

Peter Robinson

PETER ROBINSON M  
 REDACTED

DOVETON 3177

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13-10-86

Dear Sir.

This letter expresses my feelings about the state of affairs in the Holy Family DOVETON parish. And I know that after reading this letter you will form the same conclusions as myself, and it will be quite clear to you as to what action I feel should be taken.

Some three years ago Father Peter Learson was appointed the new parish priest, and during that time, there are some of the serious and very significant events that have taken place.

POINT 1

The number of young people in the parish, who once attended mass regularly, and quite frequently took part in it, has dropped alarmingly, as a result in a lot of cases, from our priest's attitude towards them. This should be of ~~major~~ <sup>major</sup> concern to the Catholic church, because if the youth aren't nurtured, and encouraged in their faith at this stage of their lives, they will never show any interest in attending masses as they grow up. They are the future of the church. Good for thought I think.

POINT 2

In the vicinity of 40 ex-parishioners now attend other parishes, some of whom were founding, long standing members of the parish. Two or three of these people were involved in the parish very actively, at the management level. I understand that most of these people, would love to return to the parish, but can't bring themselves to, whilst our current parish priest holds office.

POINT 3

I believe also that there are some ex-parishioners who don't even practice their faith at all, and definitely some people PT.

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to question their faith, my own wife and the, about to depart, school principal, both of whom I have spoken to at some length about it. This has all come about as a result of careless and thoughtless comments made by our parish priest, and this is the end result.

The most recent tragedy (as I see it) has been the resignation of the school principal, a man thought a lot of by a large number of the involved parents and the entire staff as well, not to mention the children themselves, who love him and with whom he has a very special rapport. I have found GRAEME SIEGAN to be a wonderful principal, totally dedicated to giving his school children the best education he can give, with his enthusiasm, his time and his "learning should be fun as well as serious" policy. He also has built up a very dedicated and loyal staff around him.

He resigned before his contracted time was up, and he had every intention of continuing on for another 2-3 years to complete what he set out to do. He loves his school and affectionately calls it the "BEST SCHOOL IN AUSTRALIA".

His leaving has saddened and angered a lot of people as his reasons are related to the PARISH PRIEST.

He could no longer continue on, whilst FATHER PETER SEARSON was the parish priest. I do not know his exact (DARWIN) reasons for leaving, but I am aware of the difficulties, and perhaps he has experienced during his time with our parish priest.

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I would like to say that I do not dislike FATHER SEARSON, and I committed myself to support him when he first arrived, and I believe I have done so on a Christ level and I think he would agree. I have chosen not to listen to some <sup>OF THE</sup> rumors and allegations made against him, especially in his earlier days, and it really disappoints me to think that I have had to write this letter now expressing my concern over these events that have taken place.

I don't think that FATHER SEARSON'S religious callings are suited to the running of this parish, both out of a genuine concern for himself, and the people of this parish.

I remain yours truthfully  
Peter Robinson