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30/VII/76

My Lord Bishop,

As the priest who have been requested to offer the traditional Mass at Newcastle on August 8th I am moved by your Lordship's admonition published in today's Catholic press to inform you in all courtesy of at least one reason for my now almost notorious stand.

Since it is stated in a letter recently published in the East Anglian press, I enclose a copy and should be grateful if your Lordship would be good enough to peruse it. If some fault in my reasoning can be indicated I shall, most sincerely, be grateful. Every other Bishop has so far remained silent on this particular argument.

It is admittedly an argumentum ad hominem. Quite different and immensely stronger reasons are elaborated in Fr. Wathen's 'The Great Sacrilege', a book whose

thesis I find unanswerable, and after constant vigilance I have still not come across a refutation.

Your lordship will be very kind and believe my assurance that I sincerely am trying to do God's Will, which I cannot now discern along the way of blind, unquestioning obedience. I cannot in conscience see my way to abandoning my present stand. It is most emphatically not in my nature to be defiant towards authority, still less ostentatious. Quite the contrary.

Your lordship's most obedient servant,

Osmond Baker
