



L. R. Pickering

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Melbourne Vic 3002

4th January 1994

Reverend R.D. Pickering
C/- Mrs Muriel Arnott

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MARGATE, KENT
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Father Pickering,

I have received from several sources allegations of serious sexual misconduct by you. Such misconduct is criminal behaviour in the State of Victoria.

Regretfully, I have decided that for the good of the Church it is best that you do not function as a priest at any time within the Archdiocese of Melbourne, unless and until such allegations are satisfactorily dismissed.

Specifically, your faculty to preach within the Archdiocese of Melbourne is removed (can. 764), as is your faculty to hear confessions (can. 974 §1). Moreover, should you hold an habitual faculty from any other local ordinary to hear confessions, you may not exercise that faculty within the Archdiocese of Melbourne (can. 967 §2). Within this Archdiocese, you may celebrate Mass only privately in circumstances which could not lead anyone to conclude that you have the faculties of the Archdiocese of Melbourne; and you may not administer the other sacraments, give spiritual direction, or teach or lecture in any of the sacred sciences. Your delegation to assist at marriages within the Archdiocese of Melbourne is withdrawn (can. 1111), and I have directed that the Registrar of Marriages be notified that you are no longer presented by the Archbishop of Melbourne as a celebrant of marriages.

Consequently, you are to advise any clergy of this Archdiocese who may request supply assistance that you are not available for any priestly ministry.

I trust that you will accept this decision, and so avoid the publicity associated with an enquiry to impose the censure of

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suspension. Should you ignore any of my requirements, I shall have no alternative than to commence the process to impose the censure of suspension.

With cordial greetings and every good wish, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'E' or 'F' with a long horizontal stroke.

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE