

20 January 1994

Father R D Pickering

REDACTED

MARGATE KENT CT9QU
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Ron,

I write to acknowledge your letter of January 1st relating to Paul David. Subsequent to your writing but before my receipt of your letter you received a telephone enquiry as to whether Paul David was still with you. I had written a letter to him and wished to know whether he would in fact receive it at your address. As it happened, I held it for his return.

Paul David did call to see me yesterday and I was glad that we were able to resume contact.

Without wishing to score points, I should point out that I returned to Australia from Rome on October 19th last. It would not have been difficult for Paul David to have made contact with me and, apart from that, he had been asked to meet with members of a Committee which I have had to establish to assist and advise me in relation to certain difficulties which might be raised concerning our priests. One of the objects of the meeting with members of that Committee was to discuss the precise question as to what would be an appropriate living arrangement for Paul David. In the meantime, Father Brian Finnigan had enquired of his Warrnambool friends as to whether his presence there was an imposition on them and they assured him that they were pleased to have Paul David and did not wish any compensation for their hospitality. You are probably aware that Paul David took a unilateral decision to return from America after assessment at the St. Luke Institute at the end of May last year. Whilst he may have told Brian Finnigan of his intention to go to England, he certainly did not ask for or receive his approval. On the contrary, Brian urged him to see the members of the Committee as he had been asked to do and to see me.

Whatever about these past events, the important thing is to see where we go from here. I think that Paul David has now come to the situation where he knows that he has to make some decisions about his future direction. He is going to meet with people who will be happy to discuss these issues with him and I hope that some decisions can be made for the long term. In the meantime, I do appreciate your own concern for his well being and the support which you have been for him through an emotionally difficult time.

I trust that you are settling back into life in England well and that you do find a satisfactory alternative property which will give you the environment for which you are hoping.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat