

Rev. R. Pickering

26th March, 1993.

Reverend Ronald Pickering PP
St James' Catholic Rectory
P O Box 272
ELSTERNWICK VIC 3185

Dear Father Pickering,

With the same mail which brought to my attention your letter of 18th March, 1993, I also received a personal and confidential letter, dated 20th March, 1993, from Dr. Philip J. Tiernan, recommending that your request to resign as Parish Priest of St. James', Gardenvale.

I must say that the letter came as a surprise to me. You have given your heart and soul to the pastoral care of the parish of Gardenvale for some thirteen years now. The people there know you, respect you, and marvel at the ways in which with brilliant vocabulary and imaginative description you have shared with them your faith.

Of course, my own memories take me back to our much loved Rector, Monsignor Felix Cenci, telling me of this English student for the Archdiocese of Melbourne who would be accepted at Propaganda College in October, 1953. It was a joy to meet up with you in London and share a meal in Piccadilly. I have therefore always felt a special brotherly affection and concern over the years.

I share with you your regret that you have been unable to give the people of Gardenvale that pastoral service which you believe they should receive. Your own doctor recognises the medical hazard that the continuance of your appointment would engender.

I believe that it is in your own best interests to receive a reply in such definitive terms which can set you at rest regarding the future. Reluctantly therefore I accept your resignation as Parish Priest of the Parish of St. James', Gardenvale, from this date. At the same time I appoint you Administrator of that same parish with a view to your relinquishing this appointment on or about the 30th June, 1993, a date which we can clarify at a later time.

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Reverend R Pickering PP
GARDENVALE

To ensure that the people of your parish will receive the best available pastoral care following your departure from the parish, kindly provide to the Vicar General prior to mid-April, details of the parish profile; that would ensure that the profile was received by the priests in the April mailing. Thanking you for your anticipated kind attention to this matter.

I shall be pleased to take your request for appointment as Pastor Emeritus to the next meeting of the Personnel Advisory Board. I am faced with a difficulty which you could help me to allay given that Doctor Tiernan indicated in his letter that you are a person of great talent and so should concentrate on your priestly duty and be relieved of parish commitment.

With cordial greetings and best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,



ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



NOTARY