

The Anglican Parish of Wallsend

FOUNDED 1867

St. Luke's Church
Metcalfe Street
Dedicated 1880

St. Luke's Rectory
11 Brown Street
Wallsend, 2287
Phone: (049) 55 9544

10/12/2009

To the Bishop of Newcastle
The Right Reverend Dr. Brian Farran

Dear Bishop Brian,

As we are all now aware there have been serious allegations, which have affected and are still affecting the life and community of St Luke's and Wallsend.

A significant precipitant of these allegations was, without question, the disposition of Fr. Peter Rushton's ashes under the pulpit of St Luke's, in breach of both your written instruction regarding process and against the will of the parish council and myself.

There still remains the spiritual issues, an admixture of confusion, betrayal, guilt, love and anger towards Fr. Peter and all aspects of his legacy.

To address the above there is a real need and benefit with an offer of spiritual healing from the Church. To be sure there are also risks of unknowns.

It is my conviction that it is sacramentally valid and necessary to conduct an exorcism and release of those dark forces (and including the person and memory of Fr Peter into the Father's care cf. Jn 20:23) so that his good work can be remembered within the parish and its place of worship, while those dark forces behind him are renounced.

Personally I find Shakespeare's famous line both poignant and pertinent to the situation; "the evil that men do lives after them, while the good oft lies enterr'd with their bones". We have an opportunity to avoid this happening.

I believe that this is the heart of the matter and it is here that the opportunity for our effective witness lies. These are the real powers behind Paul's battle in Romans 7, beautifully resolved in Chapter 8:1ff. vs.37-38 and recognized in Ephesians 6:12.

This could well avoid the embarrassment of the removal of Fr Peter's ashes with the issues and distress that will bring about for all parties.

I also believe that a publicly advertised Healing Eucharist celebrated by you, would greatly assist those who have been affected in any way by these allegations giving them a point of transition to move forward.

It may be possible to shape the liturgy using the rite of Baptismal renewal, with its exorcism as a liturgical form.

I have taken the liberty to discuss this with Michael Elliot and Fr Fergus King in broad outline and they are in general agreement that this could be a way forward.

I therefore seek both your counsel and recommendation concerning all aspects these matters.

Yours in Christ

Reverend Roger Dyer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Dyer', written in a cursive style.

Rector of St Luke's Wallsend