

FROM . . .
THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE

TELEPHONE B 3027

Office: B 1311.

BISHOPSCOURT,

NEWCASTLE, 2N, N.S.W. 2300.

14th November, 1968.

The Right Reverend,
The Bishop of Grafton,
Bishopsholme,
GRAFTON, 2460.

Dear Gordon,

I am very sorry that you are disturbed about **REDACTED**'s application to return to this diocese, and can fully understand your difficulty and problem. He has given you more than three months' notice of his intention to resign, and I could not do other than accept a similar notice from any priest who wished to leave this diocese and go elsewhere. If any approach had been made to him from this end, I should feel a conscience in the matter, but it was his own wish and he was apparently waiting for your return before resigning to you, while knowing that he was giving adequate notice. I think he has acted properly in this matter and still feel that it was his responsibility to inform you of his intention rather than ours. I have refrained from writing to him to persuade him one way or the other, and repeat that unless I hear from him that he wishes to cancel his application, I shall expect him to come early in February. When I was bishop of a much smaller diocese than Grafton, I had to accept the fact that men resigned to go to other places, and once a man had made up his mind as **REDACTED** undoubtedly did earlier this year, I would not try to hold him.

I wrote rather hurriedly regarding his application to you. The fact of the matter, as I remember it, was that I offered him a place in college, but he said he could not accept this until he had sold his farm and then when he later applied I already had as many men as I could accept in that particular year, this being during the "bulge" of ordination candidates.

Assuming that **REDACTED** adheres to his original intention, I have a young married priest here who is most acceptable, but is at present under a shadow. He is one of our very best priests and it may be that he will have to leave this diocese within the next few months. I will regard it as an obligation, if things turn out as I hope, to make an offer to you as a first priority.

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The Right Reverend,
The Bishop of Grafton,
GRAFTON.

14th November, 1968.

I have not heard anything from REDACTED.

I have asked for replies regarding liturgical experimentation, but so far we have only five in. I gave them a reminder again yesterday, so that I hope we will have some information for you to present to the meeting of the Liturgical Commission.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Highly confidential

Dear Gordon

I think I can tell you now of the replacement offer in confidence. He is Allan Ketchingman a most energetic & gifted young married priest. Prior to marriage he had some homo sexual difficulties but has resisted the tendency since. Lately he, being popular with young people, has tried to help some of the way out youngsters in the town late at night. Recently he had a lad ("habitual") in his car & the verge got the letter of Jim. The police caught him and landed him up on a charge. I sent him to the psychiatric clinic & today have received a good report saying that he is not a "natural" & that he realises his own weakness & can control it. His wife is sticking to him & she is a wonderful girl (ex missionary). If I were in your position I'd take him like a shot - but he ought to leave the diocese after his trial. I'll let you know now later.

Yours
Jim