

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

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2 November 1995

Rev D McAlinden
PO Box 305
JOLLIMONT WA 6013

Dear Father,

By the time you receive this letter, Bishop Leo Clarke's resignation as Bishop of this Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, will have been announced by the Holy See. As Coadjutor Bishop I will immediately become the Bishop of the Diocese.

Therefore Bishop Clarke has referred your confidential letter of October 26 to me for attention.

I regret that one of my first duties as Bishop is to continue Canonical procedures against one of the priests of the Diocese. However, because of the gravity of the allegations against you, the evidence supporting those allegations and after full and continual consultation with Bishop Clarke over many months, I have no alternative but to reaffirm the contents of Bishop Clarke's letter to you of October 19.

I am sorry that you are in ill health, but Bishop Clarke's time frame still stands ie., "the next phase of this process will take place in 15 days when I will send you a summary of the evidence supporting the claim in which you are impeded to carry out your ministry properly. You have 15 days from that date in which to prepare and make your response to me. You will then be informed by a Decree of my decision."

The relevant Canons are attached and I'm sure you could access Canonical advice in Western Australia should you wish to do so.

In conclusion may I emphasise the seriousness of the allegations and the real possibility of police intervention.

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Most Reverend M Malone, DD
Coadjutor Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

+MM/ed