

2ndsFebruary, 1988

Most Rev. R. Kalisz, D.D.,  
Bishop of Wewak,  
P.O. Box 107  
WEWAK, E.S.P. PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dear Bishop Kalisz,

Many thanks for your letter of 9th January concerning Father Denis McAlinden.

Father has informed me that he has already written to you explaining that he is to see a doctor about another hip operation later this month. In the event of this operation taking place it would be most unlikely that he would be able to take up duties anywhere for several weeks, or even months, after leaving hospital. No doubt he will keep you informed of his state of health.

In your letter you asked for some comment on his character. So in all honesty I must tell you the following in strict confidence. Towards the end of last year allegations were made by some parents and the head teacher that Father's behaviour with small girls was worrying them because of his imprudent relationship and expressions of affection.

I had this matter investigated. Father categorically denied any seriousness or guilt, admitting only that he had been imprudent. The investigations proved inconclusive - Father still maintaining his innocence. He voluntarily submitted to psychiatric assessment and once again no conclusion was reached by the doctor.

In view of the allegations, in his own opinion it would be unwise for him to continue to work in this Diocese. It would be a charity for some Bishop to take him on, knowing the problems that have arisen. He is a hard-working priest, seemingly a prayerful man but rather tense and set in his ways.

With cordial best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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