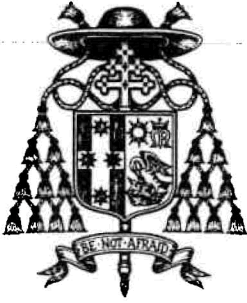


Polding House
276 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000



23rd December, 2002.

Dear Mr. Ellis,

I have been kept aware of your complaint against Father Duggan and the difficulties faced in bringing this matter to some kind of resolution. It is clear now that Father Duggan is in no state to respond to the charges against him and that the facts of the matter cannot be established. On the one hand, there is your allegation, and on the other Father Duggan cannot respond and we have no other record of complaints of this kind against him.

I understand you would like to have a meeting with Father Duggan and it has been suggested that this might be done in a formal way with one of my Assistant Bishops being present during the meeting. Given the state of Father Duggan's health, it is unclear that a formal meeting of this kind is necessary, and if you would like to proceed with this request you should approach the hospital authorities.

I regret that a clear resolution of this matter is not possible, but under the circumstances I do not see that there is anything the Archdiocese can do towards this end.

Yours sincerely,

+ George Pell

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

Mr. J.A. Ellis

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