

Diocese of Wollongong

Level 3 Catholic Church Offices
86-88 Market Street, Wollongong

Phone (042) 24 7965 Fax (042) 24 7977
PO Box 1239 Wollongong SCMC NSW 2521

Now that the judicial trial involving Fr John Nestor, in which he was cleared of charges, has come to an end, I wish to make a statement.

We face a situation here which requires prayer, reflection and the application of principles which apply in such circumstances. My responsibility is to ensure that the truth is upheld and that everyone is treated with justice, charity and respect. I have the responsibility to apply these principles to all who are involved in these matters. I must also do all I can to promote the wellbeing and unity of the entire Catholic community.

An assessment process will soon begin and Fr Nestor will remain on administrative leave until this process is complete. The assessment will focus on the question of Fr Nestor's suitability for a future appointment –whether in a parish or otherwise, and whether in the Diocese of Wollongong or elsewhere. This process will proceed in such a way that the personal integrity of Fr Nestor and others will be respected.

I ask all to help us in this process with their prayers and goodwill.

+ Philip Wilson .

Most Rev P Wilson DD JCL
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

7 November 1997