

Rt. Rev. JOHN JUKES, OFM Conv. - Bishop of Strathearn and Auxiliary in Southwark

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CONFIDENTIAL

24th January, 1994

PLEASE QUOTE: G.42

The Most Reverend F. Little,
Archbishop of Melbourne,
St. Patrick's Cathedral,
Melbourne,
Vic. 3002,
Australia

Your Grace,

I enclose a copy of a memorandum on a telephone call I had with Father Ronald Pickering on the 20th January. He caught me on the telephone at a moment when I was just about to do something rather urgent but nonetheless I felt it best to just listen to him as he overwhelmed me with expressions of loyalty, love and being his dear bishop!

As far as I am concerned here as he has given me assurances on the telephone about not exercising his ministry in the area and I shall be talking to the Deans of Kent anyway about the whole matter I would not propose to take any action unless Father Pickering himself asks my assistance.

As far as Father Ryan is concerned from the Ballarat Diocese about whom I assume you have been informed but in case you haven't I enclose a copy of a letter sent to our General Secretariat, again I think I have no action to take since he doesn't seem to be in my part of the world.

Father Pickering doesn't realise, however, that I may very well bang on his door when I am in Thanet because I do go around visiting all my priests and a lot of lay people and it might be appropriate that I should look at the establishment he has and see what it is like but this must be left to my diary and some future opportunity.

Thank you for your very nice letter we shall have to wait and see whether any progress can be made. What a nuisance some of our poor priests are in not living up to their potential for serving the Lord.

I am, devotedly yours in Christ,

+ John

Bishop John Jukes OFM Conv
Bishop of Strathearn

Enc.