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**FR TONY CHIERA**

As you all know, the responsibilities of the role of Vicar General in the Bunbury Diocese have been reviewed and the result is increased responsibilities for the position. Priests have been nominating peers who might be considered for the position.

Fr Tony Chiera, who has served in the position for 22 years, has decided to decline nomination for the new position at this time. Instead, he wishes to take up my offer, made some time ago, of a sabbatical year in 2023.

He wishes to use the year for rest and renewal as well as for research and writing.

Fr Tony has served faithfully and his ministries have been appreciated across the whole Diocese, including his ministry as Vicar General. He has been self-giving and always seeking to help whenever and whenever asked. Personally, I will never forget his enormous help as Vicar General to me when I was called, a stranger to the Diocese, to minister as Bishop. He has been well known for his dedication to adult faith education and I know that the priests have valued deeply his ministry to them as a brother.

Fr Tony has been experienced by young and old as a man of love and compassion. He has not ruled out being willing to serve as Vicar General again in the future. Let us pray that the coming year will be a time for real refreshment and renewal so that he returns to in 2024 full of energy and refreshed.

God bless, Bishop Gerard.