

Fr Searson,

4th July, 1977.

Reverend Father P. Searson, P.P.,  
Catholic Presbytery,  
51 Macedon Street,  
SUNBURY, VIC. 3429.

Dear Father Searson,

Your recent appointment as Pastor in the parish of Sunbury has necessitated my giving attention to the spiritual needs of the Catholic Blind Community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Arrangements have already been made for the various Catholic Institutions which cater for the visually handicapped to be visited on a regular basis by the local clergy. I anticipate that they will find time in their schedules to provide for the administration of the Sacraments and the celebration of Mass on a regular basis.

Because of your devoted attention to the pastoral care of the Blind over the past three years, I am confident that the training which you have given to your associates will facilitate the continuance of the other ancillary services which you developed. Indeed, I am gratified to know that a Committee, on which I will be represented by a priest of the Archdiocese, will do everything possible to maintain the standard which you established.

I make mention of this arrangement for I am conscious that the heavy demands of the pastoral care and administration of the parish of Sunbury will call for your undivided interest and attention. Your appointment to Sunbury was understood by me as a full-time appointment replacing your previous full-time chaplaincy. We did discuss sometime ago the possibility of your maintaining a dual appointment. I am sorry if my letter of appointment did not make it clear to you that such a proposal was incompatible with the demands of the parish of Sunbury. If the dual appointment, which was thoroughly discussed with my Consultors, was considered feasible in these circumstances, it would have been explicitly mentioned in my letter of appointment.

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I renew to you my sincere thanks for all the good things you have done for the Blind community over the past years.

I am hearing some great reports about the pastoral initiatives you have already commenced.

With cordial greetings and every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE.