

PARISH OF
ST JOHN
 THE BAPTIST

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01.06.95.

Ash Wednesday.

Dear Ann.

Firstly, may I apologise for not responding to your letter. I presented and read your letter at the Council of Priests meeting and while the meeting asked me to respond I overlooked to do so.

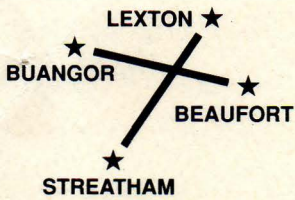
The outcome of your letter was a long and worthwhile discussion which raised many issues about the Diocese, about the role of Bishop, Reconciliation, the effects of sexual abuse on individuals and its overall effect on a Diocese.

The meeting acknowledged that this issue has touched many parishes in many different ways, from direct involvement to people being hurt about the bad media being received by the Church. While a 'week-end' would be appropriate in some places it would not be as relevant for others.

There was a sensitivity about victims who would not be touched through this and who may not want public reconciliation across the Diocese.

It was expressed at the meeting that there was a greater need for healing than reconciliation. If after healing there is still a need, then a reconciliation process comes into effect.

The group recommended that themes of healing and reconciliation be included in the Diocesan Call to Prayer through out the year.



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The priests acknowledged that people are hankering from many things, divorces, people effected by the laws of the Church, the inessibility of some church pronouncements and that any reconciliation needs to cover a broad range of kinds, not only those who are victims of sexual abuse.

Ann, this is a summary of the discussion that took place. While the 'week-end' you nominated as a possible time for a reconciliation had passed by the time we had our meeting, the council did not recommend to the Bishop that he instigate such a week-end. Each parish is encouraged, after consultation in the parish, to do what is seen as appropriate for that place in the light of the Bishop's call for a year of prayer. This was the preferred way to go.

Thank you Ann for your ongoing concern and again
 my apologies

In the spirit of our heart.

Peter Sherman.