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VATICAN BANNED CASEY BECAUSE OF ABUSE CLAIMS

RTÉ to reveal Holy See got child sex complaint in 2001

EXCLUSIVE

By Anne Sheridan

THE VATICAN banned Bishop Eamonn Casey from public ministry for life after receiving multiple child sexual abuse allegations against him, the Irish Mail on Sunday can reveal.

A major RTÉ documentary in association with the MoS, which airs tomorrow, investigates how the Catholic Church handled at least five child sexual abuse allegations against the former Bishop of Galway.

It comes after this newspaper previously revealed how four women complained

A Zendaya in the life of a Hollywood movie star

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Bertie: I've not ruled Áras bid in or out

By John Drennan

FORMER Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said he has 'never ruled it in or out' referring to a presidential bid next year.

The move could derail Micheál Martin's Áras ambitions after the Irish Mail on Sunday reported the Tánaiste plans to contest the presidency.

FULL STORY See Page 10 >>

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Casey was banned for life by Vatican

» From Page One

of alleged child sexual abuse against Bishop Casey, including his niece. Now it has emerged the Vatican reaffirmed the ban on the disgraced Irish cleric's ministry after his niece, Patricia Donovan, made a complaint of child sex abuse against him in 2005. In a rare statement, the Vatican confirmed it banned Bishop Casey from ministry before 2006, and reiterated that ban to him the following year. The RTE documentary will broadcast further revelations about the controversial former Bishop of Kerry and Galway, who was forced to resign following his dramatic fall from grace in 1992 after he fathered a child with his distant American cousin, Annie Murphy. The Vatican ordered him to leave the country and he became a missionary in South America before eventually returning to Ireland in 2006. Bishop Casey remained out of ministry for the last 12 years of his life, from at least 2005 to the day he died on March 13, 2017, aged 89. The Vatican statement also reveals the ban was never lifted – despite appeals by Casey and his supporters that he should be allowed to return to ministry. The statement said: 'We can confirm that

'Casey repeatedly breached the Vatican restrictions'

Bishop Casey had been requested not to publicly exercise the ministry before 2006, in terms that were reiterated formally in 2007, and he was never reinstated in the following years in spite of insistence from him and on his behalf. When further allegations were produced in 2015, Bishop Casey was already suffering from various physical and mental problems. These were of the type that would have rendered his defence difficult.' Aside from any criminal investigation or civil case for personal injury damages, the Vatican also conducts its own separate investigations into alleged clerical sexual abuse. Under Vatican rules, clergy members must remain out of ministry until cleared by both State and Church. However, strict restrictions set down for Bishop Casey's return to Galway in 2006 were never lifted. At the time, he was suspended from clerical duties as the Vatican examined statements from his niece and other alleged victims. Under the restrictions, Bishop Casey was not allowed to say Mass in public; he could only attend Mass as a member of the congregation or say Mass privately in his own home. He was also ordered not to give media interviews while the Vatican investigated the complaints against him. However, Bishop Casey went on to repeatedly breach the Vatican restrictions. He officiated at Mass in several dioceses several times; he continued to wear clerical clothing and represented himself as a priest in good standing.

HE WAS NEVER REINSTATED TO THE MINISTRY

'We can confirm that Bishop Casey had been requested not to publicly exercise the ministry before 2006, in terms that were reiterated formally in 2007, and he was never reinstated in the following years in spite of insistence from him and on his behalf. This was regardless of the outcome of the civil procedures. 'The praxis has emerged over the years that proceedings from the civil forum at whatever level can be brought into the canonical sphere. 'The allegations regarding Bishop Casey were received by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in 2006. These led to no civil prosecution or subsequent legal action against the bishop. 'When further allegations were produced in 2015, Bishop Casey was already suffering from various physical and mental problems. These were of the type that would have rendered his defence difficult. 'The funeral rites and burial were requested by the bishop's family and some of the faithful of the diocese of Galway, and the Congregation for Bishops left decisions in this regard to the local level. The papal nuncio was not present for the funeral and burial.'

VATICAN STATEMENT ON BISHOP EAMONN CASEY



'It was the worst kind of abuse... It was horrific'

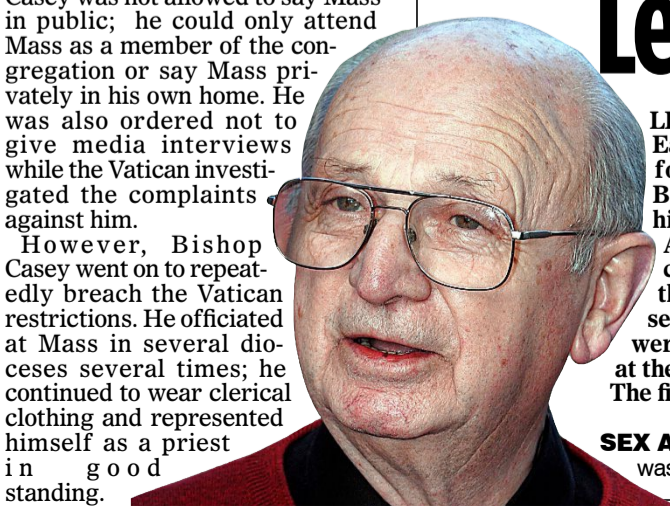
A NIECE of Eamonn Casey, who claims she was raped and sexually abused by the former Bishop of Galway, said her fear that another young girl would be his next victim was what prompted her to report her allegations to gardai. Patricia Donovan, from Limerick, first reported Bishop Casey for alleged abuse in 2005, which allegedly took place from the late 1960s, starting when she was just five years old and continuing for more than a decade. Ms Donovan spoke out for the first time in 2019 to the Irish Mail on Sunday, which extensively reported details of her allegations, along with separate abuse claims made by other women. Now, more than 50 years after the alleged abuse, Ms Donovan's own voice will be heard for the first time as she reveals her efforts to hold Catholic Church authorities to account in an RTE documentary made in association with the MoS. Retracing how she finally decided to pick up the phone and report her uncle to authorities, Ms Donovan tells the documentary: 'I had found out that he was visiting someone and staying overnight where there was a teenage girl... and that was what was in my mind when I

By Anne Sheridan

‘He was quite organised and selective. He saw that I was vulnerable’

Detectives in Limerick went to England to take a statement from Ms Donovan in January 2006 but, by August of the same year, the DPP directed that no charges be brought on 13 sample allegations. Bishop Casey, who denied the allegations, later said he was 'utterly amazed' by the speed of the decision from the DPP, claiming he had only been interviewed by gardai a few weeks previously. Documentation seen by the MoS reveals numerous attempts by Ms Donovan in the intervening years to ensure her alleged abuser did not have access to, and could not potentially abuse, any other children. In particular, she strove to ensure sanctions and restrictions imposed by the Catholic Church on his ministry were adhered to.

Less than a decade after his affair, child sex abuse complaints followed



LESS than a decade after Eamonn Casey was forced to stand down as Bishop of Galway due to his infamous affair with Annie Murphy, new complaints against him, this time of alleged sexual abuse of children, were beginning to arrive at the Vatican. The first complaint to arrive, SEX ABUSE: Eamonn Casey was banned from ministry

By Anne Sheridan

that we can establish, was back in 2001, followed by two more in 2005. Two further complaints were made in 2014, all relating to alleged child sexual abuse in the three Irish dioceses he served in from the 1950s to the 1980s. The child sexual abuse complaints made against Bishop Casey, as well as other allegations which will be revealed by RTÉ on Monday night, were received by the Vatican from 2001 right up until after 2016, a period covering three serving popes: John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis, the current Pope Benedict XVI was the head of the Catholic Church when the Vatican reiterated the ban against Bishop Casey's ministry in 2007, after considering at least two allegations of child sexual

abuse. Further allegations made after 2007, details of which will also be revealed in RTÉ's documentary, were not part of the Vatican's decision in restricting his ministry. These allegations were made during the Pope Francis's tenure. After reading the Vatican's statement on restricting Bishop Casey's ministry, canon law expert Fr Aidan McGrath said: 'That would lead me to believe that there

was a formal document. I imagine that would come in the form of a decree. That would have put down the actual restrictions on his ministry and the reasons why, and that decree would have had to have been made known to the pope, because it involved a bishop.' Decrees for any member of the clergy restricted in ministry would set out certain conditions such as: that he could not celebrate Mass in public, he could not hear confession, and could not be involved in the celebration of any of the other sacraments. He could only say Mass for himself, in the privacy of his own home, or attend in public as a member of the congregation. Canon law experts said it appeared that Church authorities chose a simple administrative procedure, and not a full judicial trial, which would have seen testimonies and witnesses put before three judges. Fr McGrath added: 'In my understanding, this is more of a

safeguarding concern. But this was recorded as a child sex allegation on the Galway Diocese's files. In 2005, Patricia Donovan also made her complaint, believing she was the first person to report her uncle. She also claims that she was abused while he was Bishop of Kerry and that some of the alleged abuse happened in the Kerry Diocese. Her initial complaint was not filed directly with the Kerry Diocese. The complaint the Kerry Diocese received is distinct from Patricia's. The two other complaints in 2001 and 2005 had not been publicly reported at that time. But others would follow. In 2019, the MoS revealed two complaints of alleged child sexual abuse against him in the Limerick Diocese later resulted in settlements. One of these was the complaint made in 2001. This resulted in a settlement made through the Residential Institutions Redress Board after the plaintiff dropped her High Court action against Bishop Casey. As a condition under the terms of the Redress Board, the woman was legally prohibited from speaking about the case. However, the MoS revealed details of her story in 2019, and in tomorrow night's documentary – called Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets – further details will be heard about the specific nature of her alleged complaints of sexual abuse for the first time. This newspaper also previously revealed how another case taken by a Limerick woman later went to the High Court after she also alleged she was sexually abused as a child. She was awarded a settlement of more than €100,000. Her complaint was reported to the diocese in 2014 and relates to alleged abuse in the 1960s within the Diocese of Limerick. Ms Donovan, who lives in the UK, also made a criminal complaint to British police in November 2005, alleging she was abused from the age of five for more than a decade. anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

Shielded by secrecy, disgraced Eamonn Casey repeatedly said Mass despite his ban

EXCLUSIVE

By Anne Sheridan

BISHOP Eamonn Casey flouted restrictions imposed upon him by the Vatican in several dioceses and for years after the ban on his ministry was imposed.

The disgraced former Bishop of Galway was not permitted to exercise public ministry, including saying public Mass, by the Vatican from 2005 up to his death in 2017, after several child abuse allegations were made against him.

But such was the level of secrecy in the Church, the Vatican's ban was not communicated to some dioceses in Ireland, and nor were the public informed.

A major documentary by RTÉ in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday – Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, which airs tomorrow night – reveals that, after he was formally removed from ministry in 2007, Bishop Casey officiated or concelebrated Mass in three different dioceses on numerous occasions over at least three years.

Bishop Casey's niece, Patricia Donovan, who reported him in 2005 for alleged sexual abuse, had repeat-

Dioceses and public kept in the dark about Galway bishop's child sex abuse allegations – with many thinking bar was due to his affair

'I reported him... but they stopped listening'

edly tried to hold the Church to account since the ban on his ministry was imposed – particularly after he apparently officiated at her own mother's funeral in February 2007. She also sought to ensure that he would uphold these restrictions.

Ms Donovan told RTÉ: 'I reported him here [in the UK], and as soon as it went over to Ireland; that's when they stopped listening to me. I absolutely believed that he would never say Mass in public again, and that the Church would actually enforce that.'

Ian Elliott, the former head of the Church's board for safeguarding children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, also told RTÉ: 'Whether he is concelebrating or whether he was positioning himself in a situation where he was wearing clerical garb, where he was looking to present himself as someone who was in good standing in the Church; that's wrong and shouldn't have happened.'

Bishop Casey breached the Vatican's order in the Galway and Limerick dioceses on a number of occasions, following his return to the Galway Diocese in February 2006. He was forced to leave the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton in England in 2006, on foot of the allegations by his niece in 2005 – and retired to Shana-



ABUSE: Our 2019 story details child sex allegations against Bishop Casey

glish in south Galway. The Galway Diocese ultimately had canonical responsibility for him.

A spokesman for the Galway Diocese stated: 'He was prohibited by the Congregation [for Bishops] from exercising public ministry and this prohibition was repeated to him and maintained throughout his years of residing in the diocese.'

'This prohibition was a source of upset to Bishop Casey and on a few publicly documented occasions it is known he violated this prohibition. To the extent that such instances became known to [then] Bishop of Galway [Martin Drennan], the prohibition was renewed formally to Bishop Casey.'

The Limerick Leader newspaper also reported in June 2007 that Bishop Casey returned to Limerick and officiated at a jubilee Mass. On that occasion, he was pictured

2007



wearing vestments and standing on the altar with Fr Seamus Power as he posed for photographs.

A spokesman for the Limerick Diocese confirmed: 'Bishop Casey did not seek or obtain permission from the diocese to be involved in the jubilee Mass in Holy

Rosary Parish in 2007. It appears from our enquiries that Bishop Casey arrived unexpectedly, sat at the side of the sanctuary and did not concelebrate or officiate at the Mass.'

The Limerick Diocese also confirmed it was 'not notified of any

restrictions' that were in place at that time on Bishop Casey – restrictions that remained in place up until his death. Speaking about his appearance at the funeral Mass of his sister, Josephine 'Patsy' Donovan, Patricia Donovan's mother, Limerick Diocese denied that he



2010

SISTER'S FUNERAL: At Patricia Donovan's mother Josephine's funeral in February 2007 in Limerick, Patricia and other eye-witnesses believed he was officiating in some capacity. Limerick Diocese denied that he concelebrated the Mass. (Not pictured).

PRIEST'S JUBILEE: The Limerick Leader newspaper reported in June 2007 that Bishop Casey returned to Limerick and officiated at a golden jubilee Mass. He is pictured wearing vestments and standing on the altar with Fr Seamus Power, left.

GRANDNEPHEW'S FUNERAL: Three years after the Vatican formally reiterated the ban to him, Dr Casey took part in the funeral Mass for his grandnephew, above.

had concelebrated the Mass. A spokesman for the diocese said it now has more stringent controls to ensure that priests banned from ministry cannot breach guidelines.

'These include the priest being required to show a Celebret or letter from his own diocese and signing the sacristy register.'

In April 2010, three years after the Vatican formally reiterated the ban to him, Dr Casey took part in the funeral Mass for his grandnephew, killed in a crash in Co. Wexford.

Despite the restrictions, he delivered a passage of the Gospel of St Matthew and gave out Communion.

He also joined in the Eucharistic prayer with local priest Fr John Carroll. Fr Carroll, the priest officiating at the funeral Mass, told RTÉ he was not aware of any restrictions on Bishop Casey's ministry at that time. Fr Carroll said in a statement: 'Permission was neither sought from – nor given by – Ferns Diocese

(nor from or by any other group) – as I was not aware of any restrictions on his ministry.'

The sanctions imposed by Rome were eventually enforced, but due to the Vatican's strict secrecy in handling sexual abuse allegations, few people knew why Bishop Casey was forbidden to say Mass.

Some had presumed wrongly it was due to his affair with Annie Murphy, and many parishioners and members of the clergy believed the Church was being unduly harsh.

Canon law expert Fr Tom Doyle argues the public had a right to know why Bishop Casey was formally removed from ministry 'so that the people who continued to defend him, to put their trust in him would know what was really going on and also to avoid this from happening to anybody else, which did not seem to have been a consideration, with the Vatican at least'.

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REPORT OF 2001 CHILD SEX ALLEGATION 'WENT MISSING' FROM UK FILE

By Anne Sheridan

THE first known child sex abuse allegation against Bishop Eamonn Casey went 'missing' after it was reported from one diocese to another, the Irish Mail on Sunday can reveal.

The allegation was sent from the Diocese of Limerick to the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton in the UK, where he was then working, and also to the Vatican in June 2001.

The receipt of that complaint and the potential child safeguarding risks it posed should have resulted in his suspension from his ministry in England, pending further investigation. It should also have been reported to police in the UK.

However, neither of those actions were taken and Fr Casey, as he was then known, remained active in ministry in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton for another four years – until his own niece, also living in the UK, made a complaint of alleged child sexual abuse.

The failure to take action against Bishop Casey will feature in a major documentary, Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, which airs on RTÉ One tomorrow at 9.35pm.

The programme is the result of a joint investigation with the Irish Mail on Sunday, which first revealed in 2019 that four separate women had made complaints of alleged child sexual abuse against him.

When the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton was asked by RTÉ what action, if any, it had taken on foot of the 2001 complaint, a spokeswoman said it could find no record of that complaint in its files. In a statement, a spokeswoman said: 'Recent communications with RTÉ and the Diocese of Limerick have established that a member of our diocese was

informed of a safeguarding allegation concerning Bishop Eamonn Casey in 2001, four years earlier than we had previously believed. 'Had this allegation been made today the police would have been informed immediately. We are deeply disappointed that this course of action does not appear to have been taken in 2001,' the statement added.

After being alerted to this earlier allegation by RTÉ, the diocese said it would conduct an internal investigation into why no record of the complaint was on its files.

'Regrettably, given the passage of time, we have been unable to locate relevant written records or to speak to anyone able to shed light on Limerick Diocese's communication in 2001,' it said.

Dr Casey was suspended from ministry when his niece, Patricia Donovan, reported him to UK police and gardai in 2005 for alleged sexual abuse.

The first known child sexual abuse allegation against Bishop Casey was made in 2001.

A spokesman for Limerick Diocese confirmed it informed the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton on June 7, 2001. The Vatican and the gardai were also informed.

The spokeswoman for the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton said it is 'not aware of any safeguarding concerns being raised in relation to Bishop Casey while he was in ministry within our diocese'.

The diocese said that when the

NO TO CASEY: Cardinal Basil Hume had 'many reasons'

complaint by Bishop Casey's niece was received in 2005, it took swift action.

'Nationally agreed safeguarding protocols were implemented with support offered to the person involved. The allegation was reported to statutory agencies with Bishop Casey immediately removed from public ministry,' it said.

Dr Casey moved to the Arundel & Brighton Diocese in 1998 after Church leaders in Ireland and the UK were reluctant to accept him back after he was moved to the missions in Ecuador, following revelations in 1992 that he had fathered a son with his distant American cousin Annie Murphy.

In 1998, a spokesman for Cardinal Basil Hume at the Archdiocese of Westminster said there were 'many reasons' it would not be appropriate for Bishop Casey to go to London on his return. These reasons were not detailed.

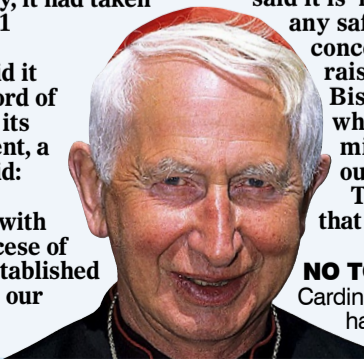
The Archdiocese of Westminster has repeatedly refused to comment on whether it has received allegations relating to Eamonn Casey's time in London as a priest in the 1960s.

Bishop Kieran Conry, now 73, was consecrated Bishop of Arundel & Brighton on June 9, 2001 – two days after the Limerick Diocese sent the complaint.

A spokesperson for Arundel & Brighton said: 'He has no recollection of the events in question.'

In September 2014, Bishop Conry announced his resignation as Bishop of Arundel & Brighton when it became apparent that the MoS was about to reveal he had allegedly been having an affair with a married woman.

Bishop Conry denied that affair but admitted another previous relationship had been sexual.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

BISHOP CASEY WAS A 'SEXUAL PREDATOR'

A devastating judgment from former
head of the Church's safeguarding body

SEE
PAGES
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BIDEN OUT... KAMALA IN?

■ **US president quits race and
endorses his divisive deputy**

■ **The Clintons back Harris but
Obama fails to give his support**

■ **Senior Republicans demand
Biden leaves White House NOW**

DEMOCRATS were last night rushing to crown Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's successor after he dramatically ended his re-election campaign.

Bill and Hillary Clinton led the calls for the US vice president to become the Democratic presidential candidate following Mr Biden's much-anticipated announcement.

Top Democrats circulated a letter saying Ms Harris was the 'strongest candidate' as the Clintons urged

From **Daniel Bates** in New York

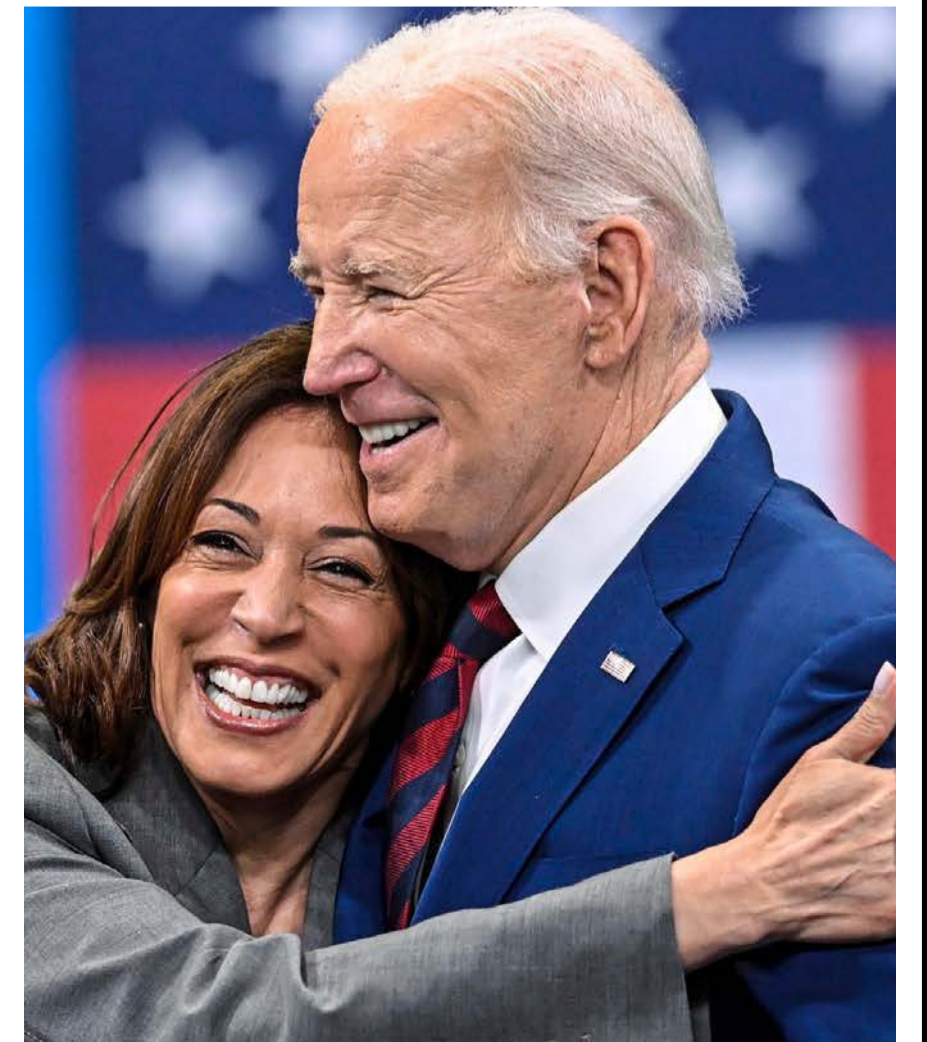
the party to 'fight with everything we've got to elect her'.

Earlier, Mr Biden said it was 'in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down' and not take on Donald Trump in November.

Mr Biden, 81, the oldest US president in history, endorsed Ms Harris as his replacement and called on his party to 'come together and beat Trump'.

Barack Obama said Mr Biden was a 'patriot of the highest order', but he stopped short of backing Ms Harris. The former president said only that he

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Standing down: US president Joe Biden with Kamala Harris

HE HAD NO FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT



by Anne Sheridan

DISGRACED Bishop Eamonn Casey was a ‘sexual predator’ and an ‘offender,’ the former head of the Church’s child safeguarding board has said.

In a major documentary in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday to be aired tonight on RTE One, it will also be revealed that Dr Casey was accused of sexually abusing a child during his time as Bishop of Galway in the 1980s.

For the first time, complaints received by the Church also show that he allegedly had sexual relationships with a number of adult women in the 1960s – a decade before he fathered a son, Peter, with his distant American cousin Annie Murphy in 1974.

The Galway Diocese has said that these relationships with adult women, which were reported

‘The report was entirely credible’

to them in 2011 and date back to the 1960s, were relationships where Bishop Casey ‘abused their trust’. He was also accused of making an unwanted sexual advance to another woman in Limerick, which was rejected, Church records show.

By the time of his death in 2017 members of the Catholic Church knew of all eight allegations against children and women – but nonetheless a decision was taken by the Galway Diocese to inter him in the Bishops’ Crypt within Galway Cathedral. The Galway Diocese has also confirmed they had more allegations on him in their files than it previously disclosed. It told the Irish Mail on Sunday in 2019 it had one allegation on file. But it later admitted it had five allegations of child sexual abuse on file.

The five allegations of child sexual abuse were reported in every Irish diocese he served – Limerick, Kerry and Galway – and took place from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Among those five complaints is one by Bishop Casey’s niece Patricia Donovan, from Limerick, who claims that she was raped and sexually assaulted by him from the age of five in 1967 for more than a decade. She reported her claims in 2005 but Bishop Casey was never charged or convicted for any sexual offence.

The Irish Mail on Sunday revealed yesterday that the Vatican banned Bishop Casey from public ministry for life in 2007 after it received a number of allegations against him. The ban on his ministry was placed on him before 2006, the Vatican said, and it was re-iterated in 2007. It remained in place until the day he died on March 13, 2017, but it was

Investigation into allegations of abuse by Bishop Casey to be aired on RTE tonight



Victim: Patricia Donovan, right, and Bishop Casey in 1974, left

I WAS ABUSED BY MY UNCLE BISHOP CASEY

■ Niece says she was raped as a child ■ MoS investigation reveals that allegations by two more women have been settled

EXCLUSIVE

BISHOP CASEY ACCUSED BY FOUR WOMEN

Exclusive: MoS investigation into Bishop Casey allegations

never communicated to the public during his lifetime.

Ian Elliott, the former head of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Irish Catholic Church, who has direct knowledge of Ms Donovan’s complaint, told tonight’s programme: ‘I found the report, the story that Patricia had shared, to be entirely credible. I felt that she was relaying to me

‘He had no fear of being caught’

what she had experienced and that made me even more determined to ensure that the restrictions [on his ministry] were adhered to.’

Asked for his view now of Bishop Casey, he said: ‘That he was an offender, a sexual predator.’

He added: ‘The fact of the matter is that individuals have come forward and spoken about numerous sexual activities, some consensual, others not. Many involved very young people.

‘That is wrong and there is no

justification for that and it should have been stopped. Those that have been distressed and hurt should be helped and supported by the Church. That is a major priority.’

The Limerick Diocese, which paid over €100,000 in a settlement to one of Bishop Casey’s accusers who took a case in the High Court in 2016 for damages for alleged sexual abuse, issued a statement on behalf of the current Bishop, Dr Brendan Leahy. Bishop Leahy, who has access to all documents relating to complaints made in his diocese, said: ‘I express deep sorrow and regret to anyone who has been wounded by clerical abuse, including the people referred to in this documentary. They deserve our respect, belief and support. Without commenting on any specific allegation, I have no reason to disbelieve any of the allegations made.’

The MoS also revealed yesterday that the very first known complaint of abuse made against Bishop Casey in 2001 went missing after it was received by the

Bishop asks victims to come forward

By Anne Sheridan

THE Bishop of Limerick has urged any clerical child sexual abuse survivors to come forward, as a major new documentary on disgraced Bishop Eamonn Casey airs tonight.

The programme, Bishop Casey’s Buried Secrets, which followed a lengthy investigation by both RTE and the Irish Mail on Sunday, revealed that five allegations of child sexual abuse were made against him over four decades.

In addition, he had multiple sexual relations with adult women, which the Galway Diocese described as an ‘abuse of trust’.

In a statement to RTE, the Bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, said: ‘Sexual abuse by any person is a heinous act.

‘On behalf of the Diocese of Limerick, I express deep sorrow and regret to anyone who has been wounded by clerical abuse, including the people referred to in this documentary.

‘I am also deeply troubled and perplexed by the thought ministers of the Church who were meant to be symbols of love, care

and compassion, abused. It is hard to understand how they reconciled their shepherding ministry with horrible abusive behaviour. It is disturbing to realise that compounding that abuse were the systemic failures that meant they got away with it.’

Bishop Leahy, who has seen all allegations made against Bishop Casey within his own diocese, also met one of the women who alleged child sexual abuse.

This woman proceeded with a High Court case for personal injuries against Bishop Casey and the Diocese of Limerick in 2016, and received a settlement of more than €100,000 in 2017.

The woman, who is entitled to anonymity, also signed a confidentiality clause. Limerick Diocese said they did not impose that clause and nor is it their policy to impose such agreements.

Asked specifically by RTE about the women who made allegations against Bishop Casey, Bishop Leahy said: ‘Without commenting

on any specific allegation, I have no reason to disbelieve any of the allegations made. I know from my experience of having met people who have been abused, how difficult it is for people to come forward, so they deserve our respect, belief and support.

‘Generally, every time I meet a person who has been abused or hear or read about such cases, there are a range of emotions I am struck by and that stay with me. Immediately, it’s the pain and the betrayal of their trust that is so evident and desperately sad. I am also struck by the fact that they have had to live with this for, in many cases, most of their lives.

‘I would also ask anyone who has been abused to come forward, first and foremost, to the statutory authorities and, if desired, to the diocese. I am willing to meet any person at any time.’

The Galway Diocese said that the Bishop encourages any person who is affected by the material about Bishop Casey in the programme to come forward to the statutory authorities.

AFTER exhaustive efforts by both the Irish Mail on Sunday and RTE in seeking accurate information from dioceses in Ireland and the UK about the allegations held on their files against Bishop Eamonn Casey, some dioceses initially weren’t very forthcoming with information, writes ANNE SHERIDAN.

FOR years, the Galway Diocese insisted they had only one allegation on their files against Bishop Casey.

Two years after their first statement, they said they had, in fact, five allegations of child sexual abuse on file – as well as other complaints made by adult women who had relationships with Bishop Casey.

The Kerry Diocese also initially refused to disclose any information about any complaint made against Bishop Casey when asked by the Irish Mail on Sunday in March 2019.

Days later, after the MoS revealed in 2019 that complaints were made in Limerick and Galway against him for alleged abuse, the Kerry Diocese admitted that they had one complaint on file, which they said they recorded as a ‘historical safeguarding concern’.

However, on Galway’s files they recorded the complaint made in Kerry as one of child sexual abuse.

In the UK, the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Diocese of Westminster have refused to confirm or deny if they received any allegations about Dr Casey relating to his time working in London in the 1960s.

Here are some of the accounts of complaints made against Bishop Casey given by both the Galway Diocese and the Kerry Diocese:

GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

‘The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Killfenora is aware of one allegation of child sexual abuse against Bishop Eamonn Casey. This allegation was reported to An Garda Síochána [sic]. No prosecution was undertaken. The diocese understands that, at the time of his death in March 2017, there were no outstanding criminal investigations about or outstanding charges against Bishop Casey.’

GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE MAY 2020

‘The diocese is aware of one allegation against Bishop Casey. This was promptly reported to An Garda Síochána. The diocese advised you of this fact in March 2019.’

How the Church flip-flopped on what it knew about Casey

GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE FEBRUARY 2021

‘Bishop [Brendan] Kelly* has reviewed all of the information that is available in Galway diocesan records to learn of what was known at the time of Bishop Eamonn Casey’s death and what has come to light since.

‘It is important to note that Bishop Kelly did not become Bishop of Galway until February 2018. Between 2008 and 2018 Bishop Kelly served as Bishop of Achonry and, therefore, was neither part of the Diocese of Galway nor informed as to the contents of its records, at the time of Bishop Casey’s death.

‘At the time of his death, the diocesan records indicate awareness on the part of the Diocese of Galway of five people who had complained of childhood sexual abuse against Bishop Casey.

‘Two of these complainants had directly contacted the Diocese of Galway, one as their place of first notification, the other as disclosure of a complaint which had been made earlier to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (England) and to the Diocese of Limerick. The former was notified by the Diocese of Galway to the State authorities,

the latter had already been investigated by the gardai.

Of the other three complainants of childhood sexual abuse, it is apparent that one person made a complaint to the Diocese of Kerry. That complaint was notified to the gardai and the HSE by the Diocese of Kerry in February 2006.

‘Two people complained to the Diocese of Limerick, whose Child Safeguarding Office reported both complaints to the gardai and HSE.

‘In addition, the Galway diocesan records indicate that two people came forward with complaints that, whilst they were adults, Bishop Casey had abused their trust and that such abuse involved sexual acts. These complaints were also notified to the Gardai and HSE.

‘At various times, following Bishop Casey’s return to Ireland, communications took place between the HSE and the Diocese of Galway in the context of the HSE’s then statutory function for safeguarding children. Bishop Kelly is not entitled to know what information sharing about complaints occurred between State authorities.’

* Then-Bishop Brendan Kelly, who delivered the homily at Bishop Casey’s funeral Mass in

Galway in March 2017, stepped down as Bishop of Galway in June 2021 and, since this statement, he has been succeeded by Bishop Michael Duignan.

KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

‘As you state in your email this is a sensitive subject and you understand the confidential nature of the matter you have raised. For this reason the Diocese of Kerry does not discuss or disclose individual cases of abuse reported to them.

‘All allegations of abuse reported to the diocese are forwarded to the gardai and Tusla who are the bodies authorised to investigate such reports.’

KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

‘Given that information relating to Bishop Casey is now in the public domain, we can confirm that one historical concern regarding Bishop Casey was received by the diocese. This information was forwarded to the gardai and the HSE and the person concerned was offered support by the diocese.’

KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE APRIL 2020

‘In 2005 a person reported a historical safeguarding concern against Bishop Casey which related to the time when he was Bishop of Kerry. The diocese met with the person involved. The concern was reported to the gardai and HSE. The diocese also informed the Bishop of Galway, as Bishop Casey was incardinated to the Galway Diocese. Counselling support was also offered but was not availed of at the time.

‘As the concern did not meet the threshold for child sexual abuse we have used the term “concern” rather than “allegation”. The Diocese of Kerry have not made any settlements in respect of any matter relating to Bishop Casey.’

KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT MAY 2020

■ The individual was a minor. ■ Reported by the individual concerned, many years later as an adult.

■ The matter was reported to the HSE and gardai. It was the role of the authorities to carry out any investigation. No response from the authorities is recorded on the file.

■ No relationship, a single incident.

■ Counselling was offered at the time but was deemed not required by the individual. The diocese has had no contact with the person since.

Would you get injected with a virus that could kill you?



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MY HORROR AT CASEY'S STATELY FUNERAL IN CATHEDRAL

Bishop's niece reveals how she was driven to accuse her uncle of abuse

THE 'horror' of learning that Bishop Eamonn Casey was buried in Galway Cathedral ultimately 'saved the life' of survivor Patricia Donovan, driving her to expose

By **Ian Begley** and **Anne Sheridan**

the serial abuser.

Bishop Casey was branded 'a sexual predator' in an RTE One documentary broadcast last night on foot of a joint investigation with the Irish Mail on Sunday.

Ms Donovan, a niece of Casey, spoke for the first time on camera of the vile sexual abuse she experienced at his hands, including claims he first raped her aged five and that the abuse continued for years afterwards.

The Catholic Church's guidelines state that a member of the clergy who is deemed to have a case to

Turn to Page 4



Tragedy: Clodagh Phelan fell from seventh floor

Girl, 11, dies after falling from hotel balcony on family holiday in Majorca

SEE PAGE 14

Maybe in a weird way, it saved me

Continued from Page One

answer of child sexual abuse is not entitled to the same funeral liturgy as a priest in good standing.

Despite this, Galway Diocese decided to bury Eamonn Casey in the crypt of his former cathedral in a lavish ceremony attended by more than 1,600 people, including President Michael D Higgins, on March 16, 2017.

While a lengthy homily that recognised his 'kindness and encouragement' was well received by most, the endless tributes were almost too much to bear for Ms Donovan.

And when he was given the honour of being buried inside the crypt at Galway Cathedral, it spurred her on to uncover his crimes.

She said: 'The week I found out that he had died, I was planning to end my life.'

'The horror of finding out on that Saturday that he had been put into the crypt in Galway Cathedral, when Galway knew that I had reported him, and somebody before me had reported him for abuse...

'And maybe, in a weird way, it saved my life, because, well, I vowed at that point, I would try and get heard.'

Ms Donovan first reported Bishop Casey for alleged abuse in 2005, which allegedly took place from the late 1960s, starting when she was just five years old and continuing for more than a decade.

She spoke out for the first time in 2019 to the Irish Mail on Sunday, which extensively reported details of her allegations, along with

'I vowed I would try and get heard'

separate abuse claims made by other women.

She said the influence Casey had in Irish society made her feel like 'this little person up against a huge organisation'.

She said: 'The only way he was able to do what he did to me, to the level that he did it, was because of the power he had from the Church.'

The Vatican has stated that decisions about Bishop Casey's funeral rites were made at 'the local level' and that 'the Papal Nuncio was not present for the funeral'.

One of Ireland's best-known clerics, Fr Brian D'Arcy has said Casey should never have been buried in the crypt.

He told RTE's *Liveline* yesterday: 'I get really angry over all of this. In one sense I'm not a bit worried where Eamonn Casey is buried or not buried. I think

that's a minor issue, but what I'm really thinking about is how those poor

Anger: Fr Brian D'Arcy expressed his views on RTE



Silenced: Ellen Murphy in the late 1990s or early 2000s

THE first known person to accuse Bishop Eamonn Casey of alleged child sexual abuse vowed that day one she would tell her story – even though she was silenced by the Redress Board from ever speaking out.

Now pictured for the very first time, Ellen Murphy said: 'Money is not in my mind. It is just to bring it out, let the public see with their own two eyes how people were badly treated.'

Mrs Murphy, who has since died, was one of the five women to accuse Bishop Casey of child sexual abuse and she reported her claim against him in 2001.

But she was gagged from ever speaking about her alleged abuse after accepting an award from the Residential Institutions Redress Board under its terms.

Mrs Murphy, who claims she was abused by Casey when she was 15 and in a reformatory school in Limerick, initially took a case to the High Court against him for damages, but had to drop that case when it was dealt with by the Redress Board.

The High Court documents outlined two alleged instances of abuse in Limerick in 1956.

They stated: 'On the first occasion she had been directed by a Sister [X] to bring tea and cakes into the parlour where the said priest Eamonn Casey was sitting. The said Sister left the parlour, at which point the plaintiff was directed to remove her underclothing and the said priest Eamonn Casey proceeded to touch the plaintiff's genital area with his toe.'

'On a further occasion, when the plaintiff was returning from Limerick Cathedral with other girls from school, the said priest Eamonn Casey grabbed the plaintiff from behind and lifted her on to his shoulders at which

WOMAN WHO FIRST ACCUSED CASEY OF ABUSE WANTED TO TELL HER STORY



by Anne Sheridan

time he fondled [her] genitalia causing her severe pain.

'The plaintiff was and remains deeply traumatised as a result of the sexual assaults and abuse. She has suffered throughout her life as a result of the foregoing.'

Mrs Murphy died in 2014, but speaking for the first time, her son Niall Murphy, who lives in England, told RTE of his mother's quest for justice and compensation. He said: 'She did speak about it for many years, that she would have liked to have justice, if only she could.'

'When it came up and she knew that she had the opportunity to take the Church to court, she was not reluctant in any way.'

'It amazed me that she lived to be 74'

I think there was a lot of unprocessed emotional trauma in my mum that manifested itself physically in the form of illness a lot of the time. It amazed me that she actually lived to be 74.'

Her story was revealed last night in RTE's *Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets*, in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday, which examined at least five cases of alleged child sexual abuse against Casey and how the Church handled the allegations.

She revealed her harrowing life story and years of alleged sexual and physical abuse to the Justice for Magdalenes Research project, in 2013. She was entitled to anonymity in that interview, or to use a pseudonym, but went under her own name.

The Irish Mail on Sunday first revealed allegations against Bishop Casey in 2019 – including the first extensive interview with his niece Patricia Donovan.

The Mail did not name Ellen Murphy at that time, but included details of her story.

Addressing other survivors of abuse, she urged: 'You have to bring it out and don't be one bit ashamed. There is nothing to be ashamed of. The truth is good.'

Nor was she allowed to discuss details of the alleged abuse.

She could only go so far as saying: 'We knew the priests and respected them, but I am sorry to say, they didn't respect us.'

She did not mention Casey, or any sexual abuse against her in that interview, nor could she under the stringent terms of the redress settlement which gagged survivors from speaking out against their perpetrators.

Ellen Murphy was 15 at the time of the alleged abuse and it would take almost 50 years before she tried to hold Casey and the Catholic Church to account. Her name was later discovered by the Mail after files were obtained by

Fr D'Arcy added that if Bishop Casey was publicly defrocked, his funeral Mass would have been significantly different. He added: 'There are procedures in place for the funerals of priests who have been convicted of sexual abuse of children.'

'They can't have the service on webcam, it must be low-key and there can be no long homilies



Memory: Ellen Murphy and her husband Thomas on their wedding day in 1967

Patricia Donovan, who also accused him of abuse, through a solicitor then working on a potential legal case for Ms Donovan.

The documents, which were obtained from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England, stated, on a file marked E.C. [Eamonn Casey]: 'E.C. has informed Fr [X] that there was another historical case dealt with by his solicitors in Dublin. Name of alleged victim was Ellen Murphy. She made a claim through the Residential Institutions Redress Board and was awarded compensation.'

Ms Donovan obtained these files in 2017 – 16 years after Mrs Murphy had come forward to the authorities to report Bishop Casey and lodge a civil case.

By this time, Ms Donovan finally knew she was not the first, or only, person to accuse him of abuse. There were now at least three women who had reported him to the Limerick Diocese – Mrs Murphy's complaint in 2001, Ms Donovan's was filed in 2005 and another woman, who cannot be identified, came forward in 2014 and lodged High Court proceedings in 2016.

The latter's legal case was settled via the High Court after his death in 2017 for over €100,000. The Gardaí were informed by

about them. This is what Casey's funeral Mass would have been like if he was defrocked.' Some 11 bishops and 61 priests took part in the concelebrated funeral Mass at in Galway's Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas.

In the homily, Bishop of Achonry Brendan Kelly said the occasion was 'neither the time nor the place'

Limerick Diocese of Ellen Murphy's allegations of child sexual abuse against Casey, but her solicitor declined their request to make a formal statement, saying she preferred to pursue matters through the civil courts. She did, however, agree to contribute to Justice Ryan's Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse.

Ellen Murphy [née Ward] was born in 1940 and was placed in St Francis Xavier's Industrial School in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, in April 1944, where she remained for two years.

She had been placed in State care due to a non-attendance at

'I was an innocent little girl'

school, while her parents were charged under the School Attendance Act, 1926. She was then moved to the Benada Abbey Industrial in Co. Sligo, until 1955. That August, Ellen says she was picked up by five nuns and placed in the back of a van, to be transported to Limerick by the Good Shepherd Sisters: 'That was a life for me I should never have had. I never did wrong to anybody. I was an innocent little girl.'

Aged 15, she was brought to the

sprawling Good Shepherd grounds at the junction of Clare Street and the Pennywell Road in Limerick city. It was situated a stone's throw from St John's Cathedral, where Casey was installed as curate that same year. It was around this time, in 1955/56, she would allegedly encounter him for the first time.

She remained in Limerick from August 1955 to May 1956, when she was then moved to Cork, and lastly to Dublin. When she eventually left the Sisters of Charity in Donnybrook in August 1964, after 18 years in institutions, she could neither read nor write.

In Dublin, before she left for London, she worked as a factory hand, a servant and a seamstress. In London, she worked as a cleaner for British Telecom and the Met Police, but was no longer able to work from 1992.

She married in 1967, and her son Niall was born in 1971. But her past haunted her all her life.

'I used to look behind me to see if there were nuns following me. My husband used to say to me, "That's the past, forget about the past". I still have nightmares,' she said, when she was in her 70s. 'One night I woke up and I was screaming, and I used to cry in my sleep thinking they were coming for me. They still torment you.'

When: 1956
Alleged victim: Ellen Murphy, then aged 15

Reported: In 2001
His position: Eamonn Casey was then chaplain, from 1956-1958, to St Joseph's reformatory school in Limerick.

What happened: Ellen Murphy took a High Court case against Casey and the Diocese of Limerick. However, when her case was dealt with by the Residential Institutions Redress Board, she was forced to drop that civil action. She was awarded over €40,000 plus a similar amount of costs.

What did the Church do: The Diocese of Limerick informed the gardai, the Vatican and the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton in England on June 7, 2001, but Casey remained in his position there for another four years as the file was misplaced when it went to the English diocese.

When: 1967

Alleged victim: His niece Patricia Donovan, then aged five. She claims the abuse continued for over a decade. **Reported:** In 2005 to UK police and to the gardai. Of the three complaints filed in Limerick, only Patricia went directly to gardai.

His position: He was then working in London, helping the emigrant Irish community and driving housing initiatives, while also regularly travelling back to Limerick. This abuse also allegedly occurred during his reign as Bishop of Kerry.

What happened: No prosecution was directed by the DPP. Patricia spent years trying to ensure that restrictions on his ministry were enforced, saying she did not want other children to be at risk. No award or compensation was ever paid; however, the Galway Diocese did pay for some counselling sessions for her.

What did the Church do: The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton suspended him from active ministry in 2005 and reported it to the police. He came back to Galway to retire in 2006. The Diocese of Limerick reported it to the gardai and Papal Nuncio.

When: 1960s, year unknown
Alleged victim: A minor in the diocese of Kerry
Reported: 2005
His position: Bishop of Kerry



Accusations: Eamonn Casey

Who came forward and when?

The allegations of child sexual abuse against Eamonn Casey

What did the Church do: The diocese met with the person and the concern was reported to the gardai and HSE, as well as to the Galway Diocese. Counselling support was also offered but was not availed of at the time.

When: 1960s, year unknown
Alleged victim: A Limerick woman who wishes to remain anonymous.

Reported: In 2014
His position: Dr Casey had been working in London but frequently travelled back to Limerick, where his family was based.

What happened: She took a High Court case against Bishop Casey. She was awarded over €100,000 with a confidentiality agreement in place. The Limerick Diocese has said it did not impose that clause of secrecy, nor is it its policy to do so.

What did the Church do: The Diocese of Limerick reported it to the gardai and Papal Nuncio. They also provided counselling. Bishop Brendan Leahy also met with the female victim.

When: 1980s, year unknown
Reported: 2014
His position: Casey was Bishop of Galway at that time.

What did the Church do: Galway Diocese says it has offered counselling to all victims who came forward but that the matter of compensation did not arise. All complaints in Galway were forwarded to the Congregation of Bishops in Rome, which had a role in restricting his ministry alongside the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.

And in further revelations, Annie Murphy wasn't his first relationship with an adult woman. These are the adult allegations:

When: 1960s

Who: Two women informed the Galway and Limerick dioceses that 'whilst they were adults, Bishop Casey had abused their trust and that such abuse involved sexual acts'.

Reported: 2011
What happened: The Diocese of Limerick paid a pastoral donation to one woman. The Galway Diocese offered financial help for counselling for both women. These complaints were also notified to the gardai and HSE.

When: 1960s

Who: A third party reported an unwanted sexual advance made by Bishop Casey to a woman in Limerick, which was rejected.

Reported: 2016
What happened: Limerick Diocese notified the Papal Nuncio.

When: 1973

Who: Annie Murphy, his distant American cousin, 22 years his junior. She was 24 and he was 46. She had travelled to Ireland at the insistence of her father to recover from a turbulent chapter in her life.

What happened: Annie gave birth to their son Peter in Dublin in 1974. This was only revealed in 1992, prompting Casey to tender his resignation as Bishop of Galway to the Pope. He denied his son for many years and only met him for the first time when Peter was aged 15. He also used diocesan funds to pay for his son's education – IRLE70,000 was later repaid.

imposed by the Holy See. And so, it would have been... inappropriate for the Papal Nuncio to be present at that funeral.'

Fr McGrath added that Galway Diocese must have been left with a difficult decision when it came to the burial of Casey.

He said: 'They'd never had to deal with a bishop who'd been accused like that before in Ireland,

and I would suspect that people didn't know exactly what to do. It has to be a difficult thing to do, to make a decision about burying someone whom you did have great regard for...

'But the fact that some of the protocol was observed shows that there was a certain awareness.'

news@dailyimail.ie



Irish Daily Mail

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

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GARDAI TO REVIEW BISHOP CASEY FILE

Drew Harris orders re-examination of original abuse complaints

By Anne Sheridan

GARDA Commissioner Drew Harris has directed that complaints received in relation to alleged child sexual abuse against Bishop Eamonn Casey be re-examined, the Irish Daily Mail can reveal.

In a statement yesterday, a spokesman for An Garda Síochána said: ‘The Garda Commissioner has requested the Garda National Protective Services Bureau to examine the original investigation file.

‘Directions by the DPP are a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions.’

The Garda National Protective Services Bureau is a specialist unit of the force that handles human trafficking, child protection, domestic violence and sexual violence and general support to victims in distress.

This follows calls earlier this week by former justice minister Alan Shatter for the Garda to review all complaints received against Bishop Casey, after a major investigation by RTE, in association

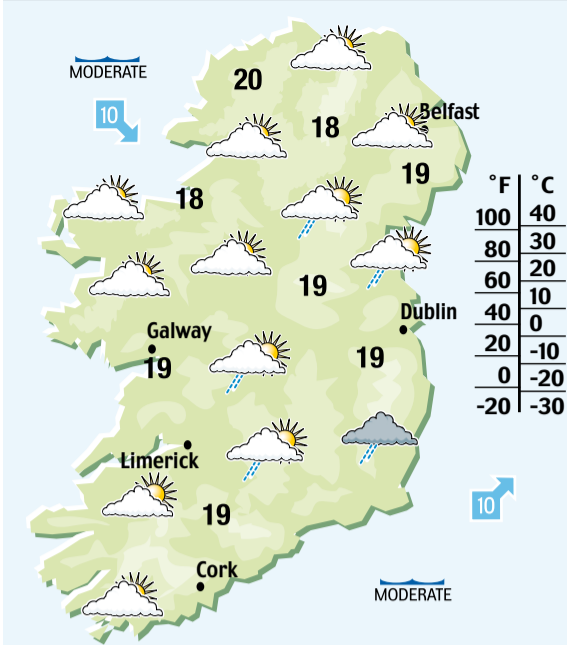
Turn to Page 2



Team Ireland fly the flag

SEE PAGES 4-5 AND SPORT

Weather forecast



Summary: Sun and showers

IRELAND TODAY: Spells of rain that will turn heavy across parts of Connacht and Munster through the early morning. Rain will ease by the afternoon with bright spells, however, the odd shower may remain. Gentle or moderate westerly winds . Max 19c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
Belfast	13c	15c	17c	18c	16c
Cork	15c	17c	19c	18c	15c
Dublin	14c	16c	18c	18c	16c
Galway	15c	16c	17c	16c	14c
Limerick	15c	17c	19c	18c	16c
Derry	14c	17c	19c	18c	15c
Valentia	15c	16c	16c	16c	15c
Wexford	14c	16c	17c	18c	16c
Mullingar	14c	16c	18c	19c	16c
Belmullet	15c	16c	17c	16c	14c

5 day forecast

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Belfast	21c	20c	20c	21c	19c
Cork	19c	19c	20c	21c	19c
Dublin	21c	22c	21c	21c	20c
Galway	20c	19c	20c	20c	18c
Limerick	22c	21c	21c	22c	19c

Around the world yesterday

	weather	c	f		weather	c	f		weather	c	f
Algiers	Sunny	31	88	Gibraltar	Sunny	26	79	New Delhi	Fair	31	88
Amsterdam	Fair	20	68	Guernsey	Fair	19	66	New York	Cloudy	27	81
Athens	Sunny	34	93	Helsinki	Sunny	27	81	Nice	Sunny	29	84
Barcelona	Sunny	30	86	Hong Kong	Fair	30	86	Oslo	Rain	16	61
Beijing	Fair	29	84	London	Sunny	25	77	Palma	Sunny	31	88
Beirut	Sunny	32	90	Istanbul	Thunder	25	77	Paris	Drizzle	20	68
Belfast	Fair	14	57	Jersey	Fair	19	66	Perth	Fair	17	63
Belgrade	Sunny	27	81	Larnaca	Sunny	33	91	Prague	Fair	26	79
Berlin	Cloudy	24	75	Las Palmas	Sunny	27	81	Rhodes	Sunny	31	88
Biarritz	Cloudy	24	75	Lisbon	Sunny	28	82	Rome	Sunny	32	90
Brussels	Cloudy	22	72	London	Cloudy	21	70	Singapore	Fair	32	90
Budapest	Sunny	28	82	Los Angeles	Sunny	24	75	Stockholm	Fair	24	75
Cairo	Sunny	33	91	Luxor	Sunny	42	108	Sydney	Sunny	18	64
Cape Town	Fair	16	61	Madrid	Sunny	33	91	Tangier	Sunny	25	77
Cardiff	Fair	19	66	Malaga	Sunny	28	82	Tel Aviv	Sunny	32	90
Casablanca	Sunny	26	79	Malta	Sunny	31	88	Tenerife	Sunny	27	81
Copenhagen	Cloudy	20	68	Melbourne	Sunny	15	59	Tokyo	Sunny	34	93
Corfu	Sunny	33	91	Mexico City	Showers	21	70	Toronto	Fair	23	73
Dublin	Fair	18	64	Miami	Fair	32	90	Tunis	Sunny	33	91
Dubrovnik	Sunny	28	82	Milan	Sunny	31	88	Vancouver	Fair	20	68
Edinburgh	Fair	18	64	Montreal	Fair	21	70	Venice	Sunny	28	82
Faro	Sunny	25	77	Moscow	Sunny	22	72	Vienna	Sunny	27	81
Florence	Sunny	34	93	Mumbai	Thunder	29	84	Warsaw	Fair	24	75
Geneva	Sunny	28	82	Nairobi	Fair	21	70	Wellington	Fair	13	55

Ireland yesterday

24 hours	Sun	Rain	Temp
to 6pm	(hrs)	(ins)	(min) (max)
Belfast	5.0	0.06	11 17
Birr	5.5	0.04	11 17
Castlederg	4.0	0.26	10 18
Claremorris	5.0	0.07	10 17
Clones	3.9	0.12	11 17
Mullingar	5.8	0.08	10 18
Rosslare	9.9	0.00	13 16
Knock	4.9	0.23	10 16

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- MUNM Munster SMS Alerts
- CONM Connacht SMS Alerts
- ULSM Ulster SMS Alerts

Continued from Page One

with the Irish Mail on Sunday, aired on Monday.

The documentary, titled Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, examined the Catholic Church's handling of multiple allegations received against the cleric.

It revealed that at least five child sexual abuse allegations had been received against the late bishop in every Irish diocese where he served, allegedly occurring from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Among those who lodged a complaint of alleged abuse against Bishop Casey was his niece Patricia Donovan, who filed her complaint in 2005.

While Ms Donovan is the only known alleged victim to go to gardai directly with her complaints, the various dioceses said all complaints were passed on to the force.

Bishop Casey was never charged or convicted for any alleged sexual crime, against a child or an adult.

He was interviewed for hours by gardai in relation to Ms Donovan's complaint but later told The Irish Times that he was 'utterly amazed' by the speed of the decision

'Was there undue deference?'

in the case, after the DPP directed in August 2006 that no charges be brought against the cleric.

Bishop Casey had claimed that he had only been interviewed for that investigation just a few weeks prior.

Mr Shatter earlier this week called for An Garda Síochána and the DPP to explain why a complaint by Ms Donovan against her uncle was never prosecuted.

Ms Donovan, from Limerick, reported Bishop Casey for alleged abuse, which allegedly took place from the late 1960s, starting when she was just five years old and continuing for more than a decade.

She made her complaint in 2005 and detectives from Limerick took a statement

Former justice minister queries 'unusual speed' of DPP decision

from Ms Donovan in January 2006, but by August of the same year the DPP directed that no charges be brought on 13 sample allegations.

Mr Shatter, who is also a solicitor, told the Mail this week that he believed that this was decided within a 'very unusual speed' for a case of its kind.

'What I am mystified about is if Patricia Donovan told her story to the gardai in January 2006, how comprehensive was the investigation that was conducted?' he asked.

'Was there undue deference paid to Bishop Casey, by the Garda or by the Office of the DPP? I think both need to provide transparency.'

He issued a call for Commissioner Harris to review the Garda file about the investigation and bring some of the information into the public domain.

He said: 'I think this is far too serious for it to be a two- or three-day media event that everyone talks about and the world goes on. I think Patricia Donovan is owed an explanation as to why the State failed her following her Garda statement in 2006.'

He added: 'We have learned over the years that when there are allegations of abuse made, they need to be taken seriously, and the victim needs to be taken seriously, her narrative needs to be taken seriously, and shouldn't be dismissed.'

Gardai previously told RTÉ, as part of its investigation with The Irish Mail on Sunday, that all complaints had been thoroughly examined.

In an earlier statement provided for the programme, a spokesperson said: 'An Garda Síochána has received a number of complaints.'

'An Garda Síochána is not in a position to provide any detail to respect the anonymity of the injured parties and the confidentiality of their reporting to An Garda Síochána.'

The force said some files had been sent to the Office of

the DPP It added: 'An Garda Síochána does not comment on correspondence that is with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions or on any decisions of the Director of Public Prosecutions.'

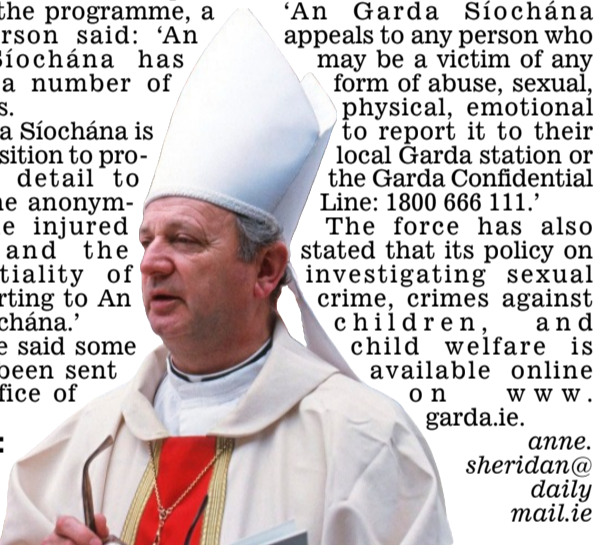
It further stated that 'An Garda Síochána remains in contact with all victims'.

'An Garda Síochána also liaises where appropriate with Tusla in respect of any ongoing child safeguarding issues,' it said.

'An Garda Síochána appeals to any person who may be a victim of any form of abuse, sexual, physical, emotional to report it to their local Garda station or the Garda Confidential Line: 1800 666 111.'

The force has also stated that its policy on investigating sexual crime, crimes against children, and child welfare is available online on www.garda.ie.

Garda file:
The late Bishop Casey



CHURCH KNEW IT WAS BURYING A SINNER

SEE PAGES 10-11

Homeless figures increase again

THE number of people in homeless accommodation has increased further to 14,303 in June, according to the latest figures from the Department of Housing.

Figures for April saw the number surpass 14,000 for the first time since records began.

The June figures show that 9,899 adults, 4,404 children and 2,093 families were in homeless accommodation.

Catherine Kenny, chief executive of the Dublin Simon Community, sharply criticised the Government's lack of

By Gráinne Ní Aodha

progress on the issue and said that 'the time for action is now'.

'The steady increase in emergency accommodation numbers, coupled with a rise in rough sleeping, paints a dire picture of our failure to protect the most vulnerable,' she said.

'While the Government has recently acknowledged the severity of the issue by calling it their "number-one challenge", we need to ensure this urgency is reflected in political momentum and

resourcing allocated to homelessness, housing, health.' Focus Ireland's Pat Dennigan said more must be done to ease the crisis. The charity chief added: 'We... are calling on the Government to implement a policy that ensures that some of the new supply of social housing is used to provide homes for long-term homeless families. This same approach drove the sharp fall in homelessness during the pandemic.'

Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien said increasing the supply of housing 'is critical' to tackling homelessness.

Clarifications & corrections

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IF YOU HAVE A STORY, CALL US ON 01-256 0811

Revelations:
Bishop
Eamonn
Casey in
1985



family member or by a parent, there's that struggle,' she said.

Bishop Duignan said in his diocese 'all safeguarding allegations are reported to An Garda Síochána and Tusla for investiga-

tion.' He and the Bishop of Limerick said they personally and their personnel are available to meet any person who may have an issue.

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Catholic Church.' Mr Gorry said there are over 500 survivors in his network, adding: 'For us to find some peace is very difficult when you're up against the secrecy of the Church, the State, the Government departments.'

He also said the public should have been told Bishop Casey was restricted from his ministry in the last 12 years of his life.

'It's absolutely rotten to the core,' he said, adding that for the Church to offer 'any sort of inner healing... at all', it should

be more transparent about its role in dealing with the allegations of abuse against Bishop Casey. Mr Gorry said his own case was not taken forward by the Director of Public Prosecutions and that the DPP's office must explain why Ms Donovan's case did not go forward either.

Callers to RTE's Liveline also demanded that Bishop Casey's remains be moved out of the crypt, with one man saying he will not 'darken its door again' until that happens.

By Anne Sheridan

A PRIEST who was a nephew of disgraced Bishop Eamonn Casey should not have been moved from one diocese to another after he too was accused of child sexual abuse, the Limerick Diocese has confirmed.

The Limerick Diocese received multiple accusations against Fr Michael Donovan, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Limerick in 1983 and who was removed from all ministry 12 years later, in 1995.

Three of these accusations were also disclosed to gardai, and two alleged victims made formal complaints to the Limerick Diocese.

Details of Fr Donovan's alleged abuse were disclosed in an RTE documentary, Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday (MoS), on Monday night.

The MoS revealed in 2019 that Fr Donovan was also accused of abusing his sister, Patricia Donovan, who also reported her uncle, Bishop Casey, for alleged child sexual abuse.

Fr Donovan remained out of ministry until his death in 2018, while the documentary also revealed that Bishop Casey was also banned from ministry by the Vatican for at least the last 12 years of his life, until the day he died in 2017.

Following the first complaint made against him in 1990, Fr Donovan was moved to Ennistymon in Co. Clare – a parish which falls under the Galway Dio-

'Horried me to find he was teaching'

cese – by his uncle, Eamonn Casey, who was then-Bishop of Galway. When Fr Donovan was moved from the diocese of Limerick to Galway in 1995, Dr Jeremiah Newman was then-Bishop of Limerick.

The Limerick Diocese said it had no record of how this appointment was made, adding: 'It is clear that this appointment would have to have been approved by Bishop Newman.'

The current Bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, also stated: 'Moving the priest in question under these circumstances was unacceptable and should not have happened.'

Canon lawyer Fr Tom Doyle told the programme: 'For that [the move] to happen, Casey would have had to cut a deal with the Bishop of Limerick, and I am quite certain that the reason it was cut, was made known to the Bishop of Limerick.'

In 2004, Ms Donovan reported her brother for alleged abuse when she learned that he was teaching English as a foreign language to students in Poland.

Ms Donovan told the documentary of her brother: 'Michael wasn't a priest when he abused me.... Michael was extraordinarily violent. There were no niceties with Michael, you know. It was like I was his possession. It horrified me to find out that he was teaching English as a foreign language in Poland.'

'I was thinking that, actually, was there nobody going to do anything to stop him in the Church?' In 1990, the Limerick Diocese was informed by gardai that Fr Donovan was involved in what was described as inappropriate conduct with a child.

The altar boy was allegedly sex-

CASEY 'CUT DEAL' TO MOVE HIS SEX PREDATOR NEPHEW PRIEST TO NEW DIOCESE



Survivor: Patricia Donovan was abused by Casey and Donovan

ually abused in Limerick in 1989, when he was aged 12. This first accusation against Fr Donovan resulted in a settlement of £30,000, the Limerick Leader reported at that time.

In 2011, the diocese was contacted by a relative of an adult about a concern that there may have been a historical incident involving Fr Donovan with that person as a child. No complaint was made but the diocese reported this matter to the gardai.

After the MoS article in 2019, which exposed the allegations against both Bishop Casey and Fr Donovan, the diocese was again contacted about Fr Donovan. A spokesperson said: 'The diocese received a query from a statutory authority regarding Fr Donovan's status. We informed them that he was recently deceased. The query appears to have been in the context of another historical complaint. The diocese has not received any complaint about this matter.'

A spokesperson for the Limerick Diocese said they contacted the local bishop in Poland and from 2011 'regular contact was established with him and we were aware of where he resided from then until his death in 2018'.

While there were five allegations of child sexual abuse against Bishop Casey, he was also never charged or convicted of any crime. Ms Donovan reported her allegations against her brother to police in the UK in July 2004, and to gardai, in September 2004.

Files obtained by the MoS detail that a former Bishop of Limerick, Donal Murray, had forbidden Fr Donovan from presenting himself

as a priest in his diocese.

The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora previously confirmed no complaints involving Fr Donovan concerning the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults were ever made directly to their diocese. 'On 19th November 1995, Fr Donovan was stepped aside from ministry by Bishop James McLoughlin. Fr Donovan returned immediately to Limerick and never again ministered in this diocese.'

'While at all times honouring the wishes of survivors of abuse, [then] Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop of GK&K, offers to meet with any person who has suffered abuse by clergy or others.'

Fr Donovan was based in Limerick from 1983 to 1990, then for a period in Ennistymon, Co. Clare,

'Was there nobody going to stop him?'

and then in Galway from 1990 to 1995, at the Church of the Resurrection and at St Patrick's Church. After his death, no death notice was ever published.

In November 1995, then-Bishop of Galway Dr James McLoughlin announced the removal of Fr Donovan at Mass, and Bishop McLoughlin said that the Church did not provide funds for the damages. The Limerick Diocese has now confirmed that it paid those damages.

The matter was raised in the Dáil in 1995, with calls for an inquiry as to why there was no prosecution by the DPP.

Stately funeral for Casey – but what was missing from bishop’s ceremony reveals much about his reputation

AS PRESIDENT Michael D Higgins made his way up the steps of Galway Cathedral for the funeral Mass of his friend, the once-beloved Bishop Eamonn Casey, he could hardly have conceived that the deceased would stand accused of a litany of child abuse allegations.

But secretly, as the Mass got under way on March 16, 2017, there were covert signs that the Church was burying a sinner. Indeed, in the days immediately after his death, debate raged about how to pay final respects to a man who had brought such trouble upon the Church.

Some members of the Galway Diocese knew when he was laid to rest in the crypt of Galway Cathedral that there were at least five allegations of child sexual abuse against him in every diocese in which he had served.

One member of the clergy, who described Casey as a ‘Jekyll and Hyde’ character, said allegations against him were an ‘open secret’ in the Church, including alleged consensual relations with adult women – before and after his spectacular fall from grace in 1992.

Annie Murphy exposed him, after he fathered a son, Peter, with her, forcing him to step down as Bishop of Galway and flee to Ecuador after handing his resignation to the Pope.

And by now, other women were also waiting to expose him for far greater alleged crimes when their own time came.

Monday night was Patricia Donovan’s time.

She has waited more than 50 years to tell her story and truly be heard by the public and the

‘Here were his greatest critics, suddenly celebrating him’

Church, giving her version of events for the first time on camera, in a documentary produced by RTE in association with The Irish Mail on Sunday.

She has claimed that she was raped and sexually abused by Casey from the age of five for more than a decade.

Now, there are calls, as well as petition, for his remains to be disinterred from the crypt and removed to a more appropriate location, in keeping with a member of the clergy removed from ministry due to credible allegations of child sexual abuse.

That is the Church’s own terminology – ‘credible’ – and clergy are only removed from ministry if it is deemed so. And yet the Church sought to bury those allegations with Casey, and persisted in trying to keep them buried years after his death.

In 2019, the Galway Diocese told the Mail on Sunday it had just one allegation on file against Bishop Casey. It had, in fact, five child sex abuse allegations on file at that time, it later admitted. It sought to blame a change-over with a new bishop taking up office for it not being fully across the full tranche of files on him at that time

This week, RTE’s Liveline programme hosted by Joe Duffy has for four days straight been fielding calls from elderly women who have since thrown their picture of Bishop Casey into the fire, as well as a woman who says a priest would not preside over a funeral Mass for her stillborn baby.

Waves of hurt have been unleashed against the Church by those who had once turned to it for solace and comfort.

By the time Casey died, the Church’s book on him had long been closed.

He had been banned from public ministry in 2007 for the last ten years of his life – a decision that was never made known to the public.

But the potential for causing even greater damage to the Church still lingered after his death and the over-riding motivation was for the institution to protect itself.

And yet the Vatican did not want any role in the funeral – nor did it send any representatives such as the Papal Nuncio – and said it left decisions to the ‘local level.’

On that day of his funeral, privately, Bishop Casey’s victims looked on with their own horror.

Outwardly, it seemed that the disgraced bishop’s ceremony was a funeral Mass in keeping with a prince of the Church.

Some 1,600 people turned up to pay their respects to the deceased, and among them were 11 bishops and 61 priests.

No cardinals or archbishops were present, and the Bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, who is aware of the details of three child abuse allegations filed against Bishop Casey in his diocese, said he had another prior commitment that day.

Others looked on,



Toned down: Bishop Casey’s 2017 funeral in Galway Cathedral, also right

The covert signs from his farewell Mass that indicate Catholic Church believed it was burying a sinner

by Anne Sheridan



appalled at a different kind of hypocrisy.

‘I found that extraordinarily hypocritical. Here were his greatest critics suddenly celebrating him... when he was gone,’ said Tom Kenny of Kenny’s bookshop in Galway, a friend of Bishop Casey’s.

But sources have confirmed that there was division over how best to honour Casey’s life.

How would they honour a man they knew was subject to numerous sexual allegations and quietly removed from ministry, especially when the public had

not been told? How would they honour a man who fathered a child with his distant American cousin, which many parishioners had long since forgiven him for?

And how, in recognising all of this, would they merge two sets of protocols for a funeral – that of a bishop’s funeral and also one for a cleric permanently removed from ministry?

The Catholic Church sets out guidelines for the funerals of members of the clergy removed from ministry – many of which were not observed in Galway.

One of those protocols is to be mindful of the victim in every way possible.

Casey’s niece Patricia Donovan said to the more than 490,000 viewers of the programme who watched on Monday night: ‘The week I found out that he had died, I was planning to end my life.

‘The horror of finding out on that Saturday that he had been put into the crypt in Galway Cathedral, when they knew that I

had reported him, and someone before me had reported him for abuse... And maybe, in a weird way, it saved my life, because ... well, I vowed at that point, I’d try and get heard.’

But there are other victims who have not been heard at all.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children within the Catholic Church in Ireland also issues protocols to dioceses regarding funerals in such circumstances.

They are asked to consider whether the location of the funeral Mass would have a negative impact on the complainants; to carefully choose the readings; to ensure that the homily does not negatively affect the complainants; and to balance the needs of the complainants with the deceased’s family members.

During the funeral Mass in 2017, Brendan Kelly, then Bishop of Galway, made repeated references to sin.

These were not lost on members



CLERGY STRUGGLED WITH CASEY’S FUNERAL HONOURS

HOW the Church tried to square away its conflict in burying Eamonn Casey with what appeared to be a bishop’s ceremony with full honours – when it knew that he had been removed from ministry a decade prior after multiple child abuse allegations were received against him and never told the public:

PROTOCOLS FOR A BISHOP’S FUNERAL NOT FOLLOWED FOR EAMONN CASEY

- There was no pall, or religious cloth, over the coffin.
- There was no mitre (bishop’s headpiece), crozier (like a shepherd’s cross), pectoral cross or ring on his coffin.
- No religious emblems of his life were brought to the altar by his family. Instead, the family crests and an emblem of Trócaire were brought to the altar. His remains were not laid out on a catafalque.
- He did not receive an overnight vigil and guard of honour in the cathedral.

BUT...

- He was laid to rest in the crypt of Galway Cathedral
- Some 1,600 attended, including 11 bishops and 61 priests
- In line with Church protocols for a member of the clergy removed from ministry due to allegations of child sexual abuse, there was some acknowledgment in the homily given by the then Bishop of Galway, Dr Brendan Kelly, to those who have suffered.

THESE INCLUDE KEY REFERENCES TO SIN AND SUFFERING IN BISHOP KELLY’S HOMILY, SUCH AS:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT ONE

‘Then 25 years ago, the emergence into the light of other hidden realities in his life, beginning with the fact that he had a son, Peter, were profoundly upsetting for the Church and for people in general.’

ACKNOWLEDGMENT TWO

‘This is neither the time nor the place to go over the details which in any case are very well known, not only in Ireland, but all over the world. Yes, we are all sinners, but irresponsibility, infidelity and sin are particularly shocking in the lives of those who preach the Gospel.’

ACKNOWLEDGMENT THREE

‘But people had been hurt and wounded... wounds that do not always heal easily or quickly. We remember these people too today. We acknowledge their suffering. We pray for continued healing and peace for them.’

No religious emblems of his life were brought to the altar by his family. Instead, the family crests and an emblem of Trócaire, where he was once chairman, were brought to the altar.

‘He lay before the altar as a parishioner of the diocese’

His remains were not laid out on a catafalque. He did not receive an overnight vigil and guard of honour in the Cathedral.

Bishop Kelly stated to RTE that ‘Bishop Casey’s funeral liturgy followed the precedent set by previous such funerals for former

bishops of the diocese’. This statement was made to the programme before Galway Diocese later admitted that it had more complaints on file relating to Bishop Casey than previously disclosed.

Those responsible might have tried to square away the moral and ethical reasons for the funeral he received in their own mind, but publicly they cannot offer any justification.

One source said: ‘The funeral of Eamonn Casey was deliberately toned down. The normal thing in the Cathedral was a catafalque – that has dignity and pomp; it’s what you would lay out a king on.

‘They wanted to put a pall on the coffin, which would have given it dignity. That wasn’t done.

‘It was a simple coffin on two oak trestles.

‘His mitre wasn’t on it, his crozier wasn’t on it.

‘They would always have been at a bishop’s funeral.

‘There was no pectoral cross, no

ring. None of those four symbols of his authority were present. He lay before the altar as a parishioner of the diocese.

‘If the Church said, “We’re not burying him in the cathedral because of A, B and C”, it would have raised so many questions, and the feeling was, “The man is dead, he has to be buried and we only had a matter of days”.

‘He did spend overnight [in the cathedral], but there is protocol for a bishop’s funeral of an all-night guard of honour, an all-night vigil. None of that was done. The high dignity wasn’t there. He got the honour of a sinner.

‘There was no viable Plan B. There was nothing bishop-y about his funeral, other than the people who attended. He got a sermon that would never, ever be given at a lay person’s funeral.’

Canon law expert Tom Doyle said of the protocols for a bishop’s funeral that were not followed: ‘That would probably be lost on most of the lay people.’

However, he added that ‘if you have a bishop like Casey, he is being buried in the cathedral in Galway, and you got a bunch of other bishops and priests that are present, that’s what they’re going to be looking at’.

He continued: ‘That is the statement right there, not whether they put a mitre or crozier or whatever else on the altar or next to his coffin. People aren’t aware of any of that.’

He further stated: ‘I have seen a number of times that priests who have been known as prolific sexual abusers were buried with the regular honours as a priest would get, and it causes a tremendous uproar, especially the hurt that is imposed on the victims who cannot understand why the official Church continued to treat them as if they’re the enemy, when they were the victims.’

Former president and canon lawyer Mary McAleese said that in her view ‘something more humble would have been called for’.

She added: ‘It is about showing a sensitivity which says, “We’re not going to give this man the full panoply that normally accompanies a bishop or a cardinal”.’

Irish Times religious affairs correspondent Patsy McGarry

‘His light shined bright but his dark was extreme’

said: ‘It was incredible, it was like an act of reconciliation, a happy ending if you like to a turbulent life, that had brought such trouble on the Church in Ireland. A farewell in forgiveness for what had happened in the past.’

But as Monday night’s programme revealed, this was not a ‘happy ending’ in the sorry saga of a priest who was once meant to be the Church’s new great hope, who ultimately led to the crumbling of the institution’s stronghold in this country.

As one source in the Church told me: ‘Eamonn Casey’s light shined extraordinarily bright, but his dark was also extreme.

‘There is very little about Eamonn Casey that’s in the middle, that’s ordinary. With most of us there’s light and dark and they are not that far apart.’

Casey was interred, according to his own wishes and those of his family, in the bishop’s crypt in the Cathedral.

Seven years after he was laid to rest, the ghosts of Bishop Casey’s past are continuing to haunt him, the Church, his victims and the faithful.

His ‘light’ was always apparent, but his darkness will now define him.

■ *Bishop Casey’s Buried Secrets is still available to watch on the RTE Player*



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TAOISEACH: PUT CASEY VICTIMS' WISHES FIRST

Harris's message to Church as it considers moving bishop's remains

By **Anne Sheridan** and **Valerie Hanley**

TAOISEACH Simon Harris said yesterday that the Catholic Church has 'serious questions to answer' following revelations by the Irish Mail on Sunday that Bishop Eamonn Casey was an alleged child sex abuser.

His statement follows revelations that the Bishop of Galway is questioning the continuing interment of the disgraced cleric's remains at the local cathedral.

And the former Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin told the MoS that he hadn't previously known of allegations

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How Kate helped William to bond with his father

Exclusive: New book from top royal author

PAGES 34-36



HSE missed key targets despite €1bn overspend

By **Colm McGuirk**

NEW documents shared by Department of Health whistleblower Shane Corr show that acute hospitals failed to reach most of their key targets last year, despite an overspend of approximately €1.225bn.

They also reveal these failures were not reported to Health Minister Stephen Donnelly.

FULL STORY See Page 22 >>

Taoiseach's tribute to Casey's victims

» From Page One

that Casey was a child abuser. However, he said he did not attend his funeral because of the deceased's affair with Annie Murphy and unofficial reports he had received that the Kerryman also had affairs with other women.

The Taoiseach, in a statement to the MoS, paid tribute to Casey's niece Patricia Donovan and other victims whose harrowing accounts of sexual abuse were exposed in an Irish Mail on Sunday/RTE documentary screened last Monday.

Mr Harris also urged Church officials to heed the wishes of abuse victims.

In his statement issued from Paris where he is attending the Olympics, the Taoiseach said: 'I want to take this opportunity to thank the victims of Eamonn Casey for coming forward and sharing their stories.'

'Without them and without this documentary, we would never have known the extent of evidence of abuse against Eamonn Casey.'

'An Garda Síochána has now initiated a review of the case and I welcome that.'

'I also note the Church's comment on Eamonn Casey's remains being at Galway Cathedral and urge them to ensure their further consideration and consultation is victim-focused.'

The statement continued: 'In the past week Irish society has learned there was something much darker behind Eamonn Casey's estrangement from the Church than many

HARRIS CALLS TO PUT VICTIMS FIRST AS BISHOP SAYS SPACE IS NEEDED



I WANT to take this opportunity to thank the victims of Eamonn Casey for coming forward and sharing their stories. Without them and without this documentary, we would never have known the extent of evidence of abuse against Eamonn Casey.

An Garda Síochána has now initiated a review of the case, and I welcome that.

I also note the church's comment on Eamonn Casey's remains being at Galway Cathedral and urge them to ensure their further consideration and consultation is victim-focused.

In the past week Irish society has learned there was something much darker behind Eamonn Casey's estrangement from the Church than many believed. The evidence in the documentary has only added to the sense of betrayal that people feel about the Catholic Church in Ireland and the concealment seen in the case of Eamonn Casey.

There are serious questions for Church authorities to answer once again as to why this was the case.

STATEMENT FROM TAOISEACH SIMON HARRIS

'Something darker behind estrangement from Church'

believed. The evidence in the documentary has only added to the sense of betrayal that people feel about the Catholic Church in Ireland and the concealment seen in the case of Eamonn Casey.

'There are serious questions for Church authorities to answer once again as to why this was the case.'

The strong statement from the Taoiseach comes as the Catholic Church admitted yesterday it is questioning the interment of Bishop Casey's remains at Galway Cathedral.

In a carefully worded statement, that neither confirmed nor denied whether the disgraced cleric's remains may be possibly removed from a crypt at Galway Cathedral, the Catholic Church said: 'Bishop Michael Duignan in his statement last Tuesday July 23rd relating to the life and legacy of Bishop Eamonn Casey clearly expressed his commitment to "working with anybody affected, to help bring truth, healing and peace to such terribly painful situations."

'In this context, the interment of the remains of Bishop Casey in the crypt beneath Galway Cathedral is a very sensitive issue that deeply affects people in different ways, and which has different facets.'

'The interment of Bishop Casey in the Cathedral now requires a period of careful consideration and consultation, which has already begun. Time and space are required to adequately and appropriately bring this undertaking to completion.'

The disgraced cleric was laid to rest at Galway Cathedral in March 2017 following a funeral attended by 11 Bishops, 61 priests and 1,600 mourners, including President Michael D. Higgins.

However, a notable absence at the time was the Pope's envoy to Ireland, the Papal Nuncio.

And it has since emerged that

THE DIOCESE requires time and space to consider and consult on the interment of Bishop Eamonn Casey in Cathedral crypt. Bishop Michael Duignan (right) in his statement last Tuesday, July 23, relating to the life and legacy of Bishop Eamonn Casey, clearly expressed his commitment to 'working with anybody affected, to help bring truth, healing and peace to such terribly painful situations.'

In this context, the interment of the remains of Bishop Casey in the crypt beneath Galway Cathedral

is a very sensitive issue that deeply affects people in different ways, and which has different facets.

The interment of Bishop Casey in the Cathedral crypt now requires a period of careful consideration and consultation, which has already begun.

Time and space are required to adequately and appropriately bring this undertaking to completion. We will not be making any further public comment until we are in a position to provide an update.

STATEMENT FROM THE GALWAY DIOCESAN OFFICE ON THE INTERMENT OF THE REMAINS OF BISHOP EAMONN CASEY



there was disquiet among some clerics at the time about the wisdom of conferring the disgraced cleric the honour of being interred in the crypt reserved for the Bishops of Galway.

However, their misgivings were dismissed and yesterday the Catholic Church declined to state who ultimately decided that Eamonn Casey should be interred at Galway Cathedral.

At the

time of Casey's death, the now-late Bishop Martin Drennan had already retired and Bishop Brendan Kelly had yet to be appointed.

A source revealed: 'A number of clerics did not want Casey to be interred at Galway Cathedral and they advised against it. But they were overruled.'

'If you look at the statement it's not saying they are considering removing him from the crypt, does this mean they

VICTIM: Casey's niece Patricia Donovan

are thinking of doing something else?'

When asked who decided Bishop Casey should be interred in the bishops' crypt, a Church spokesman declined to comment. He also refused to say whether advice was sought from the then-Papal Nuncio, who did not attend the funeral. Instead, he referred these questions to the Diocese of Galway.

Former Archbishop Diarmuid Martin explained yesterday: 'I didn't go to the funeral but not on the basis that I'd heard any specific allegation,' he said.

'I found it hard that they could give such a celebratory thing for

CRYPT-BOUND: The funeral of Bishop Casey

him in light of [his relationship with] Annie Murphy. And he knew about [Fr] Michael Cleary.'

Meanwhile, when asked whether the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell had directed priests to speak at Masses this weekend about last week's MoS revelations – detailing how the Vatican banned Bishop Casey for life from publicly working as a priest because of sex abuse complaints – the spokesman

said: 'It's a matter for every individual member of the clergy. It's not his [Archbishop Farrell's] role to give direction.'

The MoS first exposed in 2019 a series of allegations about Bishop Casey raping and sexually abusing his niece Ms Donovan since she was five years old.

On Monday, following a long-running investigation by the MoS and RTE the documentary Bishop

Casey's Buried Secrets was broadcast. It detailed how five separate complaints were made against him and that he had a series of sexual relationships with women before having an affair with American divorcee Annie Murphy. She was a distant cousin who came to Ireland to recover from an acrimonious divorce.

At the time, the young American woman was 24 years old while the

'I found it hard they'd give such a celebration...'

By Joe Little

FORMER Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has told the Irish Mail on Sunday he never had any idea Bishop Eamonn Casey was a child abuser.

Archbishop Martin said yesterday that he did not attend Bishop Casey's funeral because of the deceased's affair with Annie Murphy and unofficial reports he'd received that the Kerryman had also had affairs with other women.

'I heard that there were other allegations against Eamonn Casey, but not concerning child abuse. I had heard that there were problems concerning his relations with other women,' Dr Martin said.

'I didn't go to the funeral but not on the basis I'd heard any specific allegation against him.'

'I found it hard they could give such a celebratory thing for him in light of [his affair with] Annie Murphy,' he added. 'And he knew about Fr Michael Cleary [and Cleary's affair].'

He said he had been told unofficially while Bishop Casey was still alive he was not allowed to engage in public ministry. But he had never been advised the restriction was 'because of any allegations of child sexual abuse', he explained.

The 79-year-old Archbishop noted the parallels between the Catholic Church's failure to restrict Bishop Casey from 2007 onwards and its failure to remove US Cardinal Theodore McCarrick from public ministry from 2012 onwards.



NO SHOW: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin did not go to Casey's funeral

McCarrick was restricted after the Vatican found him guilty of sexually abusing several children and adults, including seminarians.

The lapses that occurred in America triggered a top-level Vatican study which found in 2020 that the then-Papal Nuncio in Washington DC, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano had failed to act on the evidence which showed McCarrick was flouting

'I had heard there were problems about relations with other women'

Pope Francis's restrictions.

It also found that there was no evidence that Dr Vigano had informed the Vatican about an additional written allegation he had received stating that McCarrick had abused a child some years earlier.

Archbishop Martin observed: 'The restrictions on Cardinal McCarrick were not made public. He violated them repeatedly. There were pictures [published] of him smiling with the Nuncio.'

Meanwhile a source within the Catholic church told the MoS that bishops were not told of Eamonn Casey's predatory behaviour at any point in their quarterly meetings of the Bishops Conferences.

'It never happened,' he said. 'The hierarchy acted like it wasn't happening.'

The Irish Mail on Sunday has previously documented its quest to find accurate information from dioceses in Ireland and the UK about the allegations held on file against Eamonn Casey.

For years, the Galway Diocese insisted that it had only one allegation on its files against Bishop Casey.

Two years after their first statement, they said they had in fact five allegations of child sexual abuse on file – as well as other complaints made by adult women who had relationships with Bishop Casey.

The Kerry Diocese also initially refused to disclose any information about any complaint made against Bishop Casey when asked by the MoS in March 2019.

cleric was in his mid-40s, more than 20 years her senior.

Annie gave birth to the Bishop's son Peter in 1974. After the cleric refused to have a relationship with his child, Annie exposed their illicit relationship in 1992.

Last Monday's programme revealed that by the time of his death in March 2017, Catholic Church members knew of a total of eight allegations against him by children and adult women.

Two women received compensation payments. One of them was Ellen Murphy, who made a complaint in 2001. Now deceased, Ms Murphy was given a €40,000 award

by the Residential Redress Board. In her claim, she stated that while at a reformatory school run by a religious order she had been directed by then-priest Casey to remove her underclothing before he touched the plaintiff's genital area with his toe.

She also claimed that she had been abused on a second occasion. Another woman received €100,000 in compensation as part of a personal injuries case that was settled out of court.

Meanwhile, the Galway Diocese confirmed in the documentary that it had more allegations on their files than they had previously dis-

closed. It told the MoS in 2019 that it had one allegation on file. But Church officials admitted during the course of the MoS/RTE investigation that it had, in fact, five allegations of child sexual abuse on its Casey file.

Among those five complaints was one made by Bishop Casey's niece Ms Donovan, from Limerick. She claims that she was raped and sexually assaulted by him from the age of five in 1967 for more than a decade. She reported her claims in 2005 but Bishop Casey was never charged or convicted for any sexual offence.

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Picture: ANDREW DOWNES

ANNE Sheridan, news editor of the Irish Daily Mail and the journalist behind the documentary Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, writes about the genesis of the controversial Irish Mail on Sunday/ RTE One documentary, which examines the Catholic Church's handling of allegations against the former Bishop of Galway, Eamonn Casey.

IN APRIL 2016, a letter from an anonymous writer addressed to me arrived in the post at the offices of the Limerick Leader at 54 O'Connell Street. At that point, I had then been working as a journalist at the Leader for nearly a decade.

The arrival of that single slip of paper would change the course of my next eight years, though I did not realise that at the time.

It led me to discover that two women had independently made complaints of historical child sexual abuse against Limerick Diocese and Bishop Eamonn Casey.

This was seismic. Neither complaint had received any public attention. Everyone in Ireland knew that Bishop Casey had been forced to resign in 1992, after the revelation that he had fathered a child, 18 years previously, with his distant American cousin, Annie Murphy.

However, that consensual adult affair had come to seem relatively venial when compared with the shocking revelations of child abuse and cover-ups that later came to light. People were also aware that the charismatic bishop had spent several years working among the poor in Ecuador, atoning for his transgression.

By 2016, Bishop Eamonn Casey was living in a nursing home in Co.

'Single slip of paper altered the course of my career over eight years'

Clare, aged 88, and was suffering from Alzheimer's.

He would die a year later and 1,600 people, including President Michael D. Higgins, would attend his funeral in his former cathedral in Galway, where he was interred in the crypt alongside his predecessors.

But in 2016, my source revealed there might be a much darker chapter to Bishop Casey's extraordinary life story, one which had already brought such trouble upon the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Vatican has now confirmed to RTE, in an exceptional statement, that Bishop Casey was removed from public ministry in 2006, following unspecified 'allegations', which, we have established, included at least two complaints of child sexual abuse and a further 'safeguarding concern'.

The statement also revealed the sanction had been 'reiterated formally' in 2007, and remained in place until Dr Casey died, on March 13, 2017.

And yet, that sanction and the reason for it was never publicly disclosed by the Church in Bishop Casey's lifetime.

Eamonn Casey, I discovered, had consistently denied all allegations against him. He was never laicised and remained a bishop to his dying day. Although all the complaints of

An anonymous tip-off, abuse allegations, cover-ups, pay-offs, redacted files, Church gagging orders and a Vatican confession, here our brilliant writer reveals...

My eight-year fight to uncover Bishop Casey's buried secrets



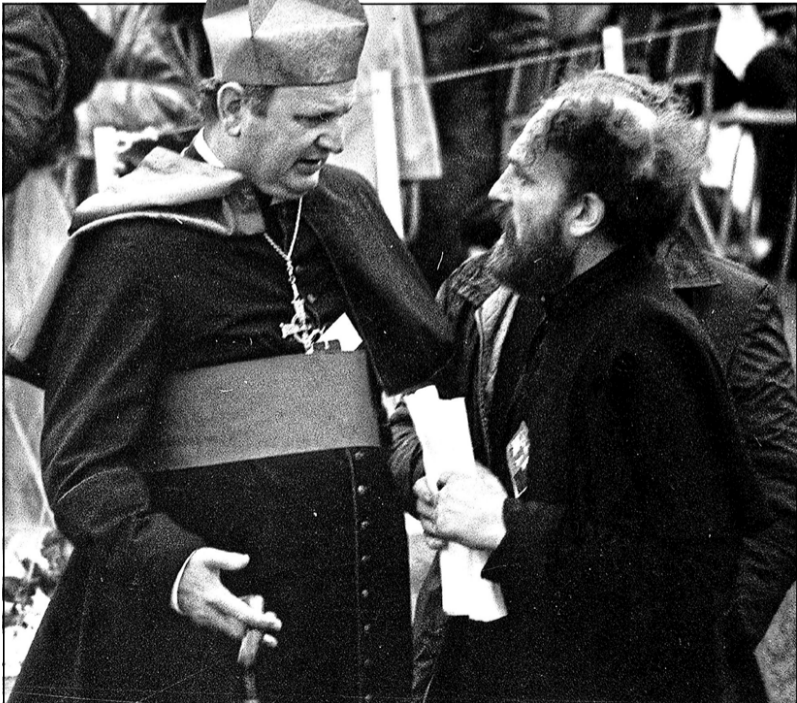
by Anne Sheridan

child sexual abuse were reported to and investigated by An Garda Síochána, he was never charged with or convicted of any sexual crime. I soon learned through local sources that the allegations against Bishop Casey were more shocking than anyone could have imagined. But I also discovered that they were shrouded in secrecy.

A Limerick woman, who initiated a complaint in 2014, did not wish to speak to me, I was told. That is still her position and is unlikely to change. She signed a confidentiality agreement after being awarded a settlement of more than €100,000 by the Diocese of Limerick, in 2017. Her complaint related to alleged events in the 1960s, when the then Father Casey was a curate at St John's Cathedral and a chaplain to St Joseph's Reformatory School and the Magdalene Laundry run by the Good Shepherd Sisters, where hundreds of women and girls were incarcerated.

My enquiries as to the whereabouts of the other accuser, who had taken a case against Bishop Casey in the High Court in 2001, hit a dead end until two years later when a third woman contacted me after I had joined the Irish Mail on Sunday in Dublin.

Her name was Patricia Donovan. She is Bishop Casey's niece and last Monday night, viewers finally



POPULAR: Bishop Eamonn Casey with Fr Michael Cleary at youth Mass in 1979

heard her story for the first time on camera. It is a story she had waited more than 50 years to share.

After the first piece I wrote for the Limerick Leader, in 2016, Patricia, who was living in the UK, read the story online. She claims this

was when she learned for the first time that she was not alone in accusing Bishop Eamonn Casey of child sexual abuse.

Taken aback by my report, Patricia Donovan picked up the phone to Tommy Dalton, a solicitor in Limerick, who had acted on behalf

of the 2014 complainant.

Patricia offered to help in any way possible with that case, sharing her story with Mr Dalton for the first time.

But it was another two years before she contacted me.

By that time, I thought my investigation into the Catholic Church's handling of allegations against the former Bishop of Galway, Eamonn Casey, was going

'Investigation was going nowhere until an email arrived out of the blue'

nowhere, until an email from her arrived out of the blue.

I was aware that she was the niece of Bishop Casey and that she had made a complaint of child sexual abuse against him in 2005, reporting it to authorities in the UK, first of all to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England, where Dr Casey was then working, and then to the UK police, and later to An Garda Síochána and her native diocese of Limerick.

I spent many hours on the phone talking to Patricia, specifically about the abuse she alleged she



SECRETS AND LIES: Bishop Eamonn Casey died in 2017

WE MUST GIVE HIS SURVIVORS THEIR VOICES
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had suffered at Eamonn Casey's hands. She told me the abuse began when she was five years old, in 1967, and continued for at least another 10 years.

I travelled to the UK to meet her. Patricia had agreed to leave copies of all her documentation at the hotel where I was staying in advance of our first meeting.

Tommy Dalton had helped Patricia retrieve files relating to her complaints post-2005 from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, as well as from Limerick and Galway. There, in the documentation that Patricia had left for me, was the name of the woman who took the 2001 case.

It stated in black and white, on a file marked E.C. [Eamonn Casey] from the Diocese of Arundel &

Brighton: 'EC has informed Fr [X] that there was another historical case dealt with by his solicitors in Dublin. Name of alleged victim was Ellen Murphy. She made a

'Ellen Murphy was only ever motivated by the pursuit of justice'

claim through the Residential Institutions Redress Board and was awarded compensation.'

The priest in question was a safeguarding officer, who, in 2005, after Patricia's complaint, saw to it that Dr Casey was suspended from

all his priestly duties and was requested to avoid all contact with children.

A copy of this correspondence, which had been forwarded to Mr Dalton by Limerick Diocese, had been extensively blacked out.

And had it not been for the unredacted version sent by Arundel & Brighton, Patricia would not have discovered the existence of the 2001 complainant.

The documentary, Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets – produced by RTE in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday – publicly revealed the identity of Ellen Murphy – for the first time with the consent of her son, Niall Murphy.

He told us that his late mother was only ever motivated by the pursuit of justice; it was never

Casey was banned for life by Vatican



BOMBSHELL: How Irish Mail on Sunday broke the story last week



BRAVE: Powerful interview with Patricia Donovan in Tuesday's Mail



IMPACT: Yesterday Drew Harris said gardai will review Casey files

Stately funeral for Casey – but what was missing from bishop's ceremony reveals much about his reputation



CLUES: Yesterday we revealed telltale signs funeral wasn't as it seemed

about financial compensation.

Eventually, Ellen accepted a settlement of €40,000 from the Residential Institutions Redress Board, plus a similar amount in costs, for abuse she claimed to have suffered in a number of Catholic institutions, including, specifically, two instances of alleged sexual abuse by a young Father Casey during her teenage years.

As a condition of that settlement, however, Ellen was obliged to halt her legal action and agree to never to discuss her complaint publicly again.

From the UK, I rang my news editor in Dublin to relay the news: we now had knowledge of three women, two of whom had received settlements but had accepted non-disclosure agreements.

Ms Donovan, who had never received compensation, now wanted to tell me the story of how the Catholic Church had handled her allegations.

We had a long way to go in substantiating as much as we could, not just about Patricia's claims, but also the claims of others and, crucially, where the Church stood in its position on Bishop Casey.

It would be many more months before the story went to print, in March 2019, on the front page of the Irish Mail on Sunday and six pages inside, with more to

follow thereafter. A day after the story appeared in the Mail, I received an email from Roger Childs, Head of Religious Programmes in RTE, asking if I would be willing to discuss the content of the Mail on Sunday article.

Shortly after, I was introduced to Birthe Tonseth, who would become the producer and director of the

'Is this the end of Bishop Casey's story or will there be more chapters?'

TV documentary. It would take many months of rigorous investigation before we were fully satisfied that we could bring to air a documentary that was accurate and fair to all parties.

So what began as an anonymous tip-off eight years ago, aired last Monday night.

But is this the end of Bishop Casey's story and his secret life or are there yet more chapters to be written?

■ *This article was first published by rte.ie/culture*
■ *Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets is available to watch on the RTE Player*