



THE DEAN OF NEWCASTLE
The Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence



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23 May, 1996

The Venerable Bruce Hoare
Ministry Development Officer and
Archdeacon of Newcastle
PO Box 817
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CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Ian Barrack

Dear Archdeacon:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to act as a referee for Ian Barrack. I have known Ian for more than a decade. He joined the Cathedral congregation not long after my arrival as Dean and within a short time became an altar server and a member of the parish youth group. He served for a short time on the Cathedral Council and was a regular worshipper on Sundays and weekdays. Ian's girlfriend at the time, Linda, came with him and they were eventually married in the Cathedral in more recent years.

When I first met Ian, he was a member of the Naval Training Corp. His interest in the Navy initially vied with his sense of vocation to priestly ministry. In more recent years his dissatisfaction with the navy has tended to heighten his sense of vocation to the priesthood!

I believe Ian has been slow to mature - that should not be read as a negative comment. He came from a very protective family and while he had a fairly wide circle of friends in his School and University days, he often was really the "big boy" and did not really understand many of the pressures and challenges of life. **Certainly he likes stability, familiarity and an ordered pattern.**

There is no doubt that he is a hard worker and committed to tasks which are given to him. He was an excellent server at the Cathedral, organising rosters, training boys and girls as servers, and was meticulous in helping to prepare for many great occasions. Ian has an excellent ability to relate to older people and has continued to show great care for and interest in some of the senior members of the Cathedral congregation.

I have always found Ian open and receptive to people who differ from him and I am conscious that he has exercised a listening ear and a compassionate response to a number of younger people who found themselves in difficulties.

Ian's wife, **REDACT** does not fully share Ian's faith. She was baptised prior to their marriage. Unfortunately she was unwilling to be baptised publicly and was baptised by one of our clergy in a private ceremony with little or no preparation. She has never received Holy Communion and is not Confirmed. She is, however, abundantly supportive of Ian.

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Intellectually, Ian is a "plodder" and needs to be constantly kept at the task. During his university studies I noted how easily he was deterred from the main task to other areas.

Over all, I think Ian is a good candidate and worth consideration by the Selection Conference. I have no doubt as to Ian's commitment, faith and enthusiasm for ministry. I would have to express my concern about his overall maturity. However, three years in a Theological College, testing his vocation, might strengthen that area of his life.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ian Lawrence". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a horizontal line at the end.

DEAN

GRL:tk