



## ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

3 LYONS STREET STH., BALLARAT. 3350.

Telephone: 31 2933.

To Whom It May Concern,

Reference re Rev. Gerald Ridsdale.

I have known Gerry Ridsdale for many years, since before my own ordination to the priesthood twentyfour years ago. He is a very talented man, his talent restricted, however, by what I have observed to be rather severe bouts of depression and self-doubt.

One of Gerry's outstanding qualities which I have observed and admired is his real compassion for the poor and for those in any sort of need. In parish life he was to be found with them, assisting them with material help, counselling and moral support. In his private life he has exhibited a commitment to poverty.

Gerry is a good communicator. I often admired his ability to teach people yet this was also done at some personal cost since both before and during his talks or lessons he would be a 'bundle of nerves'.

I regard Gerry as a man of prayer and his necessary removal from parish life has, for this and the above reasons, meant that the diocese has been deprived of someone who, in other circumstances, might have contributed a great deal to its life and wellbeing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Adrian McInerney'.

Rev. Adrian McInerney  
Administrator.