

22 May 1997

Reverend W J Baker PP
Catholic Presbytery
23 Clifton Street
RICHMOND VIC 3121

Dear Father Baker,

Yesterday at 12.30pm I received a letter from the Independent Commissioner, Mr Peter O'Callaghan QC, outlining a number of allegations against you and recommending you be placed on administrative leave.

The import of this letter is to inform you that you have now been placed on administrative leave. I hereby rescind all the faculties of the Archdiocese for this period of leave, including the faculty to hear confessions and the faculty to assist at marriages. I also remove your faculty to preach during this time.

You may celebrate Mass privately, but only in circumstances that could lead no one to presume that you have the faculties of the Archdiocese. Should you be asked to supply any priestly ministry, you are to state that you are unavailable for supply.

You may not reside in the North Richmond presbytery, nor indeed within the boundaries of the North Richmond parish. You are required to leave the parish before 12 noon tomorrow, Friday, May 23 1997.

I emphasise that these actions in no way signify that there has been a decision as to whether or not the allegations against you have been made out. I regret that circumstances require them, and pray that all these matters will be concluded in truth and justice.

Yours in Christ the Lord,



ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



NOTARY