crucial burden that has been placed on your shoulders.

It has quite taken 'the wind out of my sails' because Rushton was a punctilious priest, known and respected widely throughout the diocese, and popular among his fellow priests. I have, hitherto, had a sense of pride that the diocese seemed to have a clean sheet about abuse, unlike other places.

Perhaps you will keep me informed if further allegations are made? Again, my thanks for keeping me in the loop.

Alfred

----- Original Message -----

From: Amanda Zaicos
To: Alfred and Joy Holland (acjmholland@REDACTED)
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:18 PM
Subject: MEDIA STATEMENT Regarding Fr Peter Rushton

To Bishop Alfred Holland

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
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