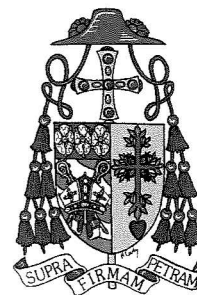


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BISHOP'S HOUSE
P O Box 1
LISMORE, NSW 2480

24th June, 2013

Dear Jennifer

It is with the most profound regret and deepest apology that I write to you on behalf of myself and the Church of the Diocese of Lismore for the shocking and tragic events you have been forced to endure over so many years.

Deacon Wallace has conveyed to me the sense of deep pain and prolonged suffering he knows you endured at the hands of Father Brown, only to have that compounded by the apparent inaction by others when you brought the matter to light in 1990. Once again, I deeply regret and apologise for the abuse, lack of action and apparent lack of pastoral concern for your welfare.

I gained a sense of your deep suffering myself from your written testimony provided to the Professional Standards Office. I congratulate you on having the courage to bring the matter to our attention, so that we may firstly apologise, secondly assist you to achieve a sense of closure and healing and thirdly, to continue to develop strategies to ensure such criminal and immoral behaviour does not occur again.

I understand also that not only have you lived with this nightmare since it began, but from what I've been told, you have actually grown through all this to the point where it may now be possible for you to gain some peace and move on with your life. The abuse that you endured at the hands of Father Brown and the subsequent lack of action by those with whom you initially raised the abuse, are deplorable and I denounce them outright. Unfortunately what is in the past we cannot undo, but in the future, with God's help, we can journey together and continually ask God's healing upon you.

May I thank you personally for the graciousness and kindness that you showed to my representative, Deacon Wallace, at the facilitation. I understand that you opened your heart to him revealing your suffering, but with such grace and poise that he was struck by your humility and willingness to enter into the facilitation process with sincere trust, truthfulness and honesty. The grace you brought to the table confirmed for him, that you have not lost your faith, but that the Lord is very near to you. May you soon feel strong enough to take your rightful place at the Lord's table during Mass.

I pray also that your family, who have also suffered deeply as a result of what occurred, may find healing. I will remember both you and them at celebrations of the Eucharist on a regular basis. May God continue to bless and support you as you move forward in life.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Geoffrey H Jarrett
Bishop of Lismore