



Office of the Archbishop

St. Patrick's Cathedral,  
Melbourne, Vic., 300  
Telephone: 667 03

22 April, 1994

Attention Mr Paul Gamble

Dunhill Madden Butler  
Solicitors & Notaries,  
575 Bourke Street,  
MELBOURNE. Vic. 3000.

Dear Mr Gamble,

REVEREND R. PICKERING

I refer to your letter of 25th March, 1994. The Easter break and later more pressing problems have delayed my reply far longer than I would have desired.

The Archbishop has noted your kind advice that he will be covered in this claim by BTU by the operation of the Special Issues Policy, and that you have moved to investigate the claim against him. We have noted in particular that Fr Pickering is being interviewed in England.

You have asked for a complete copy of Fr Pickering's file to be forwarded to you so as to assist in preparing a defence. The stance we have consistently taken is that claims like that of BTU are against Fr Pickering and have no relevance for the Archbishop unless there is clear evidence that the Archbishop or the Archdiocese were ever implicated in the alleged offence. I do not see the relevance of any of the documents in our files on Fr Pickering which post date the end of the alleged relationship.

On instructions from His Grace I now forward to you the entire file in our possession. You would understand that no copy of documents and no information from the files is to be given to anyone without written consent from His Grace or the Vicar General.

In fact, there are two files being sent to you. The smaller RED file contains the most recent correspondence, and also the papers which I have sorted out as being possibly significant. I draw your attention to the letter in that red file of 12th February, 1988, in which Fr Pickering mentions an accusation of "being surrounded by an aroma of homo-sexuality".

Among the papers in the red file are documents belonging to the period of Fr Pickering's ministry during the years 1966-1975; they include the letter of 16th February, 1966, from the Vicar General (Mons. Leo Clarke) appointing Fr Pickering as Chaplain to St Mary's (Boys) School, St Kilda. I have noted that Maurice Blackburn's letter of 16/12/93 to Brother Noonan states that BTU was a student at CBC, St Kilda, in 1966 and that the sexual assaults commenced in 1966

.....2/



Dunhill Madden Butler 22nd April, 1994 ctd, Page 2

and continued until 1975. Their letter of 23/12/93 to Archbishop Little says that <sup>BTU</sup> was sexually assaulted by Pickering whilst their client was a parishioner of St Mary's parish, St Kilda, between 1966 & 1975.

Some dates which may be of interest:-

born 2nd July, 1929  
ordained priest 29th June, 1957  
Essendon, assistant priest 9/5/58 to 28/1/66  
East St Kilda, assistant, 29/1/66 to 31/1/69  
Warburton, P.P., 1/2/69 to 26/5/72  
Clayton, P.P., 27/5/72 to 20/1/78  
Gardenvale, P.P. 21/1/78 until 26/3/93  
Gardenvale, Administrator, 26/3/93 to  
31/5/93

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B.J. Fleming'.

Reverend B.J.Fleming  
PERSONAL ASSISTANT