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29 November 1993

Monsignor Philip Carroll  
The Secretary  
Bishops' Conference of England & Wales  
General Secretariat  
39 Eccleston Square  
LONDON SW1V 1PD  
ENGLAND UK

Dear Monsignor Carroll,

Whilst it saddens me to have to do so, I write to you with regard to the status of a priest of the Diocese of Ballarat. Father Paul David Ryan is a priest of this Diocese who was asked to meet with a Committee which has been established to investigate any suggestions of inappropriate behaviour on the part of clergy. He was also asked by me to undergo a particular course of therapy. He declined both of these requests and, without any authorization from me or from any Diocesan authority, he left Australia and I understand that he has travelled to England. Prior to his leaving, I advised him that I had withdrawn his faculties to celebrate Mass publicly, to preach or to hear confessions and advised him that he might celebrate the Eucharist privately but only in circumstances which would not give rise to any belief that he held any ecclesiastical position. I have now written to him to advise him that even this faculty is now withdrawn. He has also been removed from the list of Marriage Celebrants.

My reason for writing this letter is simply to advise you of the status of Father Paul David Ryan and to ask whether it might be possible for you to advise the Bishops of your Conference of the fact that Father Paul David is not in good standing in his own Diocese in case he might make some approach to one of the Bishops. I have written to him care of a priest friend of his who is living in Kent, but I am not sure at this stage of his exact whereabouts. But if he does make contact with any Bishop, then it will be important that such a Bishop be aware of the fact that he is not in good standing in his own Diocese. \*

As I say, I am unhappy to have to write in this manner, but I will be very grateful for your cooperation.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat

31/4/99.