



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

Bishop's Office



09 February 1999

His Honour
The District Court
Rockhampton

Your Honour

I have known Father Reginald Durham over a period of forty-five years; for the past seven years, I have had close contact as Bishop of the Diocese where he has been a priest for fifty-seven. I am aware that he is pleading guilty to several serious charges of which he has been accused.

Fr Reg Durham, as a man and a priest has had a profoundly beneficial effect of many thousands of people. He has ministered effectively as a priest to Catholic people throughout the vast Diocese of Rockhampton, from the remote west to the coastal regions. He was accepted in all Christian communities and in many ways, pioneered the search for acceptance and unity among peoples of all faiths. Besides spiritual gifts, he has used his talents of music and sport, to enrich the lives of many people, reaching out through his lively personality, boundless energy and unlimited generosity.

He was a fine Chaplain to the Armed Forces and never tired of supporting service personnel wherever he was asked to go. He had a unique gift with youth, especially in the promotion of sports among them. He was ever involved in the local community and was recognised as a very responsible citizen. He fulfilled roles in Show Societies throughout his life, as President or Vice president, Patron, Ring Official and in whatever capacity he was needed. In more recent years, he spent much time each week playing the piano and singing for groups of senior citizens around Rockhampton.

Fr Reg Durham, at age eighty-two has had a unique life as citizen of this district, Priest to many parish communities, Chaplain to service personnel and inspiring friend to young and old alike. I ask that the incredible amount of good he has done will be weighed against the failing that have also been part of his life.

Yours sincerely

Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton