

25TH June 2002

Most Reverend M P McMahon OP
Bishop of Nottingham
Wilson House
Derby Road
NOTTINGHAM NG1 5AW
ENGLAND U K

Dear Bishop McMahon,

I write to you as the Vicar General of the Melbourne Archdiocese, Australia. Some years ago, a priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Reverend Ronald Dennis Pickering, fled the Archdiocese without permission once allegations of sexual abuse against minors surfaced in regard to his parish activities in Gardenvale, one of the parishes of our archdiocese.

Since that time many more allegations have arisen of a most serious nature. Regrettably the Archdiocese has been unable to locate Father Pickering to invite his response to these allegations. However, we do believe he resides somewhere in southern England.

In recent weeks I have come across a possible point of contact with Father Pickering. Although there is no specific address attached, the town which is cited is Sleaford, which I believe is a parish in your own diocese.

I simply write to you making an enquiry as to whether Father Ronald Dennis Pickering is known to you. He does not have faculties from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Clearly we are keen to locate him and to insist that he comes back to Australia to face these serious allegations.

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If he is known to you at all I would very much appreciate you contacting me at the above address indicating how I can be in touch with Father Pickering.

You may wish, My Lord, to also notify your brother Bishops in the area of Father Pickering's situation.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Monsignor Christopher Prowse
VICAR GENERAL