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SUNDAY WORLD



EXCLUSIVE



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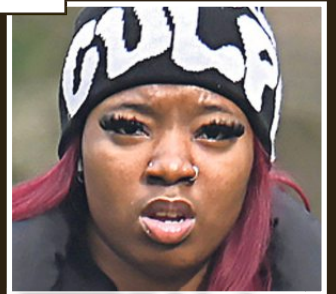
SEE PAGES 12&13

PATRICK O'CONNELL



EXCLUSIVE

'BURYING DANIEL WAS STUPID MISTAKE'



MOTHER: Maria Aruebose

**REVEALED:
MARIA ARUEBOSE
CLAIMS SHE WAS
SHOCKED AT ARREST
P485**



TRAGIC:
Daniel
Aruebose

**Mum of Daniel Aruebose speaks out for the first time to deny
she hurt her son & how she regrets putting him in secret grave**

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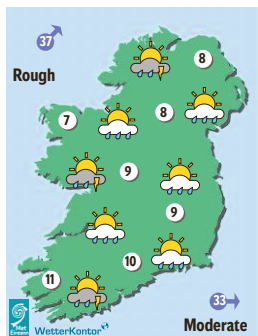
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TODAY: Outbreaks of rain, then windier with heavier spells of rain. Gusty winds.

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MURDER PROBE: MOTHER CLAIMS THAT HER

THE mother of little Daniel Aruebose – the tot whose remains were secretly buried on waste ground in north Dublin after his death – has insisted to the *Sunday World*: “I didn’t hurt Daniel.”

Approached by this newspaper on Friday last, Maria Aruebose said she believes the three-year-old died ‘of natural causes’ and described burying the tot in secret as ‘a mistake’ and a ‘stupid decision.’

Ms Aruebose confirmed also that she was the woman who was arrested by gardaí last December in connection with her son’s death, saying her detention on suspicion of ‘homicide’ had been ‘a surprise’ to her.

“I didn’t hurt Daniel. I did a lot of interviews and everything and I did the best I could to let them [the Gardaí] know that I didn’t hurt Daniel. That’s all I can say,” she said.

Asked about the circumstances of her son’s death, Ms Aruebose told our reporter: “I found him first and he was passed away when I found him that morning.”

Ms Aruebose confirmed that Daniel’s father Ciaran Durrane was also in the apartment in the Galleys, in Donabate, when she discovered their little boy’s body.

“Ciaran was in the room but he was asleep,” she said. “I was with Ciaran for three-and-a-half or four years, and we don’t get along, but I can also say I don’t believe he would hurt Daniel.”

COLD

“I do believe it was natural causes. There’s not much more I can say. I did the best I could.”

“I told them [the Gardaí] everything that happened that night from start to finish. That’s all I can say really.”

During her interviews with gardaí, Ms Aruebose told officers that after she discovered her son dead in his bed and ice cold to the touch, the couple attempted to revive him in the bath.

After failing to revive him, she said they kept his remains in the apartment for 24 hours.

During this time, she said Daniel was changed out of his pyjamas into day clothes, wrapped in a blanket and placed in his bed.

The next night, she told officers, the couple placed Daniel’s body in a rucksack before carrying him 4km to the site where he was secretly buried with a teddy bear which had been given to him by foster parents.

Asked by the *Sunday World* why, when she found her child dead, she

‘I DIDN’T HURT MY DANIEL’



QUESTIONS: Maria Aruebose speaks with reporter Patrick O'Connell. Left, Ciaran Durrane

Mum who buried son in secret speaks

EXCLUSIVE

PATRICK O'CONNELL



didn’t contact a doctor or an ambulance, Ms Aruebose replied: “It was a stupid decision. At the time I was 22. I just panicked – no-one’s ever been in my position.”

“It’s like I just woke up one morning and I saw my child not breathing. And,

with the way I found him, I just felt like it would look bad on me.”

Asked if she meant she was afraid she would get in trouble, Ms Aruebose responded: “Yes. Basically.

“I’m older now. I know it was a mistake, it was a stupid decision, so I do

have regrets – the wrong decisions that I made, for everything that I did.”

Asked if she was surprised when, last December, gardaí arrested her on suspicion of killing her little boy, she said: “I wasn’t surprised. It was more I was surprised at what I was arrested for – homicide.”

“I know I did a mistake in terms of the burial and how I didn’t report it. But it was more, so I was surprised at it being a homicide basically.”

Ms Aruebose then ended the conversation saying she

had an interview to attend before getting into a taxi.

Ms Aruebose’s comments, published today, are the first she has made publicly since news emerged last August that gardaí were searching for the remains of a little boy in north Dublin whose death they believed had gone unreported for a number of years.

Daniel’s death had never been reported and only came to light after officials at the Department of Social Protection raised concerns for his well-being, on foot of

THREE-YEAR-OLD SON DANIEL DIED 'OF NATURAL CAUSES'



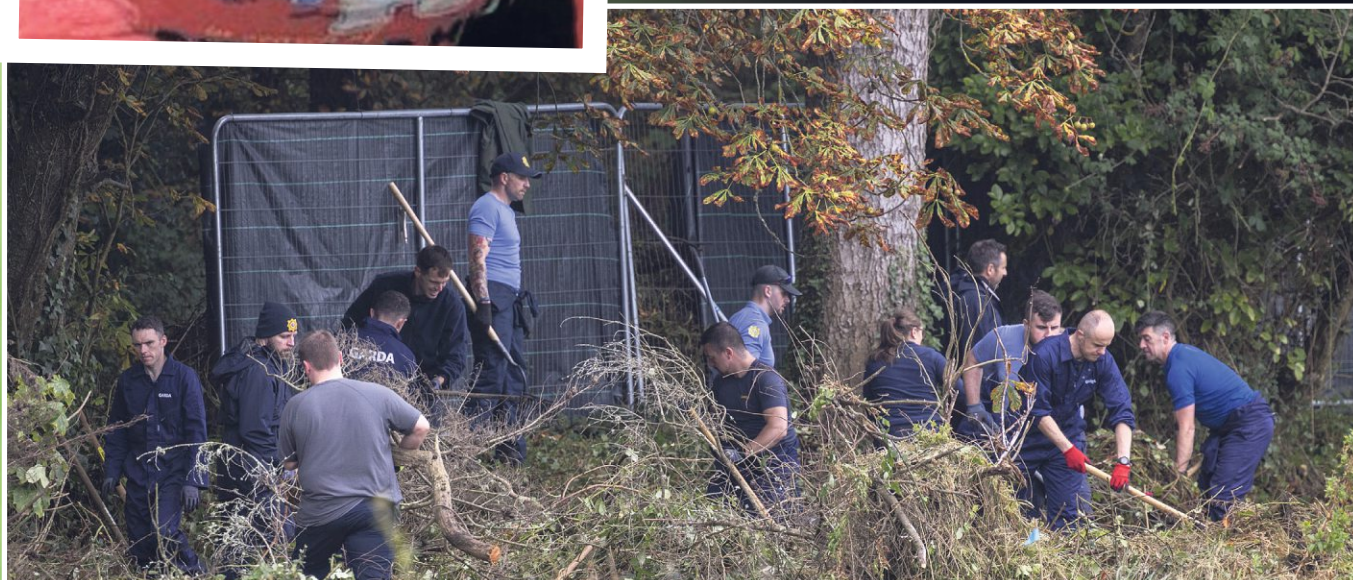
REGRETS: Maria Aruebose has spoken to our reporter, Patrick O'Connell (far right)



'I'm older now, I know it was a mistake, it was a stupid decision'



TRAGIC: Flowers for Daniel Aruebose. Below, gardai searching for his burial site



out about 'mistake' and how she 'panicked'

inquiries into social welfare payments.

Tusla and the Gardaí were contacted and an investigation was launched.

A month later, Daniel's remains were recovered from marshy waste ground off the Portrane Road in Donabate, where he had been buried in a shallow grave.

On December 11, on the eve of what would have been Daniel's eighth birthday, Gardaí announced the case was being upgrad-

ed to a murder investigation.

Detectives had by this point established during interviews with Daniel's parents that his death had occurred in 2021.

SEARCHES

Upgrading the investigation to a murder probe gave gardaí more investigative powers, including the right to seek warrants from the courts to carry out searches and arrest suspects.

Nine days later, Ms Aruebose was arrested on suspicion of murder. She was

questioned under caution before later being released without charge.

On February 10, a man in his 20s was arrested at Dublin Airport following his deportation from Brazil. Authorities in Brazil said the man was in "an irregular immigration situation" and was deported. He was questioned on suspicion of murder before being released without charge.

Gardaí have said they are preparing a file for the Director of Public Prosecutions in connection with both arrests.

Daniel was three years old when he was last seen alive in 2021.

He had been living in the Gallery Apartments in Donabate at that time.

He had spent the first year of his life living with a foster family before being returned to the care of his parents, Ms Aruebose and Ciaran Dirrane.

Tusla has previously said it engaged with Daniel from 2017 at the request of his biological family but that its services ceased in 2020, when he was two years old.

Children's Minister Norma Foley said that the biological parents originally wanted to give their child up for adoption but through their interactions with Tusla, the fostering arrangement was established.

Months after the couple decided to have the child returned to them, Tusla's engagement ceased.

Anyone with information on Daniel's death can contact Swords Garda Station on 01 666 4700, or the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111.