



re Parish of Doveton.

1. Previous correspondence.
2. Resignation of the Principal of the Parish School.  
The principal has not made public any reasons.  
However,  
\* he appears extremely competent,  
\* he has an excellent relationship with staff and parents.  
\* he has innovative programs in the school  
\* he has the respect of the local community.  
He had no offer of another position when he submitted his resignation.
3. Alleged serious friction between Principal and Parish Priest.
4. Some parents sought solution.  
Talks with Mr. Alan Dooley.  
He acted in talks between Principal and Parish Priest  
Due process was followed; there was no reconciliation of the parties and no resolution of the problem.
5. Advertised informal meeting of 50 persons: 12.10.1986.  
Views expressed derogatory of Parish Priest.  
\* totally let down.  
\* led to consideration of commitment to parish and even Church.  
\* some had already left parish following confrontations with Parish Priest.  
\* some concerned for the spiritual and moral upbringing of children.  
\* some concerned for actual safety of children.  
\* concern over resignation of Principal.  
Conclusion: Serious problem in parish.  
Solution: Change of priest.
6. Handgun:  
On 2 occasions Parish Priest produced a shotgun.  
\* pointed at child who was cleaning school.  
\* offered to child who was to turn on a hose and was afraid of the dark.  
Is this an offence against the criminal law?  
Does the Parish Priest hold a licence.
7. Parish Priest purports to have held rank of Lieutenant-colonel.  
Not recorded as having served in Australian forces.  
He wears an Australian army uniform. Offensive.  
Was he a chaplain in the U.S. forces?



8. Spiritual leadership:  
 At opening Mass of school year, senior students asked about attendance at Mass during school holidays; those who admitted missing Mass, were refused the Eucharist.  
 At home Mass berated family home, saying place unfit for worship because no carpets.  
 Told people not to pray for a dead parishioner, as she was mentally retarded (said to person with a retarded daughter).  
 At grade 3 Mass declared that mothers who did not work obviously loved their children more than working mothers. Badly upset children; caused great anguish - many working mothers in parish.
9. People embarrassed because told that they do not give enough to the parish; some are on pensions.  
 People felt veiled threats that if not give more money their children would not be able to go to St. John's.
10. Parents, especially women, feel intimidated, looked down upon.  
 Women afraid to be alone with parish priest.  
 Many not allow children to be alone with parish priest
11. Strange actions:  
 Lights and heaters turned off when people meeting.  
 8.10.1986: meeting due to discuss school programs.  
 Gates and church locked at 6.45 p.m.  
 School gates locked early even though school part of the safety house program.
- 12: Parish finances:  
 Parish newsletter (12.6.1986): Parish Priest wrote that the matter of a new church was discussed by the Board of Management and the Pastoral Council and a choice was made from five plans that were submitted (free) by leading Melbourne architects.  
 Actually Board of Management members were not consulted.  
 Also McCarthy, Collins & Purtell rendered an account for \$17,000.  
 Fr. Deakin advised inquirers in early May that no permission given to proceed with Church.  
 Parish Priest had submitted plans to Berwick Council for Town Planning Approval on 23.4.1986.  
 Parish Priest had advised people in Church that he had received go ahead for new Church; the Archbishop had informed an inquirer in writing that no approval had been given.
- Lies?



13. 10.6.1986: parish debt listed as \$126,566.00  
 22.6.1986: parish debt listed as \$146,432.00  
 10.6.1986: 307 contributors giving \$912 per week with expenditure of \$1140 per week.  
 22.6.1986: weekly expenditure of \$1140.00 per week.  
 20.7.1986: after giving campaign: from 260 contributors giving \$850 per week, the contributions had grown to 302 people giving \$1415 per week  
 These figures are questioned.
14. Newsletter states 2 new tennis courts built and 2 resurfaced for \$9,978. Actual price around \$30,000.
15. School bus issue.  
 Intimated that bus bought after gaining loan.
16. Five persons have allegedly received pledges purporting to be signed by themselves when in fact they have not signed them.
17. Parish Priest offers reasons for Principal's resignation:  
 \* he had a heart attack at his previous school.  
 \* he had a problem with his home life.  
 Lies.
18. A number of long-standing parishioners have left.  
 3 names provided.
19. Local press and national media interested.  
 Approached by 2 anonymous complaints.
20. Some claim the parish priest has  
 \* divided the community  
 \* alienated certain groups within the parish  
 \* no credibility at all with a lot of people.
21. Request that proceed according to Canons 1740 and 1741.  
 The matter is regarded as urgent.
22. 54 signatures are provided on a petition asking for removal of the parish priest, stating complete lack of confidence.
23. 24 letters, some quite lengthy, also provided.
24. \* allegations regarding children.  
 \* number of young dropped alarmingly, 40 ex-parishioners attend elsewhere, some have left church, resignation of principal.  
 \* "give me a cuddle", children cannot face him in confession, uncertain, unjoyful attitude, arrangements changed, interrupts play, leasing of class rooms, locked church, danger from guard dog which is allowed in church, rude, lack of communication, needs counselling, financial requirements for admission to St. John's, parents told school was fall when not so, creates sense of guilt, over-regulated liturgy, refusing H.C.



- 4 -

- on hand, lack of consultation, manipulative.
- \* flat celebrations; insult hosts of home Mass, do not pray for mentally deficient dead.
- \* Rude, coersive, tells lies, yells at people. Health problems with dog. Endangering children with use of bus.
- \* transfer child from school; inhumane.
- \* attitude to sole parent, untruthful, false accusations, intimidation, splitting parish.
- \* no longer support or attend parish. Unchristian. caused collapse of tocushop.
- \* grasped person by arm, turned round, told silly, stupid, rude - in front of friends.
- \* informed people at Mass that Archbishop had given permission for Church. Again later, in front of Blessed SACrament.
- \* no proper Catholic education if friction between staff and priest; etc.
- \* invites first reconciliation in house; threatens. etc.
- \* called Mr. rather than Fr.
- \* critising people in front of others.
- \* hold hands and kneel between knees of priest for confession; tell young child she is overweight or chubby; ask child if looks at herself in mirror.
- \* feel anger at homilies.
- \* forcing children to serve Mass.
- \* attempted dialogue.

26th October, 1986.