



## *Regional Tribunal* *Catholic Province of Brisbane*

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The Most Rev. Mark Coleridge  
Archbishop of Brisbane  
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Your Grace,

In the matter of Francis Derriman, having reviewed particularly the Sentence of Judge McGuire dated 10 December 1998, I believe a preliminary investigation could in fact be dispensed as being superfluous, as the facts and circumstances of at least some of Mr Derriman's offences are both notorious and proven, beyond reasonable doubt, in the civil realm.

However, for the purposes of this preliminary investigation, I find that the facts show that the allegations made against Francis Derriman are credible, and moreover, that he has committed the delict named in canon 1395, § 2, a more grave delict reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and that this is gravely imputable to him.

Specifically, a jury has found Francis Derriman guilty of two counts of indecent dealing with a girl under the age of sixteen. The offences were committed in 1968 when the girl was a student aged fifteen at the Sacred Heart Convent School, Sandgate, Queensland. At the time of the offences Francis Derriman was aged about 30. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment for each count, to be served concurrently, and suspended after four months.

This case is slightly unusual, a fact also mentioned by Judge McGuire in his Sentence, due to the long passage of time between the offences committed and their prosecution. Judge McGuire states his satisfaction that Mr Derriman has made strenuous efforts to rehabilitate himself, and notes the testimonials that were tendered to the court on his behalf.

There is no question to be resolved about Francis Derriman's participation in ministry as he resigned from the priesthood in the 1970s and no longer presents himself as a Catholic priest.

All that remains is for him to be dismissed from the clerical state. I believe that the case could in fact be immediately concluded as an abandonment of ministry case, given that Archbishop Bathersby has already invited Mr Derriman to voluntarily petition for dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state, and he has made no reply. Given that the case involves a more grave delict, referral to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is advisable for the Congregation's direction as to how to conclude this matter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

**Father Adrian Sharp JCL**