

F. R. PICKERING

S. JAMES' CATHOLIC RECTORY

The Most Reverend T.F. Little, S.T.D., K.B.E.,
 Archbishop of Melbourne,
 P.O. Box 146,
 EAST MELBOURNE, Victoria, 3002.

2nd day of April, 1993.

My dear Lord Archbishop,

It was with mild relief and, you will understand, alloyed satisfaction that I received your kind letter of 26th of March accepting reluctantly my resignation as parish priest of S. James', Gardenvale as from the date of your letter. Your gracious appointment of me as administrator of this same parish 'pro tempore, usque ad 30a Junii 1993, aut quandocumque' is much appreciated.

The same letter of yours will be filed by the Notary, surely. By way of respectful correction for veracity of the diocesan records I remind you, Your Grace, that you appointed me as incumbent of Gardenvale on the 22nd of January, 1978. I have, therefore, been pastor of this benefice for fifteen years and several months.

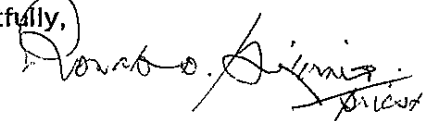
In the final paragraph of your letter you state that you will be pleased to take my request for appointment as Pastor Emeritus to the next meeting of your Personnel Advisory Board. You go on to point out, Your Grace, a difficulty arising from Doctor Tiernan's remark in his letter that I should be relieved of parish commitment to concentrate on my priestly duty. I can only suppose that the good Doctor had in mind my stated purpose, in retirement in Hobart, to be of service from time to time as requested and whenever able as a supply in that Archdiocese, supposing the approval and faculties of your brother Bishop there.

As you asked, I will send a 'profile' of the Gardenvale parish to your Vicar General in time for inclusion with his letter 'ad clerum', for April 1993.

'In fine', I am most grateful to you and to the Master for relief from all my conscientious ministry to what would seem to be the penumbra of the historic Catholic Church, once so full of transmissions of universality, sublime and transporting forms of worship in the language of the Church and a long history of patronage of the arts and preservation of the inheritance of the same. I am both sick and tired from the conveyed impression that the Church here has become opaque.

With cordial good wishes and fond esteem.

Yours respectfully,



Ronald D. Pickering.
 Administrator.