

TELEPHONE: (02) 6622 0407
 FACSIMILE: (02) 6621 9960

10 July 2013

Ms Jennifer Ingham

REDACTED



BISHOP'S HOUSE
 P O BOX 1
 LISMORE, NSW 2480

Dear Jennifer,

In the several weeks since our meeting in Brisbane, when I learned for myself the extent of your suffering as a result of the abuse by Father Rex Brown, I have had time to reflect on this very painful story.

I write now as the present Bishop of the Diocese to express to you my deep regret over what happened to you as a result of the unconscionable and disgraceful conduct of a priest who betrayed every standard of decency and of the spiritual and moral trust expected of him. It is a shocking thing to face the reality that a priest did such things, not just as a single lapse, but remorselessly pursued these sins over a period of years, even when you were already suffering as a result.

On behalf of the Diocese I wish to apologise to you unreservedly for this. But another aspect also troubles me, and that is the apparent inaction by those you thought would help when you brought the matter to light in 1990. It was a singular failure of concern and pastoral care when you most needed to be believed and helped. For that I also I am very sorry and apologise to you. Unfortunately, it is a past which we cannot undo, but one from which at least the Church has learned, albeit the hard way, to face these terrible things and make sure, as far as humanly possible, that there is an end to this behaviour and people guilty of it are held to account. We have also learned ways to bring some healing and restoration into the lives of those like yourself who have been so hurt by the behaviour of those they had every reason to trust.

I have admired your courage through this ordeal and the grace and willingness you brought to the facilitation process. Deacon Wallace and myself are grateful for this, and we have noted that your faith still continues to bring light to your way.

In Brisbane I was also pleased to meet your brother David and I thank him for his support of you and for his measured insights. I continue to pray for you and your family, that they also may find peace and healing from the sad events that have affected you all so deeply.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Geoffrey H. Jarrett,
 Bishop of Lismore.