

**CONFIDENTIAL FILE NOTE REGARDING FR RON PICKERING**

On Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May I was informed by the Business Manager of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Mr Ted Exell, that stipend money had been sent from the Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to a former parishioner of Father Ron Pickering in Gardenvale. The indication was that the money would then be forwarded by this intermediary to England and eventually be passed on to Father Ron Pickering.

This is the first time I have been directly informed of this matter. I indicated to Mr Ted Exell that he was to inform the Priests' Foundation that such a practice was to cease immediately. Indeed I indicated to him that the intermediary in Gardenvale was to be informed that this was the case and that this person would inform Father Ron Pickering that any further stipend from the Archdiocese of Melbourne would be indefinitely suspended. I indicated to Mr Ted Exell that the intermediary was to be informed that the Archdiocese of Melbourne was wanting to know where Father Ron Pickering was. We want to know his address so we can write to him and insist that he returns to Melbourne and "face the music" regarding allegations of sexual abuse in his ministry here in Melbourne. Mr Exell informed me later on that he has passed that information on to the Foundation.

5<sup>th</sup> June 2002



Monsignor Christopher Prowse  
VICAR GENERAL