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ST. MARY'S PRESBYTERY
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29. 3. 1993

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

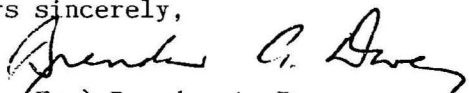
I have known Gerald Ridsdale for almost fifty years. we were at school together at St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, during the 1940s, although Gerald was a few years ahead of me. He left school and went to work for the firm of Cook and Foley, Accountants, and is still remembered there as a man of integrity.

After working for some time, he came back to St. Patrick's with the intention of studying for the priesthood. We both entered Corpus Christi College, Werribee on the same day, March 1st. 1954. During his time at Corpus Christi, Gerald was always held in high esteem by both staff and students. He was very talented, and it came as no surprise when he was selected by the Bishop of Ballarat to go overseas to study in Italy, and later in Ireland. At the end of his studies, he returned to Australia, and we were ordained together in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, on July 23rd. 1961.

On two occasions since our ordination, Gerald and I have been stationed together in the same parishes - Ballarat, in the mid 1960s and Warrnambool in 1970. I have always found Gerald to be a most dedicated priest, willing to work well beyond the call of duty. He has great talents in the fields of teaching, liturgy and administration and he put these talents to the service of the communities in which he served. Unfortunately, he lacks the ability to say No to people and this has often brought him to the point of nervous exhaustion. Nothing is a trouble to him and people can often be very demanding in their needs and Gerald feels obliged to attend to their demands.

I can only conclude by saying once again, that I have always found Gerald to be a most dedicated priest, totally committed to his vocation, and most caring to all who call upon him in time of need.

Yours sincerely,



(Rev. Fr.) Brendan A. Davey,
Parish Priest, Ararat.