

A- Pickering
F. R. V.
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17th September, 1982.

Reverend R. D. Pickering, P.P.,,
St. James' Presbytery,
73 North Road,
GARDENVALE. Vic.

Dear Father Ronald,

Your personal and confidential letter of the 16th August, 1982, was awaiting me on my return from a most fascinating mission visit to Japan and the Philippines.

It was my turn to be deeply moved. Thank you very much indeed for your kind and thoughtful words. You have a remarkable talent to express thoughts in a way that creates empathetic echoes in the souls of those who hear you or receive letters from you.

I would gather from your own letter that the first Mass of Father John Walshe in his home parish went splendidly. He would be in a position to take advantage of a range of resource people who have been attracted to your special style of liturgical presentation.

I often think back over the meal that we enjoyed together in London as I advised you that you had won the jackpot and had been accepted as a student at Propaganda College. Such memories create links which are never forgotten.

And to think that you can now speak of celebrating your Silver Jubilee! Please accept my warmest congratulations. You have made an invaluable contribution to this particular Church of Melbourne over those years. I would have been especially pleased to celebrate that occasion with you personally but am pleased to do so by commending you and your Priesthood to the Lord whom we seek to serve faithfully and generously.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,
I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE