

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

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10 February, 1995

Attention Mr Paul Gamble

Dunhill Madden Butler,
Solicitors & Notaries,
G.P.O. Box 4592,
MELBOURNE. Vic. 3001.

Your Ref: PDG:DJ

Dear Sirs,

REVEREND R.PICKERING & BTU

In reply to your letter of 3rd February, 1995, in reference to the above action, I thank you for the attached copies of letters of 3rd February, 1994, and 18th January, 1995, from the Claimants's solicitors.

On 16th May, 1994, after reviewing our entire file on Fr Pickering, you wrote that, despite your attempts (and, of course, our own) to have him interviewed in England, there seemed little prospect of obtaining a formal statement from him. I would add that this situation has not changed and we remain unable to assist in arranging an interview: he will, I believe, always use the ready excuse that he has no full indemnity from C.C.I.

You ask about Maurice Blackburn & Co's "information" that Fr Pickering may have been "involved" on some other "occasion". The meaning of their provocatively ambiguous remark I will not attempt to unravel. You share with us, however, from your reading of our file, the knowledge that there is no record or evidence of any complaint to the Archbishop or his office about sexual activity of any kind against Fr Pickering prior to Maurice Blackburn & Co's letter of 23rd December, 1993, to the Archbishop.

Incidentally, Archbishop Little did not assume the duties of his office and responsibility for the Archdiocese of Melbourne until 17th August, 1974. You will further recall that Fr Pickering's time at Warburton ended when he became parish priest of Clayton on 27th May, 1972.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Reverend B.J.Fleming
PERSONAL ASSISTANT