

Diocese of Wollongong

Level 3 Catholic Church Offices
86-88 Market Street, Wollongong
PO Box 1239 Wollongong SCMC NSW 2521

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FATHER NESTOR

Bishop Philip Wilson has requested Father John Nestor remain on leave without pastoral duties until such time as an assessment of his position is complete.

A spokesperson for the Diocese of Wollongong said it is recognised some members of the community may be critical of this move, however, Bishop Wilson is simply carrying out Church protocol.

The same principals apply to this case as they would to any other involving similar circumstances. It is the correct and proper procedure following the completion of the process of criminal law.

It must be understood that this assessment could not have been conducted prior to the finalisation of the court process, so as not to interfere with the proceedings.

Bishop Wilson said due consideration will be given to all facts in this matter during an assessment of Father Nestor's position as a priest in the diocese.

Bishop Wilson carries the responsibility of ensuring an even-handed approach is adopted. He must ensure the best interests of the whole community are taken into consideration.

"I recognise the need to operate in such a way that the rights of everyone is protected, that people's personal integrity is maintained," said Bishop Wilson.

"My responsibility is to the family involved in the case against Father Nestor, Father Nestor and the whole community. This is not an easy task as Bishop, however, I will do my utmost to be fair and just," said Bishop Wilson.

Bishop Wilson will endeavour to personally call on those most closely involved in this case as soon as possible.

Contact: Lisa Price 015 210011