

Remarks on Issuing Penalty

We do not believe that there is anything to be gained from lecturing Fr Gilmore. It is only important that we should refer to the findings of fact which we made in this case. We specifically refer to paragraph 76 of our Determination.

It is a fact that during the hearing Fr Gilmore denied the allegations against him. Consequently, the Complainant's witnesses had to give evidence and to run the risk of their being disbelieved.

However the Panel is gratified to learn that Fr Gilmore now accepts its findings of fact about what happened, that he is contrite, and that he regrets the behaviour which has brought embarrassment and shame upon him. This is something which the Panel has taken into account in deciding what penalty it should impose.

The clergy of the Church of England are called upon to set a high standard of moral behaviour. The reputation of the Church in the community depends to a great extent on the example of its clergy, who should recognise their role as public representatives of the Church. Their lives should enhance and embody the communication of the gospel.

In all the circumstances here, we are satisfied that there is no alternative but to order that Fr Gilmore be removed from office with immediate effect. In reality such was conceded by Mr Hill, on behalf of Fr Gilmore.

We are also satisfied that it is necessary to prohibit Fr Gilmore from exercising his orders. Again Mr Hill conceded that there should be a period of prohibition but contended for a period of 12 months. Although the Panel had some difficulty in assessing the length of appropriate prohibition, and some members argued for a longer period, ultimately we all agreed that we should make an order for prohibition for a period of two years and that such properly reflects both the gravity of the misconduct of Fr Gilmore and the hope of his rehabilitation to ministry in the longer term.

We order that Fr Gilmore's name is to be entered on the Archbishops' List.

Finally we order that the identities of 'A', 'B', 'X' and 'Y' are not to be made known in any way, to protect the private lives of those concerned.

Chancellor Geoffrey Tattersall QC

Chairman

16 December 2010