

Wilfred James ("Bill") BAKER, Catholic priest

Date of birth: 1 July 1936

The Catholic directories, published at the start of each year, give his parish appointments as follows:

1961: Ordained as a priest in the Melbourne diocese (aged 25 years).

1962-5: In the 1962 directory, Father Bill Baker was listed as an assistant priest at St Mary Magdalen's parish, Jordanville (he could also have been there in 1961). In 1962-4, he was under the supervision of the parish priest, Father J. Vincent Creed (in 1996 Father Creed is retired, living at Rosebud). In 1965 Baker was under the supervision of Father Michael Burke (in 1996 Father Burke is retired, living at Dandenong). By 1961 (possibly earlier), Baker had established the practice of taking altar boys (one at a time) on trips to visit Baker's parents at Maryborough, where he would stay overnight, sharing a bedroom with the boy (eg., REDA who lives in Phillip Island in 1996).

1966-7: Assistant priest at St Finbar's parish, East Brighton (corner of Centre Road and Nepean Highway). He was under the supervision of the parish priest, Father John Asche (now deceased). He continued to take boys to stay overnight at Maryborough (eg., REDA who lives on the Gold Coast in 1996).

1968-9: Assistant priest at St Brigid's parish, Mordialloc. He could also have been there 1970, but the 1970 directory is not available.

1971: Assistant priest at St Colman's, Balaclava. A witness named BTU (living in Queensland in 1996) remembers Baker at Balaclava in 1991.

1972, 1973: Hospital chaplain, living at the Sacred Heart presbytery, Carlton. (Priests do not seek a hospital chaplaincy; they have to be conscripted to it, usually as a means of quarantining problem priest.)

1974: Assistant priest at the Holy Family parish, Doveton (under Father O'Keefe, parish priest).

1975-78: In charge of the Good Shepherd parish, Gladstone Park (a new parish). In 1978 family named REDA told the church that Baker was sexually abusing their son BTO (aged about 12-13) but the church did not let this complaint get to the police. See separate sheet for possible witnesses re this. The church "solved" this complaint by transferring Baker to another parish, Eltham, on 17 June 1978.

1978-1992: In charge of the Eltham parish. This was a less dynamic parish than Gladstone and was therefore a demotion because of Baker's sexual abuse at Gladstone Park. Baker was only priest at Eltham (unlike Gladstone Park), so there was no other priest to at Eltham to ob his behaviour. Concerning Eltham, it would be possible for the police to contact Professor Richard Selleck (now retired?), of the Eltham parish, who could not bear Baker.

1993 till now: In charge of St James parish, 177 Somerset St, North Richmond, phone 9428. This is not an important parish and is a demotion for Baker. Baker, now an alcoholic, is being quarantined there pending his eventual retirement. He is the only priest at North Richmond is therefore unsupervised.