

Doveton.

15th August, 1984

PERSONAL

ARCHBISHOP T. F. LITTLE.

Your Grace,

We, as concerned Christians, would like to express our concern on the effects that Father Peter Dearson, Parish Priest, is having on our parish and school of Holy Family - Doveton.

As we were advised by Fr Deal, we list herewith our points of concern;

- A. Foremost in our minds at the moment is our first communicants' Mass of last Sunday - 12th August - many fellow parishioners expressed their disgust at the way in which Mass was conducted, i.e. the sermon was based on pornography/censorship, also all non-catholics and unprepared catholics were BLUNTLY told not to participate in the Eucharist. This resulted in an attitude that some felt to the point of being ashamed to be Catholics. Any non-catholics present at this Mass, if contemplating becoming Catholic, we feel would most certainly be turned away from the church.

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- b. Equally as disturbing is the situation that parents have no say in the quality of food supplied to their children. Tuckshop ladies are unable to make any decisions or give any opinions on decisions regarding the tuckshop. Father has the only say.
- c. A situation largely concerning people wishing to visit Holy Family is that they are faced with locked gates, an example being children having to wait outside on the street at 8.40am. on school days not being able to enter because of padlocks. The locked gates giving a general feeling of unwelcomeness.
- d. Our disagreements with Father should be discussed with parents and not be taken out on our children as has been done.
- e. We feel that Father's dog should not be allowed in tuckshop or anywhere children are eating or playing as has happened on occasions.

Father has pointed a hand-gun at a couple of people who will not come forward for fear of repercussions as many have been

intimidated by him. They had treated it as a joke at the time, but are still worried about it recurring.

G. He is splitting parents in the school, the atmosphere in the school has changed. Parents, who were ever-willing to help with tuckshop and other activities, avoid even visiting the school. He is destroying everything we have worked for.

H. He is turning people, especially teenagers and children - the future of our parish, away from the church. This poses grave concern over the stability of our children's faith.

I. An example of intimidation was a visit by Father to one of the classrooms. He told the children 'God only wants good readers to read at Mass'. Do we assume from this that God also wants nothing to do with slow or handicapped people?

J. A point that was asked to be put forward by a senior parishioner was regarding Father's statements at Mass, that even parishioners in conflict between \$500 and

\$10.00 per week into the Thanksgiving Offering as they 'are not' below the poverty line.

K. People employed at the school have been threatened by Father with their jobs if they disagree with him.

We would like to make an appointment to see you personally to discuss the situation. We can be contacted on any of the telephone numbers listed on the following page

Yours sincerely,

as signed overleaf