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# DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

CHURCH HOUSE · COLLEGE GREEN · GLOUCESTER · GL1 2LY  
TELEPHONE GLOUCESTER  FAX (0452) 308324

001405

31ST DECEMBER 1992

## Press Release

**EMBARGOED**

**NOT TO BE USED BEFORE**

**12 NOON SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY 1993**

### PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

A personal message from the Archbishop of Canterbury will be read out in churches throughout the Gloucester Diocese on the first Sunday of the New Year, 3rd January 1993.

Concerned at the distress caused by the allegations against the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Reverend Peter Ball, the Archbishop explains, "At my request Bishop Peter has gone away to rest while the Police are investigating the accusation. It was clear to me that he was under great strain"

The Archbishop goes on to say, "We hope and pray that the investigation will clear his name and that he will be restored to his great work of Christian ministry. Bishop Peter has always given unstintingly to the service of Christ."

Aware of the devastating effect that any such accusation has on those accused the Archbishop asks that people continue to remember Bishop Peter in their prayers.

The Archbishop's message is included in a letter sent to all clergy in the Diocese from the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Right Reverend Jeremy Walsh.

**ENDS**

Issued by the Diocesan Communications Officer, Canon Andy Radford,

Telephone - Office  Home

LACEDITH PALACE

