



MEDIA RELEASE

On FRI 02 DEC 2022 the Carmelites received an allegation regarding the sexual abuse of a student at Whitefriars College by Father Hugh Brown during the mid-1990s. Fr Hugh has strenuously denied the allegation.

This report has occurred very close to Father Hugh's planned retirement from his current ministry as Parish Priest of St Joseph's Port Melbourne and O.L.M.C. Middle Park which was due to conclude on 02 JAN 2023.

In line with standard Archdiocesan protocol, Fr Hugh has stood down from public ministry while police and civil investigations are being completed. He is, of course, entitled to the presumption of innocence.

The Carmelites expect to make an announcement regarding the appointment of a new parish priest in the near future.

The Carmelites acknowledge the significant distress and impact of childhood sexual abuse, as well as the complexities of investigating allegations of historical abuse.

Out of respect for the welfare and privacy of both the accuser and accused, the Carmelites will be making no further comment until the relevant investigations have been completed.

Fr Bruce Clark O.Carm

Prior Provincial

11 DEC 2022

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