



Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Ballarat

The Diocesan Centre
 P.O. Box 89 (49 Lydiard St Sth)
 BALLARAT. 3353
 Tel. (03) 5331 1183
 Fax (03) 5333 2982

From: The Bishop

The Right Reverend Garry Weatherill
 Email: bishop@ballaratanglican.org.au

22 July 2016

Attn: Kirstie Raffan

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE REV'D GEORGE PARKER

On 28th August 2014 Bp Peter Stuart, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle, emailed me a copy of an article which had appeared the day before in the Newcastle Herald, with a photograph and a story about the Rev'd George Parker. At that time The Rev'd Parker held a PTO (Permission to Officiate licence) from my predecessor, Bishop Michael Hough.

I telephoned Fr George 3 times that day without speaking with him personally and telling him I needed to speak with him as a matter of urgency considering an article that had appeared in the Newcastle Herald.

On 29th August 2014 I emailed Fr George explaining that he was not to exercise any authorised ministry until he had spoken with me, and that I would cover the services arranged at Soldiers Hill parish for the next Sunday.

On 30th August 2014 Fr George came to Bishop's House at around 9am with a suggested statement for me to read at Soldiers Hill and to issue to clergy and congregations in the Diocese. I declined to use his statement and instead issued a simple statement at the Masses that weekend at Soldiers Hill, and repeated that statement in the AD CLERUM issued on 2nd September 2014.

Fr Parker has not acted in public as a priest to the best of my knowledge since then.

In early 2016 I recalled all PTO and General licences in order to ensure that every one had a proper police clearance, child safety card, and safe ministry check through the DPS. Fr George Parker applied for a PTO giving a false date of Birth on the Police Clearance form. He was not granted a licence.

**The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill
 Bishop.**