

**St Mary's Presbytery**

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November 2, 1993

Dear Ann,

I was away in Melbourne for most of the past three weeks, except for the priests' day in Halls Gap. The rest of this week is already written off, and I shall be in Canberra for a week after a few more days. I would prefer to talk to you rather than write, but that looks unlikely, at least in the short term.

I did prepare a longer letter and was about to send it to you when the Bishop's letter arrived this morning. It cleared up so much, that my longer letter is no longer relevant.

I gather you are deeply hurting as are the families you refer to. I trust that the bishop's letter will go some way in allaying your pain.

The matters that you raised were referred to at our priests' meeting. I did not read out your whole letter but did read the points that sketched out your vision. Unfortunately we did not have the bishop's letter at the time.

We realised the complexity and sensitivity of the issues raised, and questioned the value of simple, single solutions. In the end we were satisfied with the outcome of our day together.

Our Halls Gap day was not an appropriate forum for general decisions, as it was a private meeting, with a different purpose, and not all the priests were present. The priests' decision-making body is the Priests Council, and its secretary is Fr Peter Sherman.

There may be some time when we can meet together in the future. I believe I could speak more satisfactorily to any of your continuing concerns than I could by writing.

Yours sincerely,



John McKinnon