

29 November 1993

Father Paul David Ryan
C/ Father R Pickering

REDACTED

KENT CT9 3BW
ENGLAND
UK

Dear Paul David,

I trust that this letter will reach you care of Father Ron Pickering. I have no means of knowing your exact whereabouts since your departure from Australia without any reference to or even informing of the Diocesan authorities.

I am aware that, in my absence, Father Brian Finnigan asked that you meet with the Special Issues Committee of the Diocese in the light of some problems which had been brought to the attention of that Committee. I am also aware that you declined the request to meet with that Committee.

In the light of your moving to England without any authorization from the Diocese, I have to advise that the Diocese is unwilling to continue to take responsibility for your upkeep and that financial payments into your account will cease from today. Nor, of course, will the Diocese accept responsibility for any accounts in your name. I also advise that your nomination by the Diocese to be authorized as a Marriage Celebrant has now been withdrawn.

As you are aware, I withdrew from you the faculties of the Diocese and gave permission only to celebrate Mass privately in a manner which did not give rise to any belief that you might have any public ministry. The faculty to celebrate Mass privately is hereby withdrawn from the date of your reception of this letter. Your status so far as the Diocese is concerned will of course be communicated to any bishop who might enquire regarding your position.

It really does sadden me to have to take these measures, but I do feel that it is necessary for me to establish quite clearly with you the fact that there is a real need for you to face up to the reality of your situation and to come to some decisions regarding your future. I have to say that I cannot see at this stage that your future could be lived in priestly ministry, but I do hope that you will be able to come to some decisions so that you will be able to live happily and peacefully in whatever circumstances are in your own best interests and in the best interests of the Church. You will be aware that the particular difficulties which are being faced by this Diocese at the present time demand that I take the measures which I have outlined above. Be assured of my continuing prayers for your well-being.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat