

Telephone conversation x Bishop Michael Malone
-approx 6.15pm on 5th June 2002

Bishop Michael asked me how I was & I said I've been better.

MM said he could understand my feelings as BI had told him about AH's allegations against Father Jim Fletcher. He said that firstly he wanted to convey his sympathy for the pain that we doubt I was experiencing & that he was offering help for whatever I needed to help me thro' / difficult times ahead & perhaps long time ahead.

He said that BI had told him yesterday (Tues 4th June) about AH's visit to the police & that he himself had been up to see JMF that very afternoon - 5th June. I was angry at BI & angry that MM went anywhere near JMF & asked him what he had said. He said that of course JMF denied he had anything to answer for & was understandably upset. I said to MM that of course he would deny any allegations" & MM said "for what I know of paedophiles, they lie thro' their teeth when confronted." MM → important to believe AH & that it was my & BI's role as parents to do so.

Asked him why he went near JPF & he said to offer him extra pastoral support.

He said he "put Jim in touch w/ Father Burston, Harrigan & Saunders to support him thro' this time". He then said that from now on

he would be 'stepping back & waiting.' He also said
people are innocent until proved guilty.

He mentioned that BI had talked to
him about concerns about JPF last year when
AH had disclosed that he had been abused. He
talked of thought of AH's suicide attempt when AH was
very upset & had asked BI to take him up to Brandon
Presbyterian, & what AH alleged had happened up
there, & he said BI had mentioned that to him also.

He said that he was very sad for OS.
He then offered any support the church could provide
internally or externally in way of counselling &
said he would be back in church. & told him
& wanted help as BI & I had exhausted
each other worrying about AH & it was difficult
now we were separated.

Told him of pain of seeing a son struggle with
some aspects of his life & how proud I was of him
for being courageous enough to put up his hand, &
said perhaps it was the baby in the way that he
gave him the strength. He agreed with this & asked
me to ring him in a day or so on that he would
ring me & tell me with what his I had decided
regarding counselling. He said 'God bless me' &
he would be praying for me. End of
conversation

8/6/02
BJS