

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND



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12 February 1993

Dear Father McAlinden,

Further to my telephone call to you on Thursday, 11th February, I now write to confirm your position as from Monday 15th February.

The background to all this is a decision made by the Australian Bishops' Conference to follow legal advice, both civil and canonical, as to the process to be followed when serious allegations are made about a priest's conduct. This is called a Protocol. It is made and followed to ensure:

- (a) that the accused is treated with justice and charity while an investigation is carried out and after the result is known
- (b) that the person(s) making allegations receive a hearing with respect and not summarily dismissed

This protocol must be followed by all Bishops when confronted with such cases.

Therefore in the first stage of proceedings I issue this administrative decree namely that I formally withdraw your faculties as a priest of this Diocese of Maitland in light of certain serious allegations that have been made concerning your behaviour. This means that you may not celebrate any public Mass or publicly administer Sacraments or engage in any public priestly activities until this whole matter is resolved. This decree takes effect as from Monday 15th February.

As I stated to you on the telephone it is necessary also for you to contact and see Fr Brian Lucas who has been appointed by the NSW Bishops to handle such cases. His office is in Polding House, 276 Pitt St, Sydney (Tel 02-264 7211).

I shall arrange suitable accommodation for you here in the Diocese until this matter is resolved.

With a promise of prayer and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ

Signed

Most Reverend L M Clarke, DD
Bishop of Maitland

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*Letter to have been handed to Denis - but
not necessary once Admin Decree finalized*