

STATEMENT MADE BY THE RT.REV. ALAN C. CLARK, BISHOP OF ELMHAM,  
TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 1975 : MR. DUGGAN TAKING  
THE STATEMENT.

---

Subject : DOWNHAM MARKET

"The Bishop feels that the questions put by Mr. Duggan are premature and would like to offer the following statement:-

"The Downham Market affair, which has been given such publicity, can only cause distress to Catholics in this country, not least to those who deeply regret the discontinuance of the Tridentine Rite. Little can be gained by prejudging the eventual settling of this unhappy situation in which a priest has appeared to act in contradiction with the express command of his bishop. The Second Vatican Council regarded it as of the greatest importance to undertake the reform of the liturgy of the Church, and the new order of the rite of celebrating Mass has been introduced with the authority of those who are acknowledged, in Catholic faith, to have ultimate responsibility in these matters. Hence there are few Catholics who, whatever their personal feelings, wish to go against such a decision. In fact, there are very many who are grateful for the opportunity thus given to grow in their understanding and love of the mystery of the Eucharist."