

Rev. W. Baker

23rd June, 1989.

Reverend W Baker PP
 Catholic Presbytery
 P O Box 310
 ELTHAM VIC 3095

Dear Father Baker,

What great news your letter of 12th June, 1989, provides. The very prospect of a substantial break from duties at a time which seems most opportune for you must absolutely thrill you and give you new heart. I rejoice with you in that prospect and in all that it will do for you and your parish as a result. Voices surface here and there to me indicating that your own generosity places you in the category of being overworked. The recent difficult times that you have known both through the trauma you knew with the changes in health of your parents and from the psychological demands on a person through the difficulties with building at Eltham would demand that an energetic priest such as you are would require a therapeutic break such as you have now planned. I congratulate you for doing so.

I am therefore pleased to give my approval to you to be absent from the Archdiocese through the dates you indicate in your letter. I am confident that it will be a marvellous experience for you and that the quality of service subsequently received in the parish will even excel, if possible, that rendered presently by you.

You make inquiry concerning finance. As I understand it, you rightfully receive income from the presbytery account for the entire period of your absence. The stipend for the supply may be taken from the Church Account for a month but from your own resources for the remaining period. The stipend to the supply is in addition to his maintenance in the presbytery, but the payment includes the cost of travelling expenses. I understand that this exposition follows the traditions of the Archdiocese in this regard as provided in the Priests' Remuneration Fund Annual Report 1987/88 last page.

Wishing you every blessing in this thrilling prospect for you, and with cordial greetings and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE