

**CHANCERY OFFICE**

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Fr James Fletcher  
Parklea Correctional Centre  
PO Box 6148  
Delivery Centre  
Fifth Avenue  
Blacktown NSW 2148

1/6/05

Dear Jim,

I refer to the serious allegations that were made against you and resulted in criminal charges. Whilst these matters were fully investigated by NSW Police, according to Part 3A of the Ombudsman's Act (1974), it was also necessary for the diocese to report these matters to the Office of the NSW Ombudsman.

Given the outcome of the court process, it is appropriate for me to make a finding without the need for further investigation. As a result, the allegations have been sustained.

Child protection legislation also requires that this 'employment proceeding' be notified to the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) for inclusion on the data base maintained by CCYP for purposes of employment screening. The finding has been notified to CCYP as a Category 1.

A confidential report has been forwarded to the Office of the NSW Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office reviews my finding and the investigation process and decides if further action is required prior to closing the matter. You will be advised when the Ombudsman's Office has indicated that no further action is required.

All documentation associated with this matter will be held at the Chancery in a secure and confidential file, separate to other personnel files. If you, or your nominated representative, wish to gain access to this file, written application should be made to me. A copy of the investigation file is also retained by the Ombudsman.

I understand this has been a very difficult matter for you and encourage you to access the prison chaplain for support.

Regards,

Most Reverend Michael Malone  
**Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**