

## DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



DIOCESAN CURIA

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PWI:mh/815005

19 December 2006

Rev J G Nestor

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

REDACTED

Dear Fr John

It has been brought to my attention that you have celebrated Mass in an aged care facility serviced by Fr Robert Flaherty of Clenton Park, on several occasions in recent months. I understand that Fr Flaherty was on leave at the time.

You must realise that such actions are a grave violation of the Decree issued on 7 August 1998 by the then Bishop of Wollongong, Most Rev Philip Wilson. This Decree, a copy of which is attached, specifically restricts you "*from celebrating the liturgy publicly*". It "*applies to all places within and without the diocese and will continue until it is abrogated by decree of the diocesan bishop of Wollongong*".

In addition, you are well aware that the Decree has never been abrogated by Bishop Wilson or by me. On the contrary, you know that because of this Decree, I have consistently refused to recommend you for ministry when approached by Bishops from overseas.

Equally, you are well aware from my letter of 31 October 2006, a copy of which is attached, that your situation is currently the subject of a proceeding under the NSW *Ombudsman Act 1974*. The Office of the Ombudsman is of the understanding that you have been stood aside from ministry until the situation is resolved.

In conclusion, I must stress that the Decree of Bishop Wilson of 7 August 1998 remains in place. Should the need arise, you may apply in writing for a dispensation from the Decree. Such a dispensation would be given for a particular occasion and for a grave reason only.

I ask, John, that you strictly adhere to the requirements of the Decree of 7 August 1998 until such time as it is abrogated by a decree of the Diocesan Bishop of Wollongong.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Peter W. Ingham DD  
 BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

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