



## THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

The Reverend Adrian Sharp  
25 Vergulde Road  
REGENTS PARK QLD 4118

14 November 2013

Dear Father Adrian,

Francis Edward Derriman is a priest of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, born on 12 July 1938. He was ordained for the Archdiocese on 29 June 1963 and has remained incardinated here. On 16 October 1970, he attempted marriage and incurred a *latae sententiae* excommunication, the effect of which persists, as far as I am aware. The excommunication is one reserved to the Holy See. Shortly after the attempted marriage, he abandoned priestly ministry in the Archdiocese and took up residence in Victoria.

On 10 December 1998, he was convicted of two counts of indecent dealing with a girl under the age of sixteen years. The complainant was Joan Isaacs and the offences occurred in 1968. He served a term of imprisonment as a result of the two convictions ("Derriman's Queensland convictions").

Archbishop Bathersby wrote to him some time ago asking whether he wanted to commence a voluntary process which might result in him being released from the obligations of the clerical state. He did not respond to the Archbishop's letter.

A report has recently been prepared within the Archdiocese which summarises the factual circumstances around Derriman's Queensland conviction of the criminal offences and the subsequent events concerning his attempted marriage. The penalty for the delict of attempted marriage has already been incurred. I have no interest in that aspect of the matter.

I take the view that as Ordinary I have knowledge (which at least seems true) of a delict, namely the delict of child sexual abuse (under Canon 1395§2 of the Code) in respect of the matters for which Fr Derriman has been convicted under the Criminal Law of Queensland.

I am therefore appointing you by this letter to carry out a preliminary investigation under Canon 1717 of the Code of Canon Law. The scope of the preliminary investigation should be confined to the facts, circumstances and imputability in respect of the subject matter of Derriman's Queensland convictions. I would expect that in the spirit of Canon 1717§2 you would take care so that the good name of anyone is not endangered by your investigation.

Depending on your findings, I would consider (if appropriate) referring the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under the requirement of *Normae de gravioribus*. In my view, however, you should carry out the preliminary investigation under Canon 1717 on my behalf before I refer the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

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I have referred in this letter to a report of the factual circumstances. That report (which makes reference to various source documents within the possession of the Archdiocese) will be made available to you in an electronic format. With access to that document, I trust that you may be in a position to complete your preliminary investigation within a relatively short period.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Durkin', written in a cursive style.

Archbishop of Brisbane