

P.O. Box 82  
MINLATON SA 5575  
27/2/22

The Right Rev John Stead  
Bishop of Willochra  
P.O. Box 96  
GLADSTONE 5473

Dear Bishop Stead

Thank you for your pastoral letter read out at today's service. The pastoral support is welcome, even though it was not in person. You are correct to acknowledge the deep hurt felt here over the vilification of Fr Thomas.

However, I have concerns with your letter.

Firstly, you distance yourself from the complaints by stating that the issues principally involve the Diocese of the Murray and not Willochra. I can report that Bp Keith of the Murray had a congregational meeting with members of Christ the King, Mount Barker this morning and offered concern and support to his flock over the hurt they are feeling over Fr Thomas. Further, your pastoral letter was read to the meeting and Bp Keith expressed surprise and concern at several of your statements.

Secondly you state: *"following a reconsideration of the matter on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, and considering the new information and evidence, the Committee is now of the opinion that Father Thomas' alleged misconduct raises issues for determination about Father Thomas' fitness for office, and whether restrictions or conditions should be placed on any ongoing role he may have in the Church, whether that be in SA or in any future Diocese he may enter as clergy"* Now, whether that be true or not, I believe your publicly reporting such is a serious breach of Professional Standards policy and undermines the integrity of the whole Professional Standards process.

To date, none of the complaints or legal challenges to the Estate of Joan Correll have amounted to anything, probate has been granted and that is the end of the matter.

Finally, I note in your recent column in "Windmills" headed looking beyond the Horizon that you concluded with *"May we actively reach out and connect with the wider community that they may know the blessing of being part of God's kingdom on earth"* We all know a priest who is actively doing that and bringing his people with him. This should be acknowledged and celebrated.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Cook

Cc The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith  
Cc The Right Reverend Keith Dalby  
Cc Registrar Gavin Tyndale  
Cc Churchlink email list