



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

CHANCERY OFFICE

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MEMO

To: Mr Will Callinan and Mr Chris Quinn (Principals of Branxton, Greta, Lochinvar Schools)
From: Bishop Michael Malone
Date: Tuesday 7th December 2004
Subject: Possible meeting for school staff

Dear Will and Chris,

I trust this finds you well.

Given Fr Jim Fletcher's guilty verdict this week I am very conscious of the pastoral needs of the people in the Branxton, Greta and Lochinvar communities.

To this end Fr Jim Saunders (Vicar General) will be presiding at Masses this weekend and available afterwards if people would like to speak with him.

If you think it would be helpful, Fr Jim is also available to attend a meeting with your staff (Branxton, Greta and Lochinvar schools) this Friday afternoon. If you would like him to be present for such a meeting could you please organise a venue and time and make contact with my Executive Assistant, John Carmody on Ph: (02) 4979 1113 or 0409 758 124.

For those who wish to attend, a special gathering will be held at the Branxton Parish Hall on Tuesday 14th December at 7:00 pm. Mrs Helen Keever, Children's Services Manager at Centacare Newcastle will facilitate this gathering and Fr Jim Saunders will be present. This gathering will be an opportunity for people to speak about their response to this difficult situation.

The diocese has also established a special toll free phone number **1800 234 050** if people would like to discuss their response with professional counsellors facilitators over the phone. Should you need this support, I encourage you to access that number.

Additionally, persons needing information or assistance in relation to abuse are encouraged to contact the Police or the Church's *Towards Healing* process on Ph: 1300 369 977.

Should you require any additional support please do not hesitate to contact me via John Carmody.

Yours sincerely,

+ Michael Malone

Most Reverend Michael Malone
 Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle