



Helen Long  
<bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org>

11/03/2013 12:25 PM

To: "Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au"

<Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject: 201203450 - D2013/403065 : RE: 201203450 - D2013/66483  
: Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland  
Newcastle Inquiry

History:

✉ This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hello Emma

Sorry for the delay in answering your request.

Bishop Bianchini said that to his knowledge they have never been subpoenaed or summonsed.

Kind regards

Helen



Mrs. Helen Long  
Bishop's Secretary  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton  
PO Box 46  
GERALDTON WA 6531  
Ph: 08 9921 3221 Fax: 08 9964 1097  
Webpage: [www.geraldtondiocese.org.au](http://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au)

**From:** Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au [mailto:Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 10:59 AM  
**To:** Helen Long  
**Subject:** Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Helen,

Could I trouble you regarding one further discrete matter.

Counsel Assisting has also requested that I follow up with you whether the files held by the Geraldton Dioceses relating to Father McAlinden have been summonsed or subpoenaed by any party, and if so when and by whom (if you are able to ascertain such information)?

With thanks in advance,

Kind regards,

Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
**for Crown Solicitor**

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [emma\\_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 9224 5029 | Fax: (02) 8224 5355  
----- Forwarded by Emma Sullivan/CSO/NSW\_AG on 04/03/2013 02:00 PM -----

**Helen Long** <  
[bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org)>

To "Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au"  
<[Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au)>

27/02/2013 01:19 PM

cc

Subject Re: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483 :  
Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic  
Diocese of Maitland Newcastle  
Inquiry

Dear Emma

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Please find attached the scanned documents. These were the remaining letters in McAlinden's file (the last one on green paper is from Bishop Thomas).

Kind regards

Helen



Mrs. Helen Long  
Bishop's Secretary  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton  
PO Box 46  
GERALDTON WA 6531  
Ph: 08 9921 3221 Fax: 08 9964 1097  
Webpage: [www.geraldtondiocese.org.au](http://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au)

**From:** [Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au) [mailto:[Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 February 2013 5:48 AM  
**To:** Helen Long  
**Subject:** [bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org) - Re: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483  
: Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Helen,

Thank you very much for your email, and for collating the information requested pursuant to the letter of 18 February 2013.

For completeness, could I please trouble you to also provide the other letters you refer to (in the nature of other correspondence between the Bishops of Maitland and Geraldton and Father McAlinden), notwithstanding the subject matter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,

Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
for Crown Solicitor

NSW Crown Solicitor's Office | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [emma\\_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 9224 5029 | Fax: (02) 8224 5355

----- Forwarded by Lee Rout/CSO/NSW\_AG on 20/02/2013 05:59 PM -----

Helen Long <  
[bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org)>

20/02/2013 05:51 PM

To "'crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au'" <  
[crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au)>

cc

Su 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma  
bje Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland  
ct Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Emma

I reply to your email / letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 on behalf of the Crown Solicitor regarding a request for documents relating to Fr Denis McAlinden.

Denis McAlinden's file in my Diocese of Geraldton is very small, some twelve letters. These letters are just the normal letters of correspondence between the Bishop of Maitland and Geraldton and Denis himself, regarding appointments, time of arrival and a little business.

I. We have no letters in this file regarding complaints, misdemeanours etc. by Fr Denis McAlinden.

II. In regard to suspicions we have two letters (one letter to Catholic Church Insurance from myself and their reply) which I now attach.

III. We do not have letters in this file to or from Police in regard to Fr Denis McAlinden.

This is what I can offer to your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Justin Bianchini

Signature Outlook JB

**From:** [Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) [  
[mailto:Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)]

**Sent:** Monday, 18 February 2013 3:09 PM

**To:** Helen Long

**Cc:** [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au); [sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au);   
[Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au); [Jessica\\_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jessica_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au)

**Subject:** Fw: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find a copy of the Terms of Reference attached which were left out of the previous email.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [maria\\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maria_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 8224 5347 | Fax: (02) 9224 5177

----- Forwarded by Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG on 18/02/2013 06:12 PM -----

**Maria  
Lagoudakis/C  
SO/NSW\_AG**

To [dioger@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:dioger@diocese-geraldton.org)

18/02/2013  
06:06 PM

cc [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au), [sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au),  
[Emma\\_Sullivan/CSO/NSW\\_AG@NSW\\_AG](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@CSO/NSW_AG@NSW_AG), Jessica

Su Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the  
bje Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in  
ct the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find letter attached in relation to the above matter.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)

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---

**To:** "Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au" <Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au>  
**cc:**  
**From:** "Janet O'Hare" <janet.ohare@bunburycatholic.org.au>  
**Date:** 01/03/2013 05:20:08 PM  
**Subject:** Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland -Newcastle

Dear Emma

Further to our recent exchange of emails regarding information relating to Father Denis McAlinden we can now enclose the following:

- Bishop Gerard Holohan's letter to you
- McAlinden File Search
- McAlinden Priest Register Entry
- McAlinden 'Bishop's' File
- McAlinden P62 File

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Janet O'Hare

Secretary to Bishop Gerard Holohan

Catholic Diocese of Bunbury

PO Box 2005, Bunbury WA 6231

Ph: (08) 9721 0515

Fax: (08) 9721 3216

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sender specifically states them to be the view of The Catholic Diocese of Bunbury

**From:** Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au [mailto:Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 February 2013 7:00 AM  
**To:** Janet O'Hare  
**Cc:** Maria\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Janet,

Noted, with thanks.

Kind regards,

Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
for Crown Solicitor

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [emma\\_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 9224 5029 | Fax: (02) 8224 5355

"Janet O'Hare" <  
[janet.ohare@bunburycatholic.org.au](mailto:janet.ohare@bunburycatholic.org.au)>

18/02/2013 07:25 PM

To "'maria\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au'  
" <  
[maria\\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maria_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)>

cc

Subject FW: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Bishop Gerard is currently recuperating from knee surgery but will be happy to forward all documentation we have in relation to Denis McAlinden as soon as he can access files, hopefully by Friday.

Janet O'Hare  
Secretary  
Catholic Diocese of Bunbury  
PO Box 2005, Bunbury WA 6231  
Ph: (08) 9721 0515  
Fax: (08) 9721 3216

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> From: Judi Clark  
> Sent: Monday, 18 February 2013 3:53 PM  
> To: Janet O'Hare  
> Subject: FW: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to  
> the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in  
> the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle  
>  
>  
>  
> From:  
> [Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)  
[mailto:Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)  
> > [[mailto:Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)]  
> Sent: Monday, 18 February 2013 3:09 PM  
> To: Judi Clark  
> Cc: [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au)<<mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au>>;  
> [sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au)<  
<mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au>>;  
> [Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au)<  
[mailto:Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au)>;  
> [Jessica\\_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jessica_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au)<  
[mailto:Jessica\\_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jessica_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au)>  
> Subject: Fw: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to  
> the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in

> the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

>

>

> Dear Bishop Holohan

>

> Please find a copy of the Terms of Reference attached which were left out of the previous email.

>

> Kind regards

>

>

>

>

> Maria Lagoudakis

> Legal Secretary

>

> NSW Crown Solicitor's Office | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

> NSW 2000 GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY |

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> Email:

> maria.lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au<

mailto:maria.lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au

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>

> ----- Forwarded by Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW AG on 18/02/2013 06:10 PM

> ----- Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW AG

>

> 18/02/2013 06:05 PM

>

> To

>

> dio@bunburycatholic.org.au<

mailto:dio@bunburycatholic.org.au>

>

> cc

>

> akohn@makdap.com.au<mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au>,

> sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au<

mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au>,

> Emma Sullivan/CSO/NSW AG@NSW AG, Jessica Wardle/CSO/NSW AG@NSW AG

>

> Subject

>

> Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police

> investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the

> Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

>

>

>

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Dear Bishop Holohan

>  
> Please find letter attached in relation to the above matter.

>  
> Kind regards

>  
> Maria Lagoudakis  
> Legal Secretary

>  
> NSW Crown Solicitor's Office | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

> NSW 2000 GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY |

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> Email:

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> <[ltr to Bishop Holohan - 18 Feb 2013.pdf](#)> <[Terms of](#)

[Reference.pdf](#)>



- [McAlinden Letter to Crown Solicitors Office.pdf.pdf](#)



- [McAlinden](#)

[File Search.pdf.pdf](#)



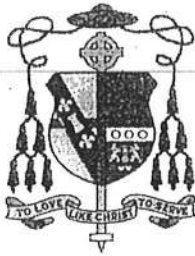
- [McAlinden Priests Register.pdf.pdf](#)



- [McAlinden Bishops File.pdf.pdf](#)



- [McAlinden File P62.pdf](#)



DIOCESAN OFFICE

P.O. Box 2005

Bunbury - W.A. - 6231

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Facsimile: 08 9721 3216

Free Call: 1800 016 702

E-mail: [diocese@bunburycatholic.org.au](mailto:diocese@bunburycatholic.org.au)

Ms Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
Crown Solicitor's Office  
GPO Box 25  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Sullivan

Father Denis McAlinden

Thank you for your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013 requesting information relating to child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

I can confirm that the Diocese of Bunbury cannot find any documentation with regard to complaints, misdemeanors etc in relation to Father Denis McAlinden. Nor can it find any documentation regarding suspicions of child sexual abuse.

The Diocese of Bunbury has no documentation regarding communications between the Diocese of Geraldton, the Police, nor the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

I am enclosing with this letter all documentation held on our files, including the 'Bishop's file', relating to Father McAlinden during the period he served in the Diocese of Bunbury.

Should you require any further information please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Signed

Most Rev Gerard J Holohan  
Bishop of Bunbury

28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Encs

**DIOCESE OF BUNBURY**  
**File Search on Denis McAlinden**

Aquinas College 1996-Dec 2000	D278	Nothing
Aquinas College Jan/Feb 2002	D322	Nothing
Slee Anderson Pidgeon May 73-Oct 96	C271	Nothing
Mt Barker Parish 1975-2000	P51	Nothing
Kojonup Parish 1968-96	P62	Proof he was in Kojonup
Denmark Parish 1974-1996	P76	Nothing
Bunbury Parish April 1991-1996	P69	Nothing
Bishop's Personal File		Proof he was in diocese

28<sup>th</sup> February 2013



Bishop's House  
P.O. Box 1084,  
Bunbury, W.A. 6230  
Tel. (097) 21 8016

Bishop's File

Re: Fr. Denis McBlinden

In September 1991 Father  
McBlinden was accused of  
indecent dealings with a 9-10 y.o  
girl at Muckham in 1982 and  
arrested & released on bail.

The legal process continued over  
a nine month period until the  
trial by jury took place on July 13-15.  
The judgement - unanimous verdict of  
the jury - was not guilty given on 16/7/92

Signed

21/7/92





Bishop's House  
P.O. Box 1084,  
Bunbury, W.A. 6230  
Tel. (097) 21 8016

Father McAlinden

replaced Father Ian  
Johnson as Parish Priest  
of Kojonup in February 1989  
for a three year term.

Signed



*Recd by phone  
1/12/92  
Signed*

CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY,

P.O. Box 430,  
DENMARK, W.A.

6333.

22.II.'92

Most Rev. Peter Quinn, D.D.,  
Bishop of Bunbury.

Dear Bishop,

I'm writing this letter after a few weeks thought and on the advice of my Spiritual advisor.

I've been concerned over the Bremer Bay incident. But, first of all, let me make it clear that, from a natural point of view, I didn't wish to go to Bremer Bay, when you first proposed it, but after some consideration and a somewhat sleepless night, I felt I was being selfish in putting my own likings before the needs of the people there; and it was <sup>with</sup> this in mind that I rang you as soon as possible next morning to try to remedy my mistaken attitude.

However, to be told at 11a.m. that you were "so pleased" and "grateful" that I had agreed to accept the appointment - even being advised as to how I could use my "practical ability" to fix the open space between the Chapel and the priest's quarters there - then, to be told a few hours later that your Consultors prefer me to stay where I am - with no explanation as to why - the whole matter seemed beyond credibility. I had hoped that, perhaps, some explanation might be forthcoming during the impending "Visitation"; but it seemed the time given to that event was deliberately shortened to the very limit. Furthermore, your parting word that evening after the Confirmation ceremony "Relax" - far from clarifying the mystery, only added to the trauma, so much so that I felt it necessary to seek advice, as the whole matter was becoming quite unsettling.

It would seem that, when you invited me to your diocese, four years ago after the consecration of Geraldton cathedral, the opinion of Consultors was not required; now, suddenly it becomes so crucial that a decision can be ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reversed without any explanation whatsoever. Sure, I fully realize that, in your capacity as Bishop, you have the right to do so; but, with respect, I couldn't treat one of my parishioners, even a child, in a similar manner without feeling guilty.

The second purpose of this letter is to enquire whether in my capacity as "assistant to a deacon" am I still entitled to claim  $\frac{1}{2}$  my HBF fund from the parish; - last year, being without a parish, I paid it fully from my own A/C..

Finally, not because of any of the above considerations, but purely from a practical point of view, I shall not be attending the "Christmas dinner" at Bunbury.

I'm still hoping that some reasonable explanation may be forthcoming concerning the above, but, whether or not, I'll continue to endeavour to carry on my duties to the people wherever I happen to be, satisfied, at least that I have carried out the wish of



Bishop's House  
3 Brend-for-Street  
Address mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury 6230, W.A.  
Telephone (097) 21 8016

21 July 1992

Dear Father McAlinden

Now that the dreadful legal actions have been put to a favourable conclusion I welcome you back to pastoral activity.

I have kept Bishop Clarke informed of the outcome of the case and of course he shares our relief.

Nothing to the contrary having been said I presume his permission for you to continue to work in Bunbury is included in his open permission of October 7th 1988.

I now appoint you as "locum tenens" to the Mt Barker/ Denmark Parishes. When Father Michael Dziejdzic returns I would like you to take care of the Parish of Denmark on a temporary basis.

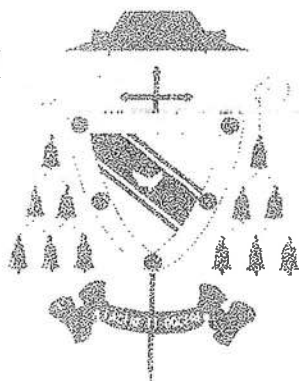
Denmark is a parish (tiny though it is) in its own right and has had Priestly services from Mt Barker and pastoral care and supervision from Deacon Terry Quinn. I would ask you to work on a co-pastor basis with the Deacon. Certain local independence has been achieved and as in the long term a Priest will probably not be permanently there I wish the present structures to remain.

We can talk about this in detail but I put it here so that it will be on record.

May God bless and strengthen you.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop of Bunbury



Catholic Church Office

1 CATHEDRAL STREET  
P.O. BOX 73  
MAITLAND, N.S.W. 2320  
Telephone (049) 33 4466

7th October, 1988

Rev. D. McAlinden,

REDACTED

Dear Father McAlinden,

Many thanks for your letter which arrived in today's mail.

I hereby grant permission for you to accept Bishop Quinn's invitation to work in the Diocese of Bunbury.

I wish you every blessing and happiness in your future apostolate in Bunbury.

With cordial best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Signed

Most Rev. L. M. Clarke, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF MAITLAND

71 2642

XXXXXX  
St. Michael's Presbytery  
XXXXXX

XPhone 0299 211069 X  
XCorrespondence PO Box 21 X  
XHelsk Bay 2315 X

XGovernment Road X  
XHelsk Bay 2315 X

REDACTED

N.S.W.  
11th. Oct. '88

Most Rev Peter Quinn, D.C.L., D.D.,  
Bishop of Bunbury.

Dear Bishop,

Enclosed please find Bishop Clarke's letter giving me the O.K. to accept your invitation to work in Bunbury Diocese.

Sorry I've got to bother you a bit further:

The Form you filled in and forwarded in order to get the benefit of "Fleet Purchase" was quite correct, but the Dealer at the Garage omitted to ask for a "Cover-letter" to be supplied at the same time. He rang me this morning, after I had returned from running-in the vehicle, to request such a cover-letter written on official diocesan paper and pre-dated to 4th. October, signed by the Bishop or his representative. The letter should go something like the following:

Mr Ray Price, J.P.,  
Fleet Manager, Crossroads Mitsubishi,  
Lake Road, Glendale,  
N.S.W. 2285.

Dear Sir,

Please supply one only Mitsubishi GL300 Star-Wagon to be used in Bunbury Diocese by Fr. Denis Mc Alinden.

Yours etc.

.....

Everything else is going according to plan; will stay in Sydney on Monday night after seeing the Specialist in the afternoon, then on my way Tues. 18th.. All going well, have settled on Thursday 27th. to arrive at Bunbury; so, if you happen to be absent, you might leave instructions with someone to advise what to do.

Looking forward to "getting back to work".

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Signed

St. Michael's Presbytery

XXXXXX  
Correspondence  
XXXXXX

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

REDACTED

N.S.W.

October, 2nd. '88

Most Rev. Peter Quinn, D.C.L. D.D.,  
Bishop of Bunbury.

Dear Bishop,

Many thanks for the speedy reply and return of the "Fleet Document". Sorry to hear of the misfortune of the Priest who has lost the sight of an eye; please God, he'll be able to make the necessary adjustment, though I expect it will take time. Naturally, am only too pleased to help out in whatever way possible, and have advised Bishop Clarke accordingly, having forwarded your last letter to him. The Mitsubishi agent was most helpful, for when I showed him your letter to stress the urgency of the case he went to all lengths to arrange for an immediate delivery of a vehicle. So, instead of having to wait for a month to 6 weeks, the Company director arranged to supply one by Wednesday (5th. Oct.). By the time this reaches you it should be well in my possession and already being "run in". The agent has been instructed to see that it gets its first "service" as soon as it is ready.

How soon can I get to Busselton ?? October 17th. has been set for my final check-up with the Specialist <sup>in Sydney</sup> who did the hip-replacement in April; (it's really only a formality, but I'd better go through with it, just to keep on the safe side.) It also gives me time to run-in the vehicle. My plan, then, would be to continue on from Sydney; so, should reach Bunbury about 10 days later in plenty time for the last week <sup>end</sup> of October - unless, of course, directed otherwise. Incidentally, N.S.W. has a public holiday to-morrow (Oct. 3rd); so, this won't get away till Tuesday.

I notice the weather in Perth is wet and windy to-day; we are having what is more like an early Summer - warm and dry.

Shall advise if any change of plans become necessary - otherwise you might expect me around 26-27 th October.

Meanwhile - best wishes and renewed thanks,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Signed

Oct. 7/10/88  
P.C.

~~St. Michael's Presbytery~~

~~XX1680610491091889X~~  
~~XXCorrespondence P.O. BoxXX~~  
~~XXNelson Bay 2315XX~~

~~XXGovernment Road: X~~  
~~XXXXXXXX2315XX~~

REDACTED

N.S.W.

22/9/'88

Most Rev. Peter Quinn, D.C.L., D.D.,  
Bishop of Bunbury,

Dear Bishop,

Have been trying for the past 3 weeks to contact Bishop Clarke; success came this morning. He agreed that I should write to you as soon as possible indicating his willingness to allow me to go to Bunbury Diocese for that initial six months or longer, if desired. Had hoped to have a good talk with you while in W.A., but realized that "Geraldton Celebrations" was neither the time nor the place. As my holiday was far from over, had planned to go north to visit my old territory in the Pilbara for a week or so, and then proceed to Brunswick to see Fr. Mick Dargan, then on to Albany where I have a cousin and some Irish friends - hoping to catch up with you somewhere coming or going along the line. However, it was providential that I had offered to drive Bishop Burke (from Bahamas) to Perth, as Bishop Hickey hadn't been able to get other transport for him; it was while in Perth, at the Bishop's house that I heard of the sudden death of my Brother in Sydney, so had to hasten back to N.S.W..

As it is, I'm still awaiting my final medical clearance from Dr. Tinning who performed my hip-replacement operation 5 months ago; thank God, everything has gone exceptionally well and am expecting an excellent report on October 17th/. However, while I understand you don't require me before the new year, I am about to invest in a new car ....my present vehicle is due for Registration on October 10th. and would require considerable repair work prior to that date. Am able to get a "Fleet Purchase" concession, provided the Bishop of the Diocese where it will be used can testify that at least 50% of that use will be for the work of that Diocese. It will be necessary to get the application in almost immediately for me to purchase the vehicle and have it "run in" and "serviced" by the end of the year. Since it appears likely that the vehicle will be used in Bunbury Diocese, it seemed appropriate to get that authorization from there. You are probably quite familiar with procedure, so, have enclosed the Form. I shall be able to save about \$ 2,000 in this way; the only stipulation will be that I cannot sell it before 2 years or 40,000Kms..

Am looking forward to visiting the "West" again; had two very enjoyable years there in the Pilbara under Bishop Foley. Regards to Mick Dargan if you happen to see him; you might let him know why I didn't get to visit him in August.

With every best wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Signed

(Denis Mc Alinden)

McAlinden  
Kojonup 1968-96

P.62

"Mary Farm"  
P.O. Box 184.  
Bindoon, 6502.

~~CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY,  
KOJONUP, W.A. 6395  
PHONE 098 311135~~

Dear Paul, RECEIVED 22 OCT 1991  
Would you kindly withdraw the amount  
specified on the enclosed A/c. from my D.D.F. Fund  
and forward to Mother Rosavii, Little Sisters of the Poor,  
Glendalough (Mt. Hawthorn, P.O. Box 200).  
W.A. 6016. Many thanks.

Fr. Denis.

P.S. Will be moving to Bindoon (as above) on Monday,  
Oct 21st.



*S.F.*  
Box 200  
Mt. Hawthorn 6016  
Telephone 443 3155

*Little Sisters of the Poor*  
*"Glendalough"*  
Rawlins Street,  
Mt. Hawthorn 6016  
Western Australia

14 October 1991

To Fr Dennis McAlledin  
c/- Priests Flats  
Little Sisters of the Poor  
Rawlins Street  
GLENDALOUGH

Board and Lodging from	9/09/91 - 22/09/91	\$250.00
" " " from	23/09/91 - 6/10/91	<u>250.00</u>

\$500.00

.. .. . 7/10/91 - 20/10/91

250.00

*Thank you.*

*\$ 750.00*

*Sr. Rosalie*

*Ch. No. 23975*  
*Dated 22/10/91*  
*Posted* / *Signed*

RECEIVED - 3 OCT 1991 →

St. Bernard's Catholic Parish,  
Kojonup, W.A. 6395.

Phone 098 31 1135.

1/10/91

Dear Paul,

Managed to get the A/R Books  
back from Accountant only last week —  
but still no Audit has been carried out.  
Have tried to list in Returns as well as  
possible from Parish A/R Book, though it is  
not itemised in the same detail as your  
Paper, but at least the totals would be  
correct. Unfortunately, I have not got  
the Bank-Statements with me here in  
Glenadale (though you would have copies already).

Enclosed 2 Cheques as below: —

Ch. no. <u>497276</u> — \$ <u>467.70</u>	a) 60-Proprietor's 237.85
PC1. 6033	b) Peter's Pence <sup>12 Months</sup> 153.25
	c) Mass Media 40.60
	d) Ap. of Sec. 36.00
	<u>467.70</u>

Ch. No. 497277 — \$ 366.62 — Sustentation Fund.

Trust this clears the decks — sorry for  
the delay. Barbet 3/10/91  
Sincerely, Robert  
Signed

Mr. Miller, Bank Balance money account  
recovered out of line, as I didn't think  
my salary from August '90 till end of June '91  
when I put it towards my new work.



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE  
3 Brend-lor Street  
Address Mail to  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury. 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

23 September 1991

Mr C B Green  
Treasurer  
St Michaels Parish  
P O Box 153  
TAMBELLUP WA 6320

Dear Brett

Many thanks for the Tambellup finance statement. Would you record somewhere that we require a 6 monthly statement for the period ending 31st December and a 12 monthly statement for the 30th June each year.

The CoResponsibility levy is due each six months and is based on the finance statement. Calculation is based on your gross income less stipend for priest:-

Gross income	\$14,500
DDF interest	<u>655</u>
	15,155
Less Stipend	<u>7,724</u>
	7,431
@ 1%	= \$ 74-31

I would be grateful for your cheque please.

Thanks for your involvement.

Yours sincerely

P A GEE  
CHANCELLOR

Handwritten signature and initials.

RECEIVED 23 SEP 84

Mr. C.B. Green,  
Treasurer,  
St. Michaels Parish,  
P.O. Box 153  
TAMBELLUP W.A. 6320

18th September, 1991

Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury,  
Chancery Office,  
P.O. Box 1084,  
BUNBURY W.A. 6230

ATTENTION PAUL GEE

Dear Paul,

Please find enclosed 1990/91 Balance Sheet. Hope I have done it out as required. I have not put in interest on D.D.F. Account as have not had passbook updated, but have enclosed it for you to do so.

We will transfer some money over to the D.D.F. when the current situation has sorted it self out. We understand that as of October we will have Father Michael Slattery as Parish Priest. Until then I can not do much as I have no cheques signed by Father Dennis and no accounts to pay so will wait to change signatures with the new Parish Priest.

Hope all this is satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

Signed

Treasurer



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-lor Street

Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

15 August 1991

The Manager  
Skipper Mitsubishi  
VICTORIA PARK WA

Dear Sir

This is to certify that Father Denis McAlinden is a priest  
of this Diocese who will be using this car in his work as  
a priest.

Fleet owners discount applies.

Yours sincerely

PA GEE  
CHANCELLOR

Signed

7  
Koi



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE  
3 Brend-ter Street  
Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury. 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

22 NOVEMBER 1990

REV FR D McALINDEN PP  
CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY  
PO BOX 167  
KOJONUP WA 6395

COPY

Dear Father Denis

Many thanks for your cheques and finance statement.

What I wanted was a full report for the 12 months, but I have amalgamated the two half yearly statements and enclose the result.

This enclosed form is the one we will be using from now on, so I would appreciate more detailed information on the 6 months December report please.

Would you also fill in the reverse from bank statements and return to me, or if you prefer send me copies of the bank statements, for the past 12 months to 30/6/90, and I will do it for you.

Administration is a "pain" when there are so many more important things for a Priest to do, but I do appreciate your efforts.

Yours sincerely

PA GEE  
CHANCELLOR

7  
14

Fr Dem : 4160  
 guttering : 2000 ? could be less.  
 PC rHe : 4013

ops 512 : 65  
 508 : 183      248

Arsen. : 850

11,271  
 11,600  
22,871

Boulders

ck  
 11,334  
 400  
 10,556  
22,290

12/6/90

Signed

F  
 Kojonup





*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-tor Street  
Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

6 November 1990

Rev Fr Denis McAlinden PP  
Catholic Presbytery  
PO Box 167  
KOJONUP WA 6395

Dear Father Denis

There are a number of administrative items I must bring to your attention, as they are preventing me from completing some of my diocesan duties.

- 1) Parish annual finance statement to 30th June is needed urgently. Kojonup is one of the few parishes which is slow to comply, and it prevents me completing the annual figures for the whole Diocese.
- 2) Each year parishes are asked to support a number of appeals for our own diocese and the wider church. We are still waiting for some contribution from your Parish for the following:-

Motor Missions  
Mass Media  
Collection for the Holy Father (Peters Pence)  
Apostleship of the Sea  
Diocesan Assessment (\$1,700)

As regards the assessments, these will be reviewed next year in the light of the rural downturn, but I would be grateful if you would send me a cheque for this years assessment, as well as some contribution to the other appeals, particularly Peters Pence.

The present balance on your bank statement is \$9,834. This will be reduced somewhat when the bills are paid, but if you find more in the account than say \$1,000-00, it will be beneficial to remit the balance, to deposit in the parish DDF account.

Thanks for your cooperation and God bless.

Yours sincerely

PA GEE  
CHANCELLOR

7



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-for Street  
Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

13 June 1990

**COPY**

Mr J Simpson  
PO Box 56  
TAMBELLUP WA 6326

Dear John

Fr Denis has just called in to discuss the parish finances.

At present Tambellup is paying \$420 per month. You were also previously paying an amount of \$3,000 p.a. (\$250 per month) for the Motor Mission Sister.

As Father Denis is now covering the Motor Mission work in the school, it seems fair for Tambellup to increase their contribution.

I suggest an increase of \$180 per month would be sufficient, but this should be discussed with your parish committee.

I hope all is well and the seeding progressing satisfactorily.

Thanks for your involvement.

Yours sincerely and God Bless.

P A Gee  
CHANCELLOR

2

11

*St. Bernard's Catholic Parish.*

*Kojomup, W.A. 6395.*

*Phone 098 31 1135.*

RECEIVED - 2 APR 1990

26th. March, '90

Dear Paul,

As the first part of the re-const@uction  
(or repair) work is now completed on St. Bernard's church,  
we require a cheque for \$10,000.00 as soon as convenient.  
The cheque could be made out to "Fernando Crugnale" who has  
supervised the work and with whom the agreement was made.  
I notice we had \$8,510.63 in account 937.SI.Koj., plus  
wh tever interest would have accrued since January '88 .  
Enclosed cheque for \$2,000.00. That should still leave  
a little credit in that Account. What is needed to complete  
the remainder of the work will be withdrawn from the  
"Building Fund" Account (252I.SI) where there is \$7,000.00  
deposited. Have enclosed the relevant Pass-Book and  
"Withdrawal Slip", and "Deposit Slip".

Thank you in anticipation,

Best wishes,

Signed

7

*Kojomup*

RECEIVED - 1990

*St. Bernard's Catholic Parish,  
Kojonup, W.A. 6395.  
Phone 098 31 1135.*

Ist. March, '90

Dear Paul,

Your letter of 3rd. January was presented to the Parish Council at the Meeting on Feb. 7th.. Thank you for the prompt reply; unfortunately, I was in the Eastern States when it arrived and was unable to hold a Council meeting until after the school holidays. Sorry to have to report that your explanation of the Assessment for Kojonup in relation to other parishes was unanimously rejected by the Meeting as unsatisfactory ( 10 members were present ).

In the first place, the statistics quoted for Kojonup-Tambellup Catholic population (active and inactive) do not tally with our latest census figures (1989). The total Catholic population of the entire parish is now 411, counting the last born. Secondly, the meeting found it difficult to accept \$33,800 as the Net Income of average Catholic families. Besides, if (according to your figures) the Net Income of Lake Grace families is nearly \$22,000 higher than Kojonup (and apparently that parish is without debt) there seemed to be no obvious reason why Kojonup should be burdened with an extra \$300. The people from Kojonup are familiar with conditions in other parishes, such as Russelton-Dunsborough and Margaret River- Augusta, where many go for annual holidays; the former is billed for only a few hundred dollars more than Kojonup and the latter around 1,000 dollars less than this parish.

As far as commitments and debt on this parish <sup>are</sup> concerned, extensive repair <sup>has to be raised</sup> work is about to begin on St. Bernard's church, plus a further \$6,000.00 annually in view of the new Re-primary school to commence in July of this year. Hence, in conclusion, the Parish Council wishes that serious consideration be given to reviewing the Parish Assessment in the light of the above amended facts and figures and parish commitments.

The cheque for \$780 for superannuation fund was passed for payment with some reluctance and is enclosed.

Sincerely yours ,

Signed

RECEIVED - 8 MAR 1990

*St. Bernard's Catholic Parish,  
Kojonup, W.A. 6395.  
Phone 098 31 1135.*

5th. March, '90

Dear Paul,

enclosed please find :

- a) Statement of Receipts & Expenditure for 1 year ending Dec. '89
- b) Diocesan Statistics for 1989
- c) Episcopal Sustentation Fund and half-yearly returns.
- d) letter from the Parish Council giving their reasons for dissatisfaction with Annual Assessment;
- e) relevant cheques for above,
- f) cheque for superannuation fund.

Not being too familiar with the custom of Bunbury Diocese, I had already forwarded a personal cheque for \$380.00 (368027 -23/12/'89) in lieu of the "Episcopal Sustentation Fund"; since then I have been advised by Fr. Kevin Johnston of the correct procedure. Perhaps you might see your way clear to refund that amount.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Signed

7 Kojonup



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-tor Street  
Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230  
Telephone (097) 21 3077

3 January 1990

**COPY**

Rev D McAlinden PP  
Catholic Presbytery  
PO Box 167  
KOJONUP WA 6395

Dear Father Denis

Thank you for your letter and good wishes. Receipt of cheques is acknowledged.

As regards Diocesan Assessments, these are worked out taking account of the:-

Parish Catholic Population, average income, loan repayments and the season in farming districts.

The following comparison with other Parishes is helpful:-

	<u>Catholic Population</u>	<u>Net income</u>	<u>Debts</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Kojonup	576	33,800	-	1,700
Katanning	900	27,000	12,000	1,900
Lake Grace	500	55,000	-	1,400
Wagin	400	17,000	-	700

The Catholic population figure is a statistic, as the number of Mass goers is far less, but it does give an indication of numbers.

Concerning the Diocesan Superannuation Fund; The scheme has already been launched and all parishes agreed at the March 1989 Clergy Conference to pay \$780 as an initial amount to start the scheme. Clarifications will be made at the 1990 Conference in March, but all parishes including those from your Deanery, have paid their \$780. I would be grateful for your Parish cheque for \$780 please.

Yours sincerely

P A Gee  
CHANCELLOR

RECEIVED

2 JAN 1990  
St. Bernard's Catholic Parish,  
Kojonup, W.A. 6395.  
Phone 098 31 1135.

Fri. 22nd. Dec. '89

Dear Paul,

Please find enclosed cheque for \$ 1957.72 being made up of the following :

Pope's Collection ...	178.72
Mass Media ...	20.00
Apostolship of Sea...	31.00
Centrecare ...	28.00
Yearly Assessment	1700.00
	==1957.72

*Jan 1990*

As for "Moto~~y~~ Mission" - this parish contributed \$4,500.00 to the Sisters engaged in this apostolate.

Sorry, Paul, if I have seemed slow to fulfil some of these comitments; but, as you know, I had no A/C. books till late in the year (and started the year with nothing in the Bank), so, could not budget for likely expenses. Naturally, Business A/C.s and regular running expences had to be attended to as a priority. The Parish Council was urging that the \$5,000.00 withdrawn from the D.D.F. should likewise be returned in the form of a "Building Fund" - which was increased eventually to \$7,000.00. Meanwhile, all unnecessary expenses were curtailed this year, such as Quarterly Parish Bulletin, which seemed too much of a luxury for a struggling parish. I likewise delayed for as long as possible taking my own salary, so as to keep a healthy balance in the Bank. As far as I can ascertain, the only remaining expense for '89 should be the annual Insurance (c. \$2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> thousand), which was due early this month and which I'm expecting and prepared for.

Incidentally, Paul, there was no advantage to be gained by phoning my assistant Treasurer (Pres. no. is 098-311135); the only outcome of which was to bring about discussion at the parish council level as to why Kojonup is so seemingly unjustly levied for \$1,700, when other parishes, with much larger populations and much <sup>healthier</sup> incomes seem to be let off much more lightly. I assured the Council that I would request an explanation when forwarding the Assessment. I hope a satisfactory explanation will be forthcoming before our next meeting on Wed. 7th. February.

As for the Superannuation Fund - this was discussed at our Regional Deansry meeting at which the V.G. presided; it was agreed that much more information had to be forthcoming before this extra burden be placed on parishes. I was quite happy to go along with that trend of thought, as that was something I had not taken into consideration when trying to work out my annual commitments. Neither was I aware of a block of land in the parish with Rates of ~~2500~~ \$ 350 to be paid.



COPY

# Shire of Kojonup

93 Albany Highway, Kojonup

IF PHONING OR CALLING ASK FOR

Mr Hartley

5th December, 1989.

Our Ref: A1/81

RECEIVED 11 DEC 1989

Roman Catholic Bishop,  
Catholic Presbytery,  
18 Parkfield Street,  
BUNBURY W.A. 6230.

Dear Sir,

Re: Municipal Rates.

During a recent examination of the shire's rating records it was found that three vacant properties owned by religious bodies were non-rated.

All land, excluding certain exceptions, is rateable. In regards to land owned by religious bodies, a rating exemption can be granted if it can be shown that the land is used or held exclusively as a place of public worship, a Sunday school, a place of residence of a minister of religion, a convent, nunnery or monastery, or is occupied exclusively by a religious brotherhood or sisterhood.

The attached rate assessment is for a vacant property on Liddell Street in Kojonup Townsite and payment within 35 days will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Signed

Neil P. Hartley,  
SHIRE CLERK.

*copy sent to bank  
12/12*

*Ken*



RECEIVED 20 SEP 1989

The Bishop of Bunbury,  
Chancery Office,  
3 Brend-tor Street,  
BUNBURY, W.A.  
6230

The Secretary,  
St. Bernard's Parish,  
Katanning Road,  
KOJONUP, W.A.  
6395

18th September, 1989.

Dear Bishop,

Please find attached to this letter a current list of Parish Councillors and Office Bearers as elected at the Annual General Meeting of the St. Bernard's Parish Council on Wednesday 13th September, 1989.

John Kelly has stood down from the Presidency after 5 years in this position but will remain on the Council. Mr. Barry Walsh has kindly agreed to take over the Chairmanship.

With an increase in numbers on the Council and a split of 5 women and 6 men St. Bernard's has a strong team of dedicated people to represent the Parish.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Signed

SECRETARY PARISH COUNCIL

7

RECEIVED 20 SEP 1989

KOJONUP PARISH COUNCIL

(As Elected on 13/9/89)

PRESIDENT: Mr. Barry Walsh

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Kevin Stevens

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

SECRETARY: Mrs. Kirsty Carmody

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

TREASURER: Mrs. Kath Thornbury

REDACTED Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

John Kelly

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Murray Gibbs

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Tim Trethowan

REDACTED Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Greg Wyss (School Principal)

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Mrs. Jo Bell

REDACTED Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Mrs. Annette Stevens

REDACTED, Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

Mrs. Frankie Walsh

REDACTED Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone: REDACTED

*Handwritten notes:*  
Mrs. Bell  
Mrs. Stevens  
Mrs. Walsh  
Kojonup, W.A.

RECEIVED 0 AUG 1989

CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY,  
KOJONUP W.A. 6395  
PHONE 098 311135  
31/7/89.

Enclosed, please find Marriage Papers for Gregory Patin's  
impending Marriage in N-Zealand in Christchurch Diocese.  
Chancery OFFICE in Christchurch address is:

P.O. Box 10069  
Christchurch.  
N.Z.

The Celebrant for the marriage is Fr. Kevin Burns C.S.S.R.  
212, Burwood Rd.  
Christchurch 9.  
Ph. 832-033.

Don't know.



Diocese of Bunbury  
Western Australia

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-lor Street

Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230

Telephone (097) 21 3740

6 June 1989

RECEIVED 6 JUN 1989

Rev D McAlinden PP  
Catholic Presbytery  
PO Box 248  
KOJONUP WA 6395

Dear Father McAlinden

Co-Responsibility Levy

I would be grateful for your cheque for \$150, which is still outstanding from December 1988.

Yours sincerely

*↑*  
"your sincerely" didn't arrive at Kojonup till Feb. '89. — no money in Current A/c and no Cheque Bk. to hand, plus nearly \$2,000 in outstanding bills for payment.

Signed

Signed

P A Gee  
CHANCELLOR

*John Kelly still unable to get Books + financial statements.*

*Fr. would you ask John Kelly how the finance statements are coming along. please -*

*R*

*Bank Mc has  
\$9800.00  
??*

With Compliments-

Immigration	43-40
Holy Places	108-905
	<u>151</u>
Project Compassion	1659-90

RECEIVED 13 APR 1992

St. Bernard's Catholic Parish  
Kojonup, W.A. 6395  
Phone 098 31 1135



Diocese of Bunbury  
Western Australia

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-lor Street

Address-Mail-to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230

Telephone (097) 21 3740

5 April 1989

Rev Fr D McAlinden PP  
PO Box 167  
KOJONUP WA 6395

Dear Father Denis

The following returns are due. I would be grateful for your attention to these administrative requirements please.

1. Immigration Appeal
2. 6 monthly Finance Statement *(to 31/12/88)*
3. Project Compassion *to date.*
4. Collection for the Holy Father *plures*

Yours sincerely

Signed

P A GEE

CHANCELLOR

7  
Kojonup

St. Bernard's Catholic Parish,

RECEIVED - 5 JAN 1989

Kojonup, W.A. 6395.

Phone 098 31 1135.

2. 1. 1989.

Dear Paul,

Best wishes for a very happy  
and fulfilling New Year.

Please find enclosed a cheque  
for encasement for six months. My  
apologies for delay, actually I was  
unable to come across it as it had  
remained in your envelope when I  
had removed the other items that  
had been included.

I will have the financial statement  
for 12 months to you before I  
leave, even if I have to delay  
my departure!

Warm regards,

Signed

7 Jan Johnson



*Diocese of Bunbury*  
*Western Australia*

CHANCERY OFFICE:  
3 Brend-tor Street

Address Mail to:  
P.O. Box 1084  
Bunbury, 6230

Telephone (097) 21 3740

23 December 1988

Rev Fr I Johnson PP  
Catholic Presbytery  
PO Box 167  
KOJONUP WA 6395

Dear Father Ian

Before you leave Kojonup. I would really appreciate receiving the Parish finance statements for the years ending 30/6/87 and 30/6/88.

In Lake Grace Oliver <sup>FARLEY</sup> Farrelly does a great job so you won't have any problems there.

Blessings of Christmas and the promise of prayers for your Apostolate in the Lake Country.

Yours sincerely

P A Gee  
CHANCELLOR

7  
11 - - h



---

To: "Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au" <Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au>  
cc:  
From: Helen Long <bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org>  
Date: 27/02/2013 01:23:50 PM  
Subject: Re: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Emma

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Please find attached the scanned documents. These were the remaining letters in McAlinden's file (the last one on green paper is from Bishop Thomas).

Kind regards

Helen



**Mrs. Helen Long**  
**Bishop's Secretary**  
**Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton**  
**PO Box 46**  
**GERALDTON WA 6531**  
**Ph: 08 9921 3221 Fax: 08 9964 1097**  
**Webpage: [www.geraldtondiocese.org.au](http://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au)**

**From:** Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au [mailto:Emma\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 February 2013 5:48 AM  
**To:** Helen Long  
**Subject:** bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org - Re: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Helen,

Thank you very much for your email, and for collating the information requested pursuant to the letter of 18 February 2013.

For completeness, could I please trouble you to also provide the other letters you refer to (in the nature of other correspondence between the Bishops of Maitland and Geraldton and Father McAlinden), notwithstanding the subject matter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,

Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
for Crown Solicitor

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [emma\\_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma_sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 9224 5029 | Fax: (02) 8224 5355

----- Forwarded by Lee Rout/CSO/NSW\_AG on 20/02/2013 05:59 PM -----

**Helen Long** <  
[bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org)>

To "'crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au'" <  
[crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au)>

20/02/2013 05:51 PM

cc

Subject 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply  
Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of  
Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Emma

I reply to your email / letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 on behalf of the Crown Solicitor regarding a request for documents relating to Fr Denis McAlinden.

Denis McAlinden's file in my Diocese of Geraldton is very small, some twelve letters. These letters are just the normal letters of correspondence between the Bishop of Maitland and Geraldton and Denis himself, regarding appointments, time of arrival and a little business.

---

I. We have no letters in this file regarding complaints, misdemeanours etc. by Fr Denis McAlinden.

II. In regard to suspicions we have two letters (one letter to Catholic Church Insurance from myself and their reply) which I now attach.

III. We do not have letters in this file to or from Police in regard to Fr Denis McAlinden.

This is what I can offer to your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Justin Bianchini

Signature Outlook JB

**From:** [Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) [[mailto:Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)]

**Sent:** Monday, 18 February 2013 3:09 PM

**To:** Helen Long

**Cc:** [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au); [sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au); [Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au); [Jessica\\_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jessica_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au)

**Subject:** Fw: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find a copy of the Terms of Reference attached which were left out of the previous email.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office | Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000**

GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [maria\\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maria_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 8224 5347 | Fax: (02) 9224 5177

----- Forwarded by Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG on 18/02/2013 06:12 PM -----

**Maria  
Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG**

To [dioger@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:dioger@diocese-geraldton.org)

18/02/2013 06:06 PM

cc [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au),  
[sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au),  
Emma  
Sullivan/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG,  
Jessica  
Wardle/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG

Subject Special Commission of Inquiry into  
matters relating to the Police  
investigation of certain child sexual  
abuse allegations in the Catholic  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find letter attached in relation to the above matter.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

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PO Box 46  
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Ph: 08 9921 3221 Fax: 08 9964 1097  
Webpage: [www.geraldtondiocese.org.au](http://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au)

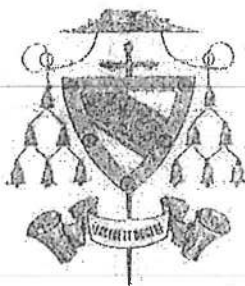


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- 20130227095530869.pdf



Catholic Church Office  
70 WOLFE STREET, P.O. BOX 693K,  
NEWCASTLE, N.S.W. 2300.  
Telephone: (049) 2 1425

June 11, 1981.

Most Rev. F. Thomas, D.D.,  
Bishop of Geraldton,  
Post Office Box 178,  
GERALDTON. W.A. 6530.

Dear Frank,

*Rec'd 16<sup>th</sup> June Replied 17<sup>th</sup>  
gladly accepting, & asking to let  
me know soon, when Fr. M<sup>r</sup>. can  
come - before 5 July if that be  
convenient for him & I'll drive him  
to Karratha 6-7 July. I'll pay fare +  
luggage.*

On my arrival home from a Conference in Townsville yesterday I found your letter of June 4 awaiting me.

I am sorry that you were unsuccessful in obtaining the services of a priest in Adelaide and that you are still seeking one. However, I might be able to assist.

You will remember me speaking to you about Father Denis McAlinden who had applied in 1976 to work in your Diocese. At that time there were some problems that I mentioned to you but as I said in Sydney, I think that these problems are now over.

I called him in this afternoon and asked whether he would be prepared to go on loan to your Diocese for 2 years and he readily accepted if you are willing to take him.

Father Denis is an Irish priest of 58 years of age, ordained in 1949. He is a very conscientious and hard-working priest with a tone of energy and physical hardships mean nothing to him. Until this year he had worked for 4 years in a most difficult part of New Guinea but survived despite the fact that he had a very bad hip. Early this year he had a successful hip replacement operation and told me to-day that now that he is free from pain for the first time in 15 years he feels like a new man and capable of anything.

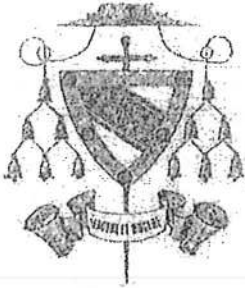
I would really think he is worth a try. If I didn't I would certainly not be suggesting that you take him.

If you do accept him I would release him immediately. Please let me know at your convenience your thoughts on the matter.

With kindest regards and fraternal best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Signed



Catholic Church Office  
70 WOLFE STREET, P.O. BOX 693K,  
NEWCASTLE, N.S.W. 2300  
Telephone: (049) 2-1425

June 24, 1981.

Most Rev. F. Thomas, D.D.,  
Bishop of Geraldton,  
P. O. Box 178,  
GERALDTON. W.A. 6530.

*Rec'd & answered  
29/6/81.  
We're all right for Dickson & Co.  
for month of July, so if Fr. Denis  
comes before end of July, that will  
do nicely. However, he'll be most welcome  
if he chooses to come earlier  
I'd want to hear from him  
waggonell many thanks for  
helping us out.  
+ J.X.O.*

Dear Frank,

Many thanks for your letter of June 17 re' Fr. Denis McAlinden.

On receipt of your letter I called Fr. Denis in and told him the news. He is very pleased indeed.

However there is one slight hitch. He had a hip replacement operation in January and has to see his doctor in Sydney each month for 6 months. His next appointment is on Monday, July 6, and he hopes that he will not have to see the doctor again after that.

He will write to you after the 6th letting you know his estimated time of arrival in Geraldton. He intends driving his own car over and bringing his luggage with him.

I hope the delay does not inconvenience you too much but I guess it's the old story of better late than never.

With cordial best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Signed



# St. Francis Xavier's Parish

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL & CONVENT  
SCHOOL: Tele. 45-2404.  
CONVENT: Tele. 45-4326.

Most Rev. Francis Thomas, D.D.,  
Bishop of Geraldton.

My Lord,

Bishop Clarke had asked me to contact you after my post-operative medical check-up of July 6th.. I told the doctor of my proposed plans to go to W.A.. As he put it, the news is both good and bad: the good news is that everything is developing 100% well since the operation; the bad news is that I must still report for a final medical check-up on October 12th.. The doctor says that while all indications point to a very successful outcome, the possible danger period isn't over till the completion of 6 months. This has been quite a disappointment, as I was expecting the "green light" to go immediately - not to mention the hope of escaping the worst of the N.S.W. Winter. However, I suppose there's not much point in going to a doctor if one isn't prepared to abide by his decision. He says he is already ~~xxxxxxx~~ quite convinced that his decision on October 12th will be: "Godwherever you like", so that I can be ready to move immediately after the interview.

I trust this hasn't interfered too drastically with your plans or those of the other priests, though, no doubt, it must be causing considerable inconvenience to someone.

As I explained to Bishop Clarke, I'd prefer to drive across to W.A. in order to bring with me most of my belongings, as there is no place to store them here; and, in any case, most of them will be required over the 2 year period. The Bishop did indicate that Wickham or thereabouts was to be my destination. However, I'm sure I can expect - over the next couple of months - some positive plan of what to do and where to go. With renewed regrets over the unavoidable delay, and with every best wish,

I remain, my Lord,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Signed

*Reply 21-7-81*  
*Thanks for letter,*  
*Follow doctor's advice*  
*Hope you'll be able to come*  
*in Oct. New bishop will*  
*know of our arrangement*  
*- he will have the decision*  
*to make the decision in Oct.*  
*I suggest you write to him*  
*towards end of Sept. He is*  
*Cathedral, Perth*

CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY:  
20 Church Street, Belmont, 2280. *all be*  
Tele. 45-4402. *I think he will be*  
*pleased to have*  
*your help in*  
7th. July, '81. *October*

*He is Rev W Foley, Coadj. St Marys*

# St. Francis Xavier's Parish

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL & CONVENT

SCHOOL: Tele. 45-2404.

CONVENT: Tele. 45-4326.

CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY:

20 Church Street, Belmont, 2280.

Tele. 45-4402.

15th. September, '81.

Most Rev. W.J. Foley, D.D.,

Bishop of Geraldton,

W.A.

My Lord,

First of all, sincere Congratulations on your elevation to the Episcopacy; may you enjoy many and fruitful years as Bishop of Geraldton.

Bishop F.X. Thomas has assured me that he would pass on to you all correspondence between himself and Bishop Clarke of Maitland re. my going to Geraldton Diocese as well as my last letter to him explaining my delay in setting out. The Doctor wanted to be sure beyond doubt that all was well after the operation, and insisted that I wait here for a full 6 months to finalize tests etc.. On my last visit - a month ago - he assured me that all was excellent and that after my final visit in October 12th there should be nothing to stop my departure.

Of course, Bishop Thomas has since relinquished the care of the Diocese, and he suggested I should contact you after the middle of September to ascertain whether all previous tentative arrangements had your approval, since, by that time you should have taken over the care of the Diocese. Bishop Thomas had suggested Wickham as my destination, but, naturally, this too had to be confirmed. I should, however, appreciate a "forwarding address" before leaving Maitland.

So, the purpose of this note is <sup>to</sup> reaffirm my desire to serve in Geraldton Diocese for whatever time may be agreed upon by yourself and Bishop Clarke. I expect to be able to set out (by car) around 15th. October, hoping to be well into Geraldton at least, before the end of the month.

Bishop Clarke understands that, unless plans have been altered, I shall be leaving Maitland Diocese as of October 15th. I shall be contacting him again on receipt of your reply. Meanwhile, shall await in ~~readiness~~ readiness - have a First Communion Celebration here at Belmont on Sunday 11th October.

With renewed Best Wishes,

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Signed

8th November '81

Rev. Fr. Denis McAlinden,  
Maitland, N.S.W.

Dear Father Denis,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you officially to the Diocese of Geraldton. Your generosity in offering to serve here in our time of need is in line with the missionary service you have given as a priest since ordination. I sincerely pray that your years in the diocese and among its priests will be happy and rewarding ones.

I hereby appoint you, with all the necessary faculties, as parish priest of Wickham which includes in its boundaries the towns of Roebourne and Pannawonica. The pastoral work in the area might present a different challenge to you, but I am sure that the St. John of God Sisters, who run the Yaandina Centre for aboriginal babies, and the very committed members of the parish council will give you their wholehearted support.

May the Lord go with you and grant you daily his support and guidance, his peace and joy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop

To: Emma Sullivan/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG  
cc: Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG  
From: Lee Rout/CSO/NSW\_AG  
Date: 20/02/2013 05:56:12 PM  
Subject: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic Diocese of Maitland  
Newcastle Inquiry

f y i

----- Forwarded by Lee Rout/CSO/NSW\_AG on 20/02/2013 05:59 PM -----

Helen Long  
<bishsecretary@diocese-geraldton.org>

20/02/2013 05:51 PM

To "crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au" <crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au>  
cc

Subject 201203450 - D2013/66483 : Reply Emma Sullivan -Catholic  
Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Inquiry

Dear Emma

I reply to your email / letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 on behalf of the Crown Solicitor regarding a request for documents relating to Fr Denis McAlinden.

Denis McAlinden's file in my Diocese of Geraldton is very small, some twelve letters. These letters are just the normal letters of correspondence between the Bishop of Maitland and Geraldton and Denis himself, regarding appointments, time of arrival and a little business.

I. We have no letters in this file regarding complaints, misdemeanours etc. by Fr Denis McAlinden.

II. In regard to suspicions we have two letters (one letter to Catholic Church Insurance from myself and their reply) which I now attach.

III. We do not have letters in this file to or from Police in regard to Fr Denis McAlinden.

This is what I can offer to your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Justin Bianchini

Signature Outlook JB

**From:** [Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) [[mailto:Maria\\_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Maria_Lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au)]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 February 2013 3:09 PM  
**To:** Helen Long  
**Cc:** [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au); [sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au);  
[Emma\\_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Emma_Sullivan@agd.nsw.gov.au); [Jessica\\_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jessica_Wardle@agd.nsw.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Fw: Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find a copy of the Terms of Reference attached which were left out of the previous email.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

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GPO Box 25 SYDNEY 2001 | DX 19 SYDNEY | [www.cso.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cso.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [maria\\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maria_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 8224 5347 | Fax: (02) 9224 5177

----- Forwarded by Maria Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG on 18/02/2013 06:12 PM -----

**Maria  
Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW\_AG**

18/02/2013 06:06 PM

To [dioger@diocese-geraldton.org](mailto:dioger@diocese-geraldton.org)

cc [akohn@makdap.com.au](mailto:akohn@makdap.com.au),  
[sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sean.tynan@mn.catholic.org.au),

Emma  
Sullivan/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG,  
Jessica  
Wardle/CSO/NSW\_AG@NSW\_AG

Subject Special Commission of Inquiry into  
matters relating to the Police  
investigation of certain child sexual  
abuse allegations in the Catholic  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Bishop Bianchini

Please find letter attached in relation to the above matter.

Kind regards

Maria Lagoudakis  
Legal Secretary

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Email: [maria\\_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maria_lagoudakis@agd.nsw.gov.au) | Tel: (02) 8224 5347 | Fax: (02) 9224  
5177

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**Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton**  
PO Box 46  
GERALDTON WA 6531  
Ph: 08 9921 3221 Fax: 08 9964 1097  
Webpage: [www.geraldtondiocese.org.au](http://www.geraldtondiocese.org.au)



**Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton**  
PO Box 46  
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# St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Geraldton, .W.A.

Mr Laurie Rölls  
Catholic Church Insurances Ltd  
PO Box 180B  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Dear Laurie

Further to the form I sent you when I was at the Bishop's Conference in April regarding special issues in our Diocese (where I stated that I know of no other instances in the Diocese), I now wish to make a statement: I discussed the matter with Bob Fragomeini when he was up recently and he suggested I send you the following:

Father Denis McAlinden is a priest of the Diocese of Maitland who was born on 24 January 1923. He was ordained on 5 June 1949 in St Kieran's, Kilkenny, Ireland. He spent time in the Maitland Diocese from 1949 to 1968. From 1968 to 1981 he was in Papua New Guinea. He came to the Geraldton Diocese in November 1981 and was appointed Parish Priest of Wickham and Pannawonica a few days later. To my knowledge he spent two years in the parish. A good number of years later while he was helping in the Bunbury Diocese he was charged by a young lady with sexual abuse of her as a child while he was in Wickham. When the matter eventually got to court he was acquitted of the charge. I have no knowledge of any other charge or mention of an instance of sexual abuse by Denis. However in recent times it has come to my knowledge that while he was in the Diocese of Maitland there were various complaints brought against him with regard to sexual abuse, but they were carried no further by the people involved on the condition that Denis be taken out of the priestly ministry. His Bishop, Leo Clarke prohibited Denis from exercising any priestly ministry whatsoever. Nothing may come of this but in discussion with Bob Fragomeini he thought it best that I mention it to you and do so in the form of a private letter.

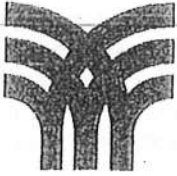
Yours sincerely

Signed

JUSTIN JOSEPH BIANCHINI  
BISHOP OF GERALDTON

9 June 1994





# Catholic Church Insurances Limited

A.C.N. 000 005 210

Head Office: 324 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004.  
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22 June 1994

**Direct Line: (03) 693 2297**

## **PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Most Rev. J.J. Bianchini D.D  
Bishop of Geraldton  
PO Box 178  
GERALDTON WA 6530

Dear Bishop Bianchini,

re: **Fr. D. McAlinden**

Your letter of 9 June to our Mr Rolls has been referred to the undersigned who has control of claims arising out of these matters.

We have opened a file and would appreciate it if you could keep us advised regarding any indications that civil claims could be made against the Diocese arising out of the activities of Fr. McAlinden.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

**G.K. RIPON**  
**Head Office Claims**

VIC. 324 St Kilda Road Melbourne 3004 Phone (03) 696 3733 Fax (03) 699 9363  
N.S.W. 276 Pitt Street Sydney 2000 Phone (02) 264 5799 Fax (02) 261 3202  
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S.A. 39 Wakefield Street Adelaide 5000 Phone (08) 210 8228 Fax (08) 223 1946  
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N.T. 90 Mitchell Street Darwin 0800 Phone (089) 411 244 Fax (089) 412 101  
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Crown  
Solicitor's  
Office

Your Ref:

My Ref: 201203450

T20 Emma Sullivan

Tel: (02) 9224-5029

Fax: (02) 8224-5355

Email: crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au

18 February 2013

Bishop Justin Bianchini,  
Bishop of Geraldton  
PO Box 46,  
GERALDTON WA 6531

By email: dioger@diocese-geraldton.org

Dear Bishop Bianchini

**Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ("Inquiry")**

I refer to your recent discussions with Bishop Bill Wright of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and Mr Sean Tynan, Manager of Zimmerman Services for the Diocese, in relation to the above Inquiry.

As you may now be aware, Ms Margaret Cunneen SC has been appointed as Commissioner to inquire into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Commissioner has been appointed by Letters Patent issued under the *Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983* (NSW).

Ms Julia Lonergan SC, Mr David Kell and Mr Warwick Hunt of Counsel and the Crown Solicitor assist the Commissioner.

*Inquiry's terms of reference*

Pursuant to Letters Patent dated 21 November 2012 and 25 January 2013, the Commissioner is to inquire into and report on:

1. the circumstances in which Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox was asked to cease investigating relevant matters and whether it was appropriate to do so; and
2. whether, and the extent to which, officials of the Catholic Church facilitated, assisted, or co-operated with, Police investigations of relevant matters, including whether any investigation has been hindered or obstructed by, amongst other things, the failure to report alleged criminal offences, the discouraging of witnesses to come forward, the alerting of alleged offenders to possible police actions, or the destruction of evidence,

“**relevant matters**” means any matter relating directly or indirectly to alleged child sexual abuse involving Father Denis McAlinden or Father James Fletcher, including the responses to such allegations by officials of the Catholic Church (and whether or not the matter involved, or is alleged to have involved, criminal conduct).

A copy of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference are **attached** for your reference.

*Request for documents relating to Father Denis McAlinden*

As you are no doubt aware, Father Denis McAlinden spent some time in Western Australia in the 1980s and early 1990s. Specifically, I understand that:

- from about November 1981 to 1983, Father McAlinden was on loan from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese to the Diocese of Geraldton in Western Australia, being appointed as Parish Priest of Wickham and Pannawonica;
- from about 1988 to 1993, Father McAlinden worked as a parish priest in the Diocese of Bunbury in Western Australia;
- during this period, in or around 1992, criminal charges were laid against Father McAlinden in Western Australia relating to alleged child sexual abuse committed in 1982 at Wickham.

During the whole of this period, Father McAlinden remained incardinated to the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

As part of its investigations, the Inquiry desires to obtain copies of certain documents that may be held by the Geraldton Dioceses relating to Fr McAlinden. In effect, the documents sought are:

- (i) the 'Bishop's file' relating to Father McAlinden (or comparable file, howsoever named, containing records of complaints, misdemeanours, etc relating to Fr, McAlinden);
- (ii) documents regarding any complaints, reports or recorded suspicions of child sexual abuse by Father McAlinden; and
- (iii) documents recording communications between the respective Diocese (Geraldton or Bunbury) with Police (WA or NSW), the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese or each other (ie Geraldton Diocese to Bunbury Diocese and vice versa) referring or relating to any complaints, reports or recorded suspicions of child sexual abuse by Father McAlinden.

The Commissioner would be most assisted if you could undertake a review of documents held by the Geraldton Diocese (including in the diocesan archives) to ascertain whether any such documents are held, and if so, to provide copies of the same.

As the Inquiry will commence public hearings on 6 May 2013, your expedition in this matter is appreciated.

Please contact Ms Sullivan of my Office on (02) 9224 5029 should you have any queries relating to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Yours faithfully

*Signed*

Emma Sullivan  
Special Counsel  
for Crown Solicitor

Encl.