
 DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



DIOCESAN CURIA

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10 September 2008

His Eminence
 Cardinal William J Levada
 Prefect
 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
 Piazza del S Ufficio-II,
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Your Eminence

The accompanying documentation relates to Rev John Gerard Nestor, a priest of the Diocese of Wollongong.

The documentation details allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct that have been brought against Fr Nestor. They involve a number of boys under the age of eighteen (18) years and allegedly occurred over the years 1989 to 1994. The Diocese became aware of these allegations between 1996 and 2004. One of these allegations became the subject of a hearing in the Wollongong Local Court and of an appeal in the New South Wales [NSW] District Court.

The Diocese has been obliged under the *NSW Ombudsman Act 1974* to have these allegations investigated thoroughly. The investigation was carried out by *Kamira Stacey Consulting* and was monitored by the Office of the Ombudsman from its commencement to its completion. The investigation has taken longer than anticipated due to the difficulty in locating and contacting the complainants some fifteen or more years after the alleged incidents had occurred. The investigation is documented fully in Volumes 2, 3 and 4.

Volume 1 contains my votum, personal details about Fr Nestor and a summary of the allegations and/or concerns. It also outlines previous communication between the Diocese and Fr Nestor with the Holy See and with other Bishops. I have also included media clippings as the court case in 1996, appeal and subsequent developments attracted considerable media coverage.

It is significant that the information about Fr Nestor's alleged behaviour came from different sources, including children who attended the camps, concerned parents and a camp leader/supervisor, and at different times over a period of years. There is no evidence to suggest that any of these sources colluded. The information provided about Fr Nestor's conduct by one or more persons was in some cases unknowingly

corroborated by other persons. I note, too, that some of this information was provided in 1993, well before 1 May 1996 when Fr Nestor was charged and the matter was brought into the public arena.

While Fr Nestor has consistently maintained his innocence, he has failed to cooperate with the legitimate requests of Archbishop Philip Wilson, my predecessor, and myself on a number of occasions and in relation to serious matters, as we have sought to bring the matter to resolution.

I now request your guidance in determining the appropriate action to be taken. I am grateful for your willingness to assist. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you require any further information.

With sentiments of esteem

Yours sincerely

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Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG