

John Dalzell ext-6160

10/09/04 11:00

To: "Michael Casey" <mcasey@ado.syd.catholic.org.au>
cc: "Mgr Brian Rayner" <brayner@ado.syd.catholic.org.au>, Paul
McCann/Sydney/CORRS/AU@CCW, Anna
Ross/Sydney/CORRS/AU@CCW,
dcudmore@ado.syd.catholic.org.au
Subject: Strictly Private and Confidential 

Dear Michael,

We have received Fr Duggan's personal file that was kindly provided by Mgr Rayner.

I have reviewed the file this morning and note the following salient points:

- Fr Duggan was born in 1920. He was therefore aged between 55 and 66 years at the time of the alleged abuse of John Ellis.
- Fr Duggan was ordained in 1950. He lived in Scotland in 1942 and commenced work at Fort Augustus in 1843. His duties at Fort Augustus included teaching at Boarding and Preparatory schools.
- In 1974 Fr Duggan moved back to Sydney to join his brother, Fabian, ostensibly for a short period, *ad experimentum*'. Fr Duggan was offered and accepted pastoral work in the Archdiocese of Sydney, he elected not to return to Fort Augustus.
- For several years after his move back to Australia, the Abbot of Fort Augustus tried in vain to persuade both Aidan and Fabian Duggan to return to Scotland.
- Fr Duggan has been described within the correspondence from Sydney and Scotland as being talented, active and of carrying on exemplary priestly work
- There is no indication whatsoever that Fr Duggan moved from the UK to Australia for anything more sinister than homesickness

Mgr Rayner has helpfully included the contact addresses for the Abbey in New Norcia and the Abbey of Stanbrook (UK). At this stage, we do not propose to contact these institutions. The onus is on Ellis to prove his assertions against Fr Duggan, there is no onus for us to show the good character of the Reverend Father. If Ellis does provide any substantial evidence to back up his assertions that Fr Duggan had " a history of pre-existing violence [sic] towards other students" then we may have to make further inquiries.

Kind regards

John Dalzell