

conducting the weddings of friends within the Parish and realizing and accepting that "this was not my lot".

4.6 In relation to his sexual orientation it is considered that Fr. Pearce was particularly defensive and it is noted that in responding to the psychometric measures he indicated that he regards himself as neither exclusively heterosexual nor exclusively homosexual.

4.7 Fr. Pearce properly made a distinction between sexual intimacy and intimacy per se. He stated that he has many friends outside of the monastery, in addition to fraternal relationships within, through which these needs are appropriately met.

4.8 In relation to contact with children he indicated that this is confined to contact within his own family at Christmas time, that his sister is fully aware of the current allegations and that Social Services have been involved in terms of any child protection issues.

5. Issues of Concern:

There are four specific allegations of inappropriate behaviour.

5.1 During the last twelve months an adult male has alleged that when he was a child, during the late 1970's, Fr. Pearce touched his penis. He stated that his brother had been similarly touched but that neither now wished to make a formal complaint. Fr Pearce acknowledged that he had touched one boy on the penis, but that there was no sexual intent.

5.1.2 The boys in question were the sons of the DPA of the Senior School in which Fr. Pearce was at the time a teacher. He explained he was a family friend of this woman, who was a DPA with a number of children, and that he would on occasions help in the evening by taking the boys up to bed and settling them down. He stated that as the boys reached puberty their mother expressed some uncertainty about how they should be given relevant information about sex and she was happy to accept his offer to talk to them about this. He did this when taking one of the boys up to bed