



DIOCESE OF BAKER

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Press Release

On Friday, December 6, 2019, the Diocese of Baker was informed by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City of a substantiated charge of sexual abuse with a minor against Reverend Papa Rao Pasala, a priest of the Diocese of Nellore, India, who has been serving as a pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Heppner and St. William Mission in Ione since 2014.

The abuse occurred in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 2001, and the statute of limitations has expired.

Upon receipt of this information, Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker immediately removed Father Pasala from his parish and suspended him from ministry. He will no longer be allowed to minister in the United States and will return to the Diocese of Nellore to face further disciplinary actions by his bishop there.

According to Reverend Richard Fischer, Vicar General of the Diocese of Baker, there have been no accusations made against Father Pasala during his time in the Baker Diocese. If any person has information regarding violations from 2014 until now, he or she is asked to contact the civil authorities and Leah Bickett, the Child Protection Coordinator for the Diocese of Baker. Her phone number is (541) 388-4004.

Very Rev. Richard O. Fischer
Vicar General

