

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003

Mr & Mrs UR70

Dear Mr & Mrs UR70

It is with thanks that I acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding allegations against Fr Jim Fletcher. I have noted your comments.

You have read my Pastoral message which speaks to the issue. The Magistrate suppressed certain information from publication. This information was also helpful to me in reaching my decision to leave Fr Fletcher in place.

Any risk assessment is far from perfect. I take responsibility for making the final decision, although I did so after seeking appropriate advice. I did not, and still do not, consider Fr Fletcher to have been a risk to the children at the Parish Schools.

Others have and will continue to judge otherwise. The legal processes will now need to run their course.

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Most Reverend Michael Malone  
*Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle*

+MM/ed