

2.

does Reg afford a barrister for that length of time in Court. Is the Church paying for his defence? You did tell me that you had never spoken to the barrister, so I want to believe you haven't employed Brian Harrison without speaking to him. If Reg has legal aid, I object to my taxes going towards defending someone as himself. You may think this sounds cruel but that's how I feel. In a way it would be best for him to die before the trial as it would save so much pain & trauma for all concerned. I could live with this but I know many couldn't. it honestly doesn't worry me one way or the other but

REDACTED

17 February '98

Dear Bishop Brian,

I hope you are well & coping with the problems of the Diocese.

I am delighted you are in the process of writing an apology to the people of Neerkol. I have always given them positive statements of yourself & I am so glad you haven't let me down.

Sadly this horrid business goes on & on. The police have told me it could be another 4-6 months before we even get a date for trial as the Barrister wants a 5-6 week block.

Can you tell me how

4

he was very curt & turned his face from me. I persisted but was deeply hurt by his reaction. It was very obvious he saw me as one who has ratted on the Church & one to ignore & turn away from. I really had great empathy for RED & Reg as I imagine this is how most of the clergy treat them. I wrote to Arch. Rush & told him how I felt & I also sent him a copy of the latest Inform by Geoffrey Robinson. I know I won't get a reply but I can live with that. It just saddened me very much that someone I had known for 35 years just didn't want to acknowledge my presence. He hasn't lost it as he called REDACT's

3

I know the media will have a field day.

Also, I do wonder if anyone is supporting Reg. I don't mean financially, but emotionally & spiritually. I know he like REDACTE has brought disgrace on the Church but "once a priest always a priest". I know REI has had very little support from his clergy brothers & they have shown that he is dirt & not worth knowing. This is common knowledge although I don't have contact with REI myself.

Two weeks ago at a funeral in Coolangatta (REDACTED 's) Archbishop Rush did not want to know me. When I tried to speak to him

6

Belief in God but many of the teachings of the Church leave me for dead. If I was to die feeling like this God alone knows where my soul would go. I hope he will understand my pain & grief.

Hopefully, I am doing good work in supporting Mary Eather, AYE and AYP
REDACTED They phone me quite often & I hope I can be Christ to them. The pain & suffering of my parents & sisters continue to overwhelm me. At times I feel as if I am sinking in their anger & resentment. Probably, it would have been best for them to go to their grave without knowing but I couldn't have lived with myself knowing I didn't support

5

children by name & said the prayers without a book.

I guess it is only natural that I get upset as I see you trying to go forward & Arch. Bathersby & Rush rigid in their thinking. Ron has been supportive & has assured me that they aren't worth my tears.

Just recently I was at Sacred Heart Church Clear Is. Waters for a Christening (4 boys) & I burst into tears on REDACTED's shoulders. He was quite overcome himself when I told him the reason for my tears. The grief was so real – I used to believe in all this so much. Now, sadly, I just feel anger & a sense of not belonging

Yes I still pray & have a great

8

group can be formed to take some of the burden off Mary. Karyn Walsh has suggested she go in with Project Ester but I have some misgivings about that.

I am glad you have agreed to see Mary. She has so many pieces of a jig saw puzzel & really needs to find a solution.

Thank you for listening. I was going to phone you but a stamp is cheaper. Thanks also for Margie Newton who did a wonderful job & now for JO. There are times when a chat helps so much. I don't like burdening Ron as he has no one to unburden to. God bless you & guide you.

Sincerely

AYB

7

the others. With your pastoral letter & Berniece's Statements I believe I had to go forward & I don't regret doing so. I know I have told the whole truth & I believe what the others have said is also truth. Maybe, you might consider writing an apology to my parents, REDA, RED & REI Who knows, it might help. It just saddens me to see Mum and Dad so angry at God. Mum is fading away & not coping with Dad at all. Hopefully there will be an end to their suffering soon.

Mary Eather is doing a great job with her work as support person, but it is very hard on her family. Hopefully a bigger support