

COPY

14 May 1996

Dear Dave,

I enclose the printed material you allowed me to see during my recent visit. While I have yet to read it all (I copied your material for my own use) I am distressed that you have suffered so much at the hands of the Church.

The behaviour of Fr Anderson and the Sisters is contrary to everything the Church stands for. I know an apology will not change the past, but I am absolutely ashamed that such behaviour was perpetrated against yourself and others by Church personnel. As a Bishop of the Church I declare that there was no excuse for such brutal treatment and I am deeply sorry that it took place.

It was a privilege to have met you Dave. Despite all that has happened to you, you still have a great sense of humour and a wonderful warmth and compassion. Even though you found it painful to speak of your experiences with me, your ability to introduce a little poetry and with a twinkle in the eye to make light of some incidents, was most stimulating.

Thank you for inviting me to share your story. When I left you I felt both humbled and ashamed: humbled to have encountered such a good man and ashamed that he had been so cruelly treated.

Please phone my office anytime you think you would like to speak with me. I will return your call as soon as I can.

With best wishes.

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Most Reverend M Malone  
**Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

+MM/ml