

Doveton

17th November, 1986.

Reverend Peter L. Searson, P.P.,
Catholic Presbytery,
P.O. Box 34,
DOVETON, Vic.

Dear Father Searson,

Your letter of 31st October, 1986, speaks of the debits and credits of your service to the Lord and your ministry to His people. In fact, you almost draw the financial terminology into a poetic vision.

However, as the evidence appears before me, it is grim reality rather than paths of imagination which must regulate decisions which best help all concerned with the parish of Doveton.

Although in our conversation you generally dismissed that long litany of allegations carefully garnered to convey an adequate spectrum of opinion, there still remains in the minds of many people perceptions which continue to contribute, I suspect, to the loss of your good name among upright and serious-minded parishioners and, supposedly in a good number, even of aversion to you; circumstances to this stage would lead me to believe that these factors will be unlikely to come to an end.

You will appreciate that such a situation offers valid grounds for a Parish Priest to consider offering his resignation.

Regretfully I must in conscience present that aspect for your consideration.

You courteously acknowledge that the current situation is pastorally harmful to the Doveton Parish community. You advise me that you understand that the simplest solution might well be to seek a transfer to a suitable parish. I thank you for that suggestion, but find myself unduly hampered in the circumstances by the careful conditions associated with the proposal.

12.

Rev. P. L. Searson, P.P.,
Doveton.

You may care to give further consideration to what actually prove moral restrictions on me although you presumably would not have seen them as such viewing them from your own situation.

Otherwise I foresee that the situation could escalate from harmful to hurtful.

I can understand the personal demands that the present condition at Doveton make on you. Please know that you are very much in my thoughts and prayers as I constantly consider the situation presently experienced in the parish of Doveton.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE