

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr A.W.LeP. Darvall
Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

From: Reverend B.J.Fleming

Re: Father Ronald Dennis PICKERING

The RED file contains the papers which I sorted out as being possibly significant.

Note in the Red file two papers in particular:-

- 1) Pickering's letter of 12 February, 1988, where he mentions an accusation of "being surrounded by an aroma of homo-sexuality";
- 2) The letter of 16th February, 1966, from the Vicar General (Monsignor Leo Clarke) appointing Fr Pickering as Chaplain to St Mary's (Boys) School, St Kilda - this is almost the last page in this Red file.

The OTHER file is fuller and contains all the remaining material which we have on Pickering. You may be interested in the correspondence in this file concerning Michael POPE - it is dated March, 1982.

I note that Maurice Blackburn's letter of 16/12/93 to Brother Noonan states that ^{BTU} was a student at CBC, St Kilda, in 1966 and that the sexual assaults on him by Pickering commenced in 1966 and continued until 1975. Maurice Blackburn's letter of 23/12/93 to Archbishop Little says that ^{BTU} was sexually assaulted by Pickering whilst their client was a parishioner of St Mary's parish, St Kilda, between 1966 and 1975. I do not understand the comment in Dunhill Madden Butler's letter to me of 25/3/94: "...given..the fact that, if we accept the allegations made by the claimant, there was a consensual relationship between Fr Pickering and the claimant until the claimant reached the age of 21 years.."

Some dates: born 2nd July 1929
ordained priest 29th June 1957
Essendon, assistant priest 9/5/58 until 28/1/66
East St Kilda, assistant, 29/1/66 until 31/1/69
Warburton, P.P., 1/2/69 until 26/5/72
Clayton, P.P., 27/5/72 until 20/1/78
Gardenvale, P.P., 21/1/78 until 26/3/93
Gardenvale, Administrator, 26/3/93 until 31/5/93

14th April, 1994

B.J. Fleming