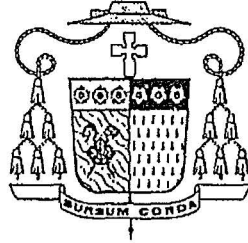


P.O. Box 1, LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480.
TELEPHONE: (066) 21 9444



Bishop's House
Lismore, N.S.W.

20th June 1986

Rev. Father R. Brown, P.P.,
Catholic Presbytery,
P.O. Box 25,
TWEED HEADS NSW 2485

Dear Father Brown,

It is with sincere sorrow that I have signed the enclosed Decree of Removal. Over recent years my concern for the state of your health has grown to the point where I have no option but to take action in the interests both of yourself and the Parish of Tweed Heads.

On many occasions we have spoken about what could be done to improve the situation. Your visits to Doctor O'Neill in Armidale and to 'Damascus' in Brisbane resulted in recommendations from them for further treatment for your alcoholism. Unfortunately, you did not respond to these recommendations.

In our correspondence and discussions over the past few months you have suggested a number of aspects which you seem to believe were uppermost in my mind when I asked for your resignation. I want to make it clear that my principle motive is your problem with alcohol and the subsequent effect this has had on your pastoral responsibilities.

I am concerned for your health and well-being as a priest of the Diocese and am prepared to offer you all the spiritual and medical help you need to get back on your feet. Until you are prepared to accept this help I cannot entrust you with any pastoral responsibilities. Should you be able to rehabilitate yourself, you will be most welcome back to the active ministry.

The Diocese will, of course, be responsible for your sustenance during the period of your rehabilitation.

Be assured of a place in my prayers.

Yours sincerely,

John Satterthwaite

John Satterthwaite
BISHOP OF LISMORE