



ARCHDIOCESAN MEDIA OFFICE

Dated: Friday, 27 October 2023

Subject: Statement for Hilton Parish Community regarding Rev Fr Paul Raj

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth confirms that on Thursday, 26 October 2023, WA Police charged Rev Fr Paul Raj with one (1) count of unlawful and indecent assault in relation to an incident on Tuesday, 17 October 2023.

Bail was granted under stated provisions and Rev Fr Raj was released from custody that evening.

On the morning of Friday, 27 October 2023, Rev Fr Raj was rearrested and charged by WA Police with a breach of bail condition. The matter was heard by the Fremantle Magistrates Court that afternoon and Rev Fr Raj was remanded in custody.

Rev Fr Raj has, with immediate effect, concluded his appointment as the parish priest of the Hilton Parish. Effective Thursday, 26 October 2023, full ministry restrictions were imposed on Rev Fr Raj until further notice.

As this matter is now before the Court, the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth will not provide any further comment at this time.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth reaffirms the protection of children and vulnerable adults is the Church's highest priority.

Support and Reporting Information

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth urges any person with evidence of criminal conduct to report the matter to their local Police.

The Western Australian Professional Standards Office (WAPSO) can also assist any person needing support to report a concern about abuse.

Telephone: (08) 9221 7762 or 1800 072 390 Email: director.wapso@perthcatholic.org.au

End Statement.

Media enquiries should be directed to:

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