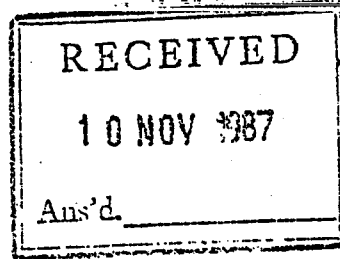


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Bishop Clark
Catholic Church Office
PO Box 73
MAITLAND NSW 2320



5th. November, 1987

Dear Bishop Clark, Re: Father Denis MCALINDEN

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Father McAlinden obtained a referral from his local medical officer, to undergo psychiatric evaluation, by me, and the following is a summary of what transpired between Father McAlinden and myself.

I interviewed Father McAlinden on a total of 4 occasions, and at all times Father McAlinden steadfastly maintained his innocence, in connection with sexual activity involving children. He did admit that following his missionary work, in New Guinea, from 1968 to 1976, that he may have become a little over familiar with children, but maintained that the allegations which had been made against him, were the result of misinterpretation by others.

The initial impression I had was that the alleged behaviour had occurred only relatively recently, and for this reason it was obviously important to exclude the possibilities that Father McAlinden was suffering from either one of the major psychiatric disorders, or organic cerebral impairment, which may have caused impairment of judgement and disinhibition. However my clinical

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examination of Father McAlinden revealed no evidence of any major psychiatric disorder, and no evidence of the kind of organic cerebral impairment that one may see with a condition such as atherosclerosis.

In any case according to Father McAlinden, there had been previous similar allegations, the first one occurring in 1954, when the late Bishop Toohy had cause to discuss the issue with Father McAlinden at that time.

Father McAlinden also apparently had the habit of giving sweets to children, and he maintained this was because of his fondness for them, and he further stated that he had not previously thought of the obvious implications which could be attributed to an adult carrying sweets specifically for the purpose of handing them out to children, in an indiscriminate fashion.

The long period of time over which these alleged incidences have taken place on a recurring basis, certainly makes one suspicious as to Father McAlinden's intent, as does his apparent difficulty in learning from experience, and his absolute denial of ever having experienced any form of sexual interest in his life.

However, as I mentioned previously Father McAlinden remained firm in his position regarding his innocence, and expressed his desire for the whole situation, to be resolved as quickly as possible, and in whatever way you saw fit. In view of my findings and Father McAlinden's position in the matter, we both agreed that there would no purpose served in his continuing to see me, and hence the contact was discontinued by mutual agreement. Father McAlinden did however volunteer that he

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finally recognised that his actions although innocent were open to interpretation, and he stated quite clearly that the manner in which he approached children, would be totally different from now on.

I certainly hope that this matter can now come to satisfactory resolution, and please do not hesitate in contacting me should you require any further information.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

DEREK A. JOHNS