

12.11.91 3pm



# Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Eltham

Presbytery: 439 9206

P.O. BOX 310, Eltham, 3095

School: 439 7824

6th November 1991

Most Rev. T. F. Little,  
 Archbishop of Melbourne,  
 Catholic Diocesan Centre,  
 P.O. Box 146,  
 EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3095.

Dear Bishop Frank,

Greetings in the Lord: may his Spirit continue to bless and guide you.

Please forgive me for now adding to your neverending list of concerns, but I feel that I must.

Frank, I wish to resign the Parish of Eltham, presumably in time for the January changes. When I say "I wish to", what I really mean is that I think I must. Frank, I'm done! It's as if I have run into a brick wall or something. I feel sick, and I feel tired, and I feel terribly inadequate. I go through the motions well enough, but the thought of work turns me off...I still try to do properly most of the stuff that's there to be done, but the joy has gone. Praying doesn't seem to help my feelings about things, although I believe firmly that the prayer of 'desperation' is deeply welcomed by the Lord.

I don't know what to do. Even reading what I have just written puts me off because it seems so full of self-pity, and that's not like me, or at least I like to think that it isn't.

I'm here thirteen and a half years now: the parish is a lot bigger, and I feel a lot older - or something.

If you are able to offer me some advice, or some relief or some kind of help, I would be very grateful.

Also, I think I am a very proud man, because I hate admitting like this to such a feeling of failure and helplessness; please God, it is just a passing thing, but at the moment it is very real. Perhaps there is a limit to "maximum effort", and in my case perhaps I've reached it.

Sorry about this, I don't know what else to do.

With very best wishes in spite of all the above!!

HENRY STREET, ELTHAM, 3095

8 NOV 1991