

25 September 2020

STATEMENT FROM THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

Professional Standards Board Determination in relation to the Reverend Doug Morrison-Cleary

The Professional Standards Board of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle (PSB) has found the Reverend Doug Morrison-Cleary is currently unfit to hold any office, licence or position of responsibility in the Church.

The PSB has recommended to the Bishop that the Bishop issue an Order prohibiting Father Doug Morrison-Cleary from holding any licence or authority or office that he currently holds as a Church worker; and the prohibition order should remain in effect until such time as Father Doug Morrison-Cleary establishes to the satisfaction of the Acting Director of Professional Standards that:

- (a) he recognises the objectives of protection of the vulnerable, of Church workers, and of the Church itself, that are embedded in the rules and principles under which he would be required to operate; and
- (b) he was clearly and absolutely committed to the observation of those rules and principles.

The PSB was convened to consider the circumstances surrounding Fr Morrison-Cleary's relationship with a 16-year old male in the course of his ministry.

In reaching its decisions, the PSB found that Fr Morrison-Cleary

- behaved in
 - an unprofessional way towards the child;
 - a sexually inappropriate way towards the child;
 - a way that was designed to build an entirely inappropriate relationship as a priest and given his awareness of the child's particular circumstances (Decision Paragraph 78);
- opposed efforts to control the risk posed by the child (Decision Paragraph 78)
- failed to adhere to provisions of the Code of Conduct for Church Workers known as *Faithfulness in Service*. In particular, the PSB found that Fr Morrison-Cleary, in permitting the young person to see him naked in the change room of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, breached Parts 5.30 and 5.35 of *Faithfulness in Service* (relating to nudity and privacy) (Decision Paragraphs 55 and 79);
- breached the code in relation to
 - favouritism
 - work undertaken alone or in isolation with a child
 - the failure to avoid being alone in a motor vehicle with a child (Decision Paragraph 79)

Fr Morrison Cleary has 28 days to request a review of the decision of the Professional Standards Board.

The Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Peter Stuart, is unable to comment on the proceedings until the matter is finalised.

The PSB has ordered that the publication of any material that identifies or leads to the identification of the young person referred to in this determination or any member of the young person's family is prohibited.