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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.

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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

'He was quite organised and selective. He saw that I was vulnerable'

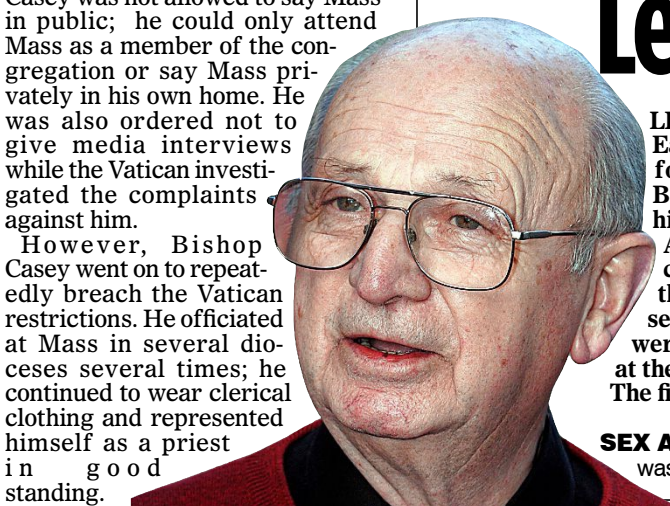
picked up the phone. All I thought of was that girl.'

Ms Donovan previously told the MoS the alleged abuse happened in the three dioceses where her uncle served – Limerick, Kerry and Galway. 'He was quite organised and selective, and I think he saw that I

was vulnerable and quite sensitive. It was rape... everything you imagine. It was the worst kind of abuse. It was horrific. I stopped being able long ago to find any words in the English language to describe what happened to me. It was one horrific thing after another,' she said. 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.

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

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



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 Bishop of Rome. 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

disciplinary matter, perhaps a precautionary measure, because there is no indication that there was a formal full canonical investigation or punishment meted out.' Nonetheless, he acknowledged that others might view it as a 'cover-up'. Given Bishop Casey's advancing years and his frailty, experts said the Church could also have lifted the ban if they deemed he posed no further risk. However, it was still in place when he died in 2017, aged 89.

communicated its decision to ban Bishop Casey from ministry to the public in his lifetime. By 2005, the Vatican had received at least three complaints of alleged child sexual abuse on file against Bishop Casey. Two of these related to his time as the Bishop of Kerry. Another dated back to his time in the Limerick Diocese in the late 1950s and 1960s. The first known complaint against

Bishop Casey was received in 2001 by the Limerick Diocese. This later resulted in a settlement, which was confidential at the time. Separately, the Kerry Diocese described the one complaint it directly received against Bishop Casey in 2005 as a historical child

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.

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



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



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'.

anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

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

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.

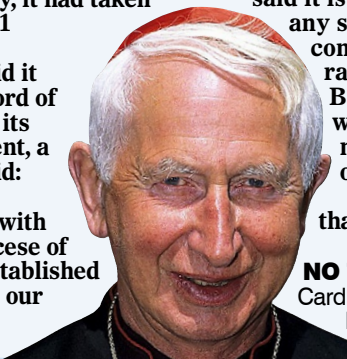
The Archdiocese of Westminster has repeatedly refused to comment on whether it has received allegations relating to Eamonn Casey's time in London as a priest in the 1960s.

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.



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

When weighing up Bishop Casey's legacy, we must not shy away from difficult questions

IN 2019, the Irish Mail on Sunday first revealed repeated allegations of child sexual abuse against the controversial but generally well-thought-of late bishop, Dr Eamonn Casey, who caused a scandal in 1992 when it emerged he had fathered a son, Peter, with a distant cousin, Annie Murphy.

At the time, we told the story of Patricia Donovan, his niece, one of four women who made allegations against Dr Casey in his lifetime.

For the first time the MoS took the time to examine all elements of Patricia's testimony that could be corroborated and, in doing so, discovered the accusations made by the others. We also revealed that one of these claims had been settled under the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

Today, we exclusively reveal that the Vatican has, in a rare public statement on such matters, confirmed that a 2005 ban on the bishop exercising his ministry following Patricia's allegations was reaffirmed in 2007, and remained in place

until his death in 2018. Crucially, the restriction on him saying Mass was down to the allegations, not his previous scandal.

While this is not a final judgment by an organisation renowned for its caution, it nonetheless shows that the Catholic Church took these allegations seriously enough to act against a bishop, at a time when such actions were not as commonplace as they might be now.

Once restricted, Dr Casey was not allowed to say Mass in public; he could not celebrate any of the sacraments; and he

could attend Mass only as a member of the congregation, and celebrate the Eucharist privately in his own home. He was also ordered not to wear clerical clothing or give media interviews while the Vatican investigated the complaints against him.

However, Dr Casey went on to repeatedly breach the restrictions, officiating at Mass in several dioceses on several occasions, and he continued to wear clerical clothing and to represent himself as a priest in good standing.

We told Patricia's story not to speak ill of the dead or to besmirch a man's good name with unprovable claims.

We believe that scrutiny also brings with it a duty of fairness. We published on the basis that it was right that these allegations would be given due consideration when weighing up Bishop Casey's contribution to Irish society.

An RTE documentary, made in association with this newspaper, will air tomorrow night, and it will revisit and expand upon the work done, revealing further

worrying details in relation to Bishop Casey's relationship to a number of his accusers.

Reporter Anne Sheridan, who now works with our sister paper the Irish Daily Mail, has painstakingly over a number of years endeavoured to get closer and closer to the truth of this troubling matter.

In building upon this newspaper's work in 2019, RTE is exhibiting the public interest journalism that is a core pillar of its continuing mission.

The editors and staff who worked on this programme deserve full praise for their dedication in telling a story that many inside and outside of the Catholic Church would have preferred was left untold. But silence serves no one.

As the newspaper that broke the Tuam babies scandal, we are well-versed in tackling difficult topics that shine a disturbing light on our society's troubled past.

We believe it is incumbent upon us all to face up to difficult questions, and strive to understand the sins of that past.

Spending more on childcare will not only help the labour market but also boost tax returns

THE childcare system in Ireland is letting working parents down. When it becomes the norm to have your unborn child's name on a waiting list for several creches or to delay your return to work because the childcare facility will only take your child when they reach one, you know the system is broken.

The Government has been very vocal about the work being done to reduce the cost of childcare for parents. And they are correct; huge strides have been made. From September the national childcare subsidy will increase from €1.40 per hour to €2.14, meaning parents should see a substantial reduction in their monthly bill. However, there is little point in enhancing subsidies for parents if they remain unused because there are no places available to care for their children.

Until recent years, childcare policy has traditionally been framed by policymakers as a social rather than an economic issue. One of the strongest 'pull' factors we as a nation have at our disposal when it comes to investment in Ireland remains the quality of our skilled workforce. We know that an adequately funded childcare sector will have a pivotal role to play in enabling more people, particularly women, to participate in the workforce.

In a recent survey of members of Chartered Accountants Ireland, difficulties in obtaining a place in a childcare setting was consistently ranked as the biggest issue facing working parents. Ninety seven per cent of members surveyed said that they had considered adjusting their working patterns due to not being able to find a childcare place while almost half of respondents have had to reduce their working hours because of this. The downsides of this for the economy are significant, not least in tax returns and competitiveness.

Compounding this, there has been a lot of talk lately of the perceived fragility of our corporation tax receipts. The prospect of Ireland losing its competitive edge as an Foreign Direct Investment destination of choice could loom even

larger should a potential second Trump administration cut the corporation tax rate in the United States to 15%.

Only this week, Minister for Enterprise Peter Burke, speaking while on a trade mission to the US, noted that 'it's not all about corporation tax', emphasising the many other factors that make Ireland a

destination of choice for companies. We already hear how deficits in housing, energy, water, and public transportation all have the potential to harm the State's competitiveness. The lack of childcare places is now firmly on that list and without action will be a major deterrent for investment.

Ireland's National Development

Plan launched in 2018 sets out the Government's infrastructure targets over a 10-year period but is reviewed periodically. What is interesting is that the targets for investment in childcare are relatively unchanged despite higher than forecasted population growth and an increasingly tight labour market. While it would be untrue to say that childcare has not been a focus of the current Government, these unchanged targets give a sense that childcare ranks somewhat lower in the Government's order of priorities when it

comes to infrastructural investment. It is not being treated with half the level of urgency it requires.

This is not a sustainable situation. If we are to continue to rely on the depth of our talent pool as part of our pitch to attract overseas investment, then more needs to be done to support this talent pool – particularly as they become working parents. Improving access to affordable childcare has the potential to not only boost labour market capacity but also increase exchequer receipts and help to close the gender pay gap.

Core Funding is the Government's most recent attempt to improve the system and while it is still bedding down, it is not without its flaws. Vastly increased administration and fee freezes, along with the increased cost of doing business does not make for an attractive – or even a viable – business model. Additionally, low pay continues to hamper providers' ability to retain and recruit staff and increase the number of places available, which only compounds the capacity problem.

Studies across Europe show that the cost of delivering childcare is often more expensive than in Ireland. The difference is that other governments put more money into the system, so the state absorbs the bulk of the cost rather than the parents and providers. Some countries have state-run systems, others legally mandate that a child must get a place in a childcare setting, and several align the level of fees payable by parents with income levels. EU countries consider childcare to be a critical public service and invest heavily.

Childcare must be treated with the same urgency and importance as every other infrastructural priority. Our key recommendation today is that Government starts to spend the surplus corporation taxes on improving funding for the sector. If we don't, we risk breaking our FDI model and our domestic labour force.



By **CRÓNA CLOHISEY**

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IRELAND

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



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

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.’

‘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.

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,

* 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.

Mary Carr



To think we believed Bishop Casey had paid for his sins...

EVEN for a country inured to clerical abuse scandals after decades of sordid revelations, Government inquiries and redress schemes, the allegations of child sex abuse against Eamonn Casey may come as a shock.

The late bishop may not have been a paragon of priestly chastity but for many Catholics in Ireland, his affair with his distant cousin Annie Murphy was a minor transgression compared to the mortal sin of child sex abuse and the scandal of the cover-up which rocked the Catholic Church to its foundations, changing its course irreversibly.

Much of the public's indulgence of Casey was also owing to his popularity. It is almost impossible to describe to the younger generation the respect which even humble curates were held in back in the day, not to mention the quasi-rock star status some of the church's more charismatic members enjoyed.

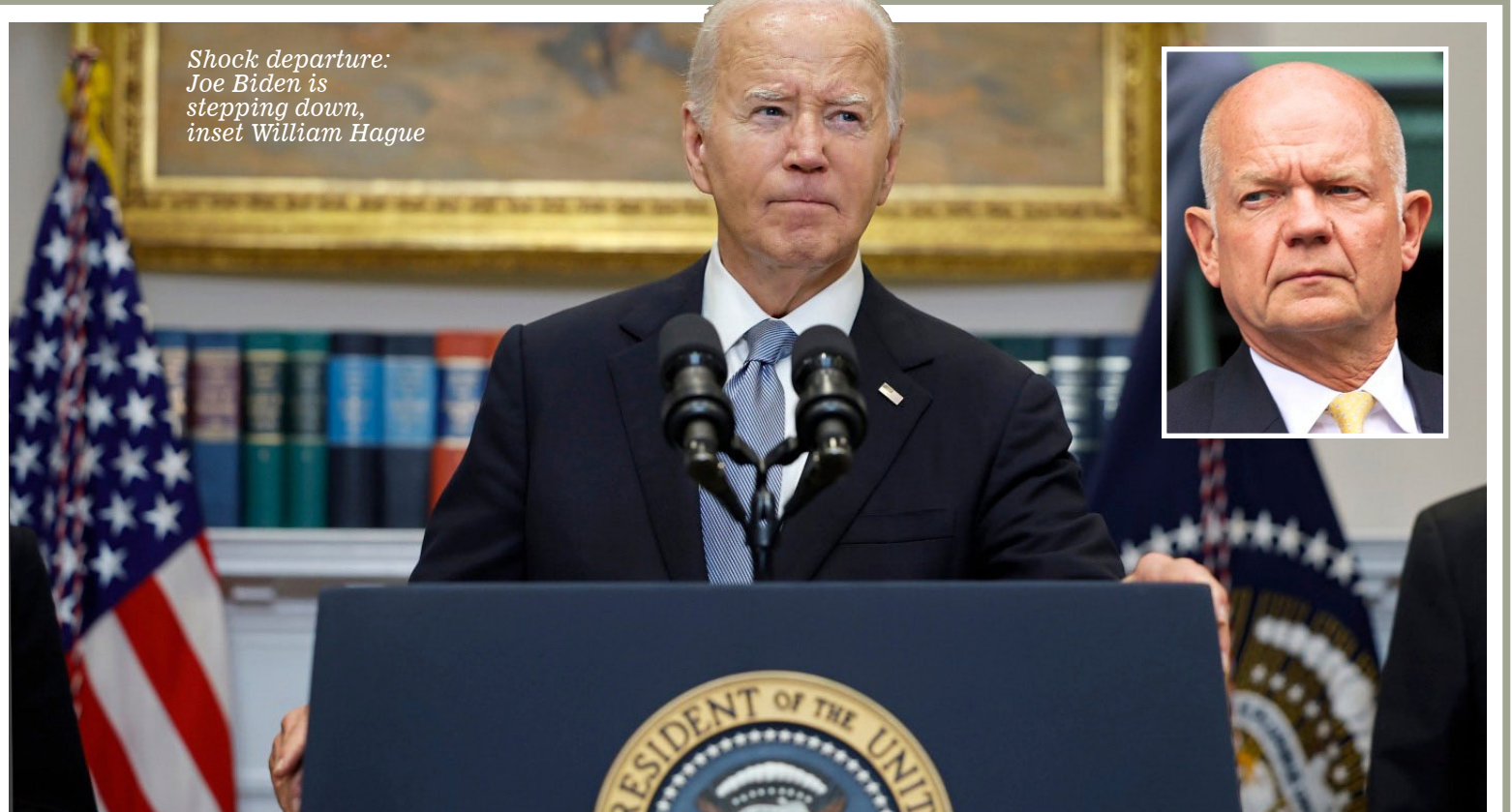
Before Gay Byrne drew from Annie Murphy the intimate details of her relationship with Casey and the existence of their son Peter – a seminal Late Late interview, indelible for viewers in 1992 – Casey was the most popular of the lot.

HIS universal appeal was epitomised by a starry-eyed Gay saying on-air that he hoped Annie Murphy's son Peter 'will be half the man his father was', infuriating Ms Murphy, who famously retorted, 'I'm not so bad either'.

True, Fr Michael Cleary – who coincidentally also had a love child – may have given him a run for his money with his radio show and TV appearances, but he had only second billing to Bishop Casey's ringmastering of the Pope's visit in 1978 – the zenith of the Church's reign in Ireland.

Casey's man of the people shtick saw him campaign against homelessness, enjoy the good life of fancy restaurants and fast cars and burst into song with the public. His chubby gait and cheerful persona were like a breath of fresh air, a foil for an institution that was often austere and forbidding. His fall from grace was a start of an avalanche of clerical and institutional sex abuse scandals that ultimately stripped the Church of its authority, losing the obedience and automatic deference it commanded.

But it also humanised him and was often interpreted as evidence of the unnatural strain created by the priestly vow of celibacy. Casey's seeming to pay for his



A President's perks can be tempting, eh Bertie?

IN THE face of pressure from even his most loyal allies, US president Joe Biden finally stepped down yesterday, paving the way for Kamala Harris's White House bid.

It was a difficult decision for Biden, not least because as former Tory leader William Hague speculated recently, he is as addicted as Trump is to the power of the presidency and its trappings.

Hague recalled how he travelled with a

group of US senators on Air Force Two 'with their every whim met, salutes at every stop... The contrast with British MPs, who were being told not to go first-class on trains, was staggering. They are the Roman senators of their age, and that's nothing compared with their president'.

One wonders what US senators would make of the creature comforts available to our political class. Not much I expect.

They might be more impressed with what's on offer at Áras an Uachtaráin, where incumbents would stay forever if it wasn't for the Constitution's 14-year limit.

In a reversal of the exodus of Dáil politicians in the prime of life, age is no bar to presidential ambitions, with Bertie Ahern seeming to limber up for a run at the age of 72. Must be the retinue of staff, cavalcades and ceremony that does it.

sins, standing down as bishop and being hounded out of the country also won him supporters.

But the allegations against Casey disclosed in the Irish Mail on Sunday in 2019 for the first time by his niece Patricia Donovan, as well as allegations from three other women, show that Casey was not the red-blooded man longing for human contact in the lonely solitude of his vocation that existed in his supporters' imagination.

Patricia Donovan, who claims Casey raped and sexually abused her for over a decade, from the age of five and in the three dioceses he served – Limerick, Kerry and Galway – paints a picture of a chilling monster.

'He was quite organised and selective, and I think he saw that I was vulnerable and quite sensitive,' she recalled for Mail journalist Anne Sheridan, in 2019. 'It was

rape... everything you imagine. It was the worst kind of abuse. It was horrific. I stopped being able long ago to find any words in the English language to describe what happened to me. It was one horrific thing after another.'

Tonight's RTE documentary Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, a collaboration with the Irish Mail on Sunday and RTE, who painstakingly investigated the allegations made by Patricia Donovan and others, once again places Casey among the parade of paedophiles and perverts who delivered a coup de grace to the Church's fortunes.

But not only does it show the former bishop as a sexual opportunist and predator, and his arrogant defiance and entitlement, but it also lays bare his disobedience to the Church he claimed to love so well. The joint investigation by RTE and the Irish Mail on Sunday shows how the Catholic

Church handled at least five child sexual abuse allegations against the former Bishop of Galway and reveals his niece Patricia Donovan's numerous attempts to hold the Catholic Church authorities to account.

To be fair to the Vatican, it was proactive about dealing with Ms Donovan's allegations in 2005 and the other complaints it had received, the earliest of which was made in 2001 and related to Casey's time in the Limerick diocese. It banned him from active ministry and reaffirmed the ban on his return to Galway in 2006 after exile in South America, maintaining it over his lifetime, despite appeals from him that it be lifted.

Yet the late Casey flouted the terms of the ban repeatedly by saying Mass on several occasions, including, in a display of breathtaking insensitivity, allegedly officiating in 2007 at the funeral of

Josephine 'Patsy' Donovan, the mother of his niece Patricia.

He also dressed like a man of the cloth and pretended that after his penitent stint as a missionary in South America, he had been returned to the Church's good graces.

The clandestine nature of Vatican decision-making meant he largely got away with it for years because some dioceses didn't know he was still in disgrace. Eventually the sanctions were enforced but even then it was presumed in some quarters that it was punishment for Annie Murphy so that by the time of his death in 2017, Eamonn Casey had been somewhat rehabilitated.

But now, thanks to the dogged efforts of Anne Sheridan, that process is steadily being reversed with more allegations of a dark and sinister side to his character and confirmation of the Vatican's knowledge of it.

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



Simple ways to prevent muscle and joint pain

Quiz that reveals how healthy your gut REALLY is

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

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

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

to address the 'hidden realities in his life' including the fact he had a son, 25 years prior. In a written statement, the Diocese of Galway has emphasised that Eamonn Casey's funeral took place after the retirement of Bishop Martin Drennan and that his successor, Bishop Brendan Kelly, had not yet been appointed, so would not have been fully aware of the complaints

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.'

against Bishop Casey when he preached the homily. Dr Brendan Kelly, who has also since retired, declined to be interviewed for the documentary, stating that he did not believe it would serve 'truth, justice or the public interest'.

He did, though, confirm that 'Bishop Casey's funeral liturgy followed the precedent set by previous such funerals for former

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

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.

aisling.moloney@daily mail.ie

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 RTÉ'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.

**GET TWO
BRILLIANT
MAGAZINES
THIS WEEKEND**

ON SATURDAY



**SHANIA
TWAIN**

on 50 years in the business,
inspiring Beyoncé and why
'the older I get, the better I get'

Irish Daily Mail

ON SUNDAY



**MATT AND
EMMA WILLIS**

on their new matchmaking
show and their rocky road
to wedded bliss

The IRISH Mail
ON SUNDAY



POWER'S

It's now clear that Bishop Casey had us all fooled... including Gay and Annie

THE late Gay Byrne, I've always thought, got a very raw deal over that infamous Annie Murphy interview back in 1993.

He was accused at the time of being cold, dismissive and belittling of the former lover of Bishop Eamonn Casey, who had fled the country following revelations that he'd fathered a son with a young divorcee entrusted to his care. And over the past week, since the full extent of Bishop Casey's buried secrets emerged, Gay's handling of that sensational encounter has come in for renewed criticism.

But history should be kinder to Gay – if anything, that episode was simply further proof of the extent to which Casey had fooled not just the public, by whom he was revered like a rock star, but even close friends, such as Byrne, who thought they knew him best.

I'd interviewed Annie earlier that same Friday afternoon, and had been thoroughly charmed by a sweet, thoughtful, witty and casually tactile woman – it was easy to see why a poor lonesome, and strictly celibate (or so we thought), bishop, on his own in the windswept wilds of Kerry, would have been bowled over by this dazzling young woman's open, guileless, touchy-feely American warmth.

But the Annie who turned up on that night's Late Late Show was a different creature. She was abrupt, prickly, defensive and clearly hostile to the host and the audience. It was obvious that she was expecting a rough time and, from the audience at least, she was right to be on her guard.

Because they just didn't believe her. The mood in the studio was palpably restive – why were we even entertaining this lying hussy on the national airwaves?

While Gay tried his best to maintain a neutral stance, audience members accused Annie of being a wicked fantasist besmirching the good name of a living saint for her own financial gain.

In the tense circumstances, Gay couldn't say what he clearly thought – that Annie was telling the truth, and that his old friend Eamonn was, indeed, the father of her child. And so he said the next best thing.

Employing an old Irish saying, invoked to praise a child and commend a new mother on her wise choice, he signed off the interview with: 'If your son is half the man his father is, he'll do alright.' But Annie didn't hear the implied support, just an unintended slight, and she retorted, 'I'm not so bad myself, Mr Byrne', before storming off the set.

It's gone into history as Gay showing rare bias and disapproval, but he truly thought he was paying Annie's son a compliment – in hindsight, how ironic was that?

It must be thoroughly baffling for today's 20- and 30-



Frosty: Gay Byrne interviews Annie Murphy back in 1993

some things to comprehend just how towering a public figure Bishop Casey was in those days, how widely beloved and admired he was, and how spectacular his fall from grace.

He was one of Gay's favourite guests, a gifted raconteur, the relatable face of what was still an austere and judgemental institution. When he was done for drink-driving, his explanation was that his dinner party hosts just kept topping up his glass. And we fell for it as

evidence of a shared human failing – 'sure it could happen to a bishop' – rather than seeing what it really was: a glimpse of the true Casey, a selfish, greedy, entitled and utterly amoral man, denying himself nothing and prioritising his own sensual pleasure above the safety of the mere mortals who might cross his path.

For years, the original Casey story has been recounted as evidence of our naivety about the Church's transgressions

back then – imagine we were horrified to discover that a bishop had enjoyed a consensual adult relationship, when there was so much worse being covered up elsewhere?

BUT now, thanks largely to the courage of his niece Patricia Donovan – first raped by Casey at the age of five – and the persistence of my colleague Anne Sheridan, we know that the former Bishop of Kerry, interred in the grandeur of Galway Cathedral with all the pomp and ceremony the Church could muster, may well have been the lowest of the low, a 'sexual predator' who targeted the most vulnerable and then deployed his fame and status to intimidate them into silence.

I genuinely believe Gay intended it as a compliment, rather than a slight, when he said he hoped Peter Murphy would be 'half the man' his father was. In reality, it was a far greater insult than anyone could possibly have imagined.

Detectorist digs up much greater fuss than expected

THE arrival of two Bronze Age axe-heads at the National Museum last month, packed into a porridge box with an anonymous note saying they'd been found with a metal detector in Westmeath, prompted a proper knicker-twist in the archaeological world. International experts lamented the reckless vandalism of the 'detectorists',

as they're called, pillaging and ruining old sites as a hobby. But now the culprit has come forward – farmer Thomas Dunne was not actually excavating ancient sites, but simply looking for a piece of a mowing machine lost while cutting silage, when the axe-heads were found. He hired a 'detectorist' to locate the piece so it wouldn't damage the

silage harvester later. They thought the fragments were just bits of an old horse-shoe, but luckily decided to send them off anyway, carefully packaged in foam. Thomas was shocked by the fuss over his 4,000-year-old find, and sounded mildly amused by the experts' excitement: 'They were,' he said, 'horrid happy over this whole discovery.'



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

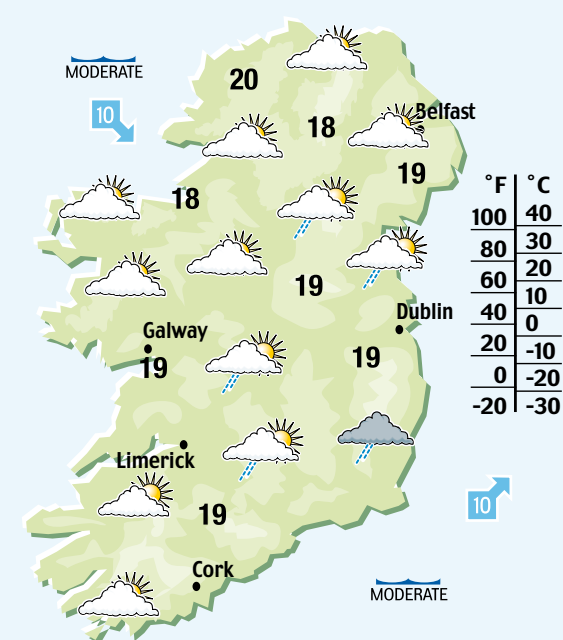
Turn to Page 2



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

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.’

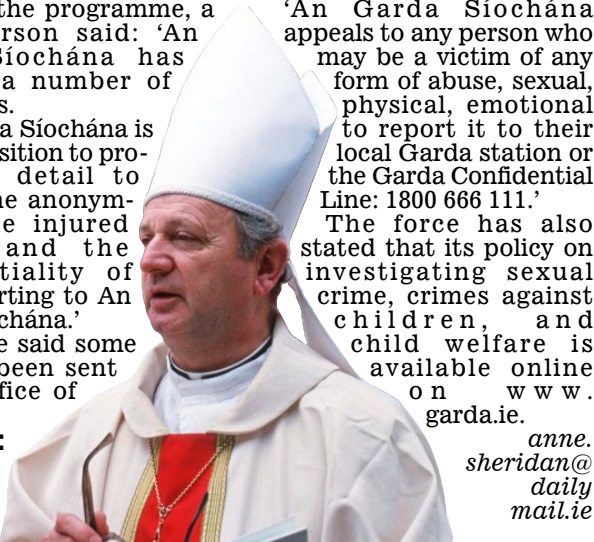
It further stated that ‘An Garda Síochána remains in contact with all victims’.

‘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.

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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 a 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, 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



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



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



of the clergy and to some faithful parishioners, but likely would have been lost on the masses.

An acknowledgment of the hurt endured by survivors of clerical sexual abuse is set out in the protocols for funerals of those removed from ministry.

‘Yes, we are all sinners, but irresponsibility, infidelity and sin are very shocking in the lives of those who preach the gospel,’ said Bishop Kelly.

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

However, sources said that a number of the usual protocols for a bishop’s funeral were noticeably absent from the 2017 ceremony.

There was no pall, or religious cloth, placed over the coffin.

There was no mitre, crozier, pectoral cross or ring on Bishop Casey’s coffin.

but what was missing from much about his reputation

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.’

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

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.

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.’

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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A MAJOR NEW SERIES BY A TOP DIETITIAN SEE PAGES 38, 43, 44 & MAGAZINE

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

Turn to Page 6 >>

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



Picture: ANDREW DOWNES

'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.

anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

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



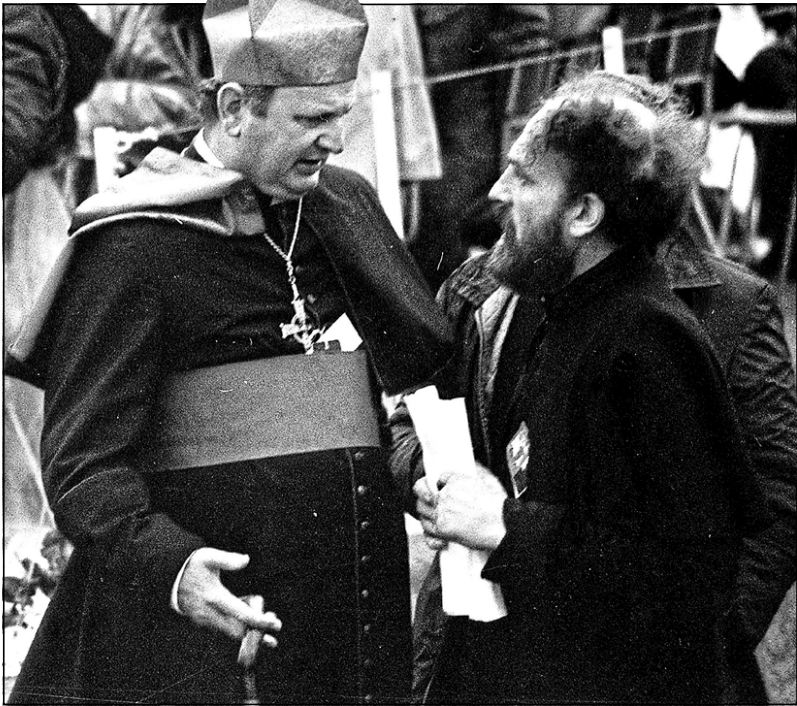
by Anne Sheridan

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
Page 29

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



BOMBHELL: 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



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*

The Church's repeated child protection failures must be addressed

IN 2019, when this newspaper first reported the claim by Patricia Donovan that she had been repeatedly raped from the age of five by her uncle, the disgraced bishop Eamonn Casey, the Galway diocese said it had received only one allegation of child sexual abuse related to him. This was after repeated engagement with this newspaper.

Subsequently, after further questioning by RTE, it admitted there were actually five such cases. In Buried Secrets, the RTE documentary made in conjunction with the Irish Mail on Sunday and screened on Monday, it also emerged that the Limerick diocese paid over €100,000 in settlement to one of Casey's victims.

Last week, we reported for the first time that the Vatican too had seen the complaints, including that made by Patricia Donovan, almost two decades ago. On foot of them, it formally removed Casey from active ministry in 2007, a fact unknown for the ten years before his death in 2017.

This week, in an analysis piece for the paper of record,

Irish Times Religious Correspondent Patsy McGarry argued that Casey had repeatedly been given the benefit of the doubt. He noted that at his funeral he was 'celebrated in death, as he had been in life'. Except he wasn't. The Vatican has confirmed that the Papal Nuncio did not attend the funeral because of the cloud of the allegations.

Yesterday, noting the public outcry demanding that Casey's remains be disinterred from the crypt in Galway Cathedral, the Galway Diocesan Office said it had begun 'a period of careful consideration and consultation' and that such a move was a very sensitive issue that

'deeply affects people in different ways'.

That is a deeply unsatisfactory response.

Many churchgoers already have made it clear that they do not want to worship in the cathedral if they are kneeling above the remains of a man who made a settlement through the Institutional Redress Board and who has unconnected claims of child abuse made against him in every diocese that he worked in Ireland.

In an exclusive comment for this newspaper, Taoiseach Simon Harris noted the front page story yesterday in our sister paper, the Irish Daily Mail, that revealed gardai have been

told by Commissioner Drew Harris to re-examine all complaints made against Casey.

Mr Harris was also unequivocal in his messages for the Church, urging that any decision in relation to Casey's remains must be victim focused. He added: 'The evidence in the documentary has only added to the sense of betrayal that people feel about the Catholic Church in Ireland and the culture of concealment seen, even in recent years.

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

We stand with the Taoiseach on this matter. Like all

reasonable people, we have tired of the Church's repeated failures in relation to child protection and its attempts to cover up past wrongs.

Healing is important for victims, but it is important for the Church too, if it is to regain the trust of its dwindling faithful.

HSE NEEDS A CURE FOR OVERSPEND

YET again, figures received by HSE whistleblower Shane Corr under Freedom of Information law, show the health service last year failed to meet its own targets, despite an overspend that will probably top €1.2bn when final numbers are tallied.

Clearly, there is something profoundly awry in the HSE's management of what actually is a generous budget, €23.5bn this year.

Nothing would give us greater pleasure than to have nothing to report on at all – but for as long as the HSE flagrantly overspends with no tangible improvement in services, we will continue to do so, and robustly.

Homelessness is still rising – and only a change in government can begin to fix it

ON FRIDAY, the Department of Housing released their latest homeless report. Another month, another grim record reached. In June, the number of adults, children, families, singles, and pensioners living in emergency accommodation increased. There are 14,303 people including 4,404 children without a home of their own.

Month after month after month, the number of adults and children forced into homelessness keeps rising.

Darragh O'Brien became Minister for Housing in June 2020. Since then, homelessness has increased 64%, child homelessness 66%, family homelessness 80% and pensioner homelessness a staggering 83%. And behind every single one of these statistics is a human being, a single person or a family, or a child forced to live in inadequate emergency accommodation. In every county there are thousands of vacant and derelict homes. At the end of each year the Government records exchequer surpluses.

Yet, the delivery of social and affordable homes is simply too low. Worse still the Government aren't even meeting their inadequate targets.

Every year since Fianna Fáil took over responsibility for housing, hundreds of millions of euros earmarked for the delivery of social and affordable homes has gone unspent.

In the first quarter of this year, just 158 new-build social homes out of an annual target of 9,300 were completed. In the same period just 56 affordable homes of a target of 4,400 were delivered.

By any objective measure this Government are neither interested nor capable of addressing the ever-deepening housing and homelessness crisis.

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael's cavalier attitude to the human tragedy that is homelessness runs the risk of normalising what is one of the most profound failings of the State. But it doesn't have to be this way. In other countries, such as Finland, they have shown that it is possible to end long-term homelessness. Sinn Féin has repeatedly set out how this can be done. I have written to the Minister for Hous-

ing on numerous occasions, published alternative budgets and tabled legislation outlining emergency measures that he could and should be taking to bring homeless numbers down.

The month-on-month increases in homelessness show that all of this has fallen on deaf ears. The bottom line is that Government must increase and accelerate the delivery of social housing. By the end of this year, Government are expected to have delivered 35,000 new-build social homes since 2020.

We need at least double that. In Government Sinn Féin would fund and deliver at least 75,000 social homes over five years.

We would also use emergency planning and procurement powers and new building technologies to deliver a dedicated stream of social housing for those in emergency accommodation. This would prioritise those over 55 and families with children, delivering 1,000 homes in the first year alone. We would also double the number of housing for first tenancies for sin-

gle people experiencing homelessness to 500 a year. These three measures, an increase in social housing supply, a dedicated stream of emergency social housing and increases in housing first, would result in month-on-month reductions in the number of people in emergency accommodation.

We also need to see more action to keep people in their homes. Less than 10% of the homeless budget goes on prevention. This means speeding up the social and cost-rental tenant-in-situ scheme. Too many tenants are complaining about delays, resulting in some landlords withdrawing from the

scheme. There is also a need to reintroduce an emergency ban on evictions where the tenant has done nothing wrong, until homeless numbers start to come down. And there is a need for greater supports for people who transition from long-term homelessness into their own permanent home, in order for them to sustain that tenancy.

The current homelessness crisis started in 2014 when Fine Gael and Labour were in Government. It gathered pace from 2016 when Fianna Fáil propped up Fine Gael during confidence and supply.

But since the two Civil War parties formed their first full-blown coalition in 2020, homelessness has reached levels never imagined possible. At this stage it must be crystal clear that these parties are the problem. They are the ones who caused the housing and homelessness crisis. How could they be expected to fix it?

That is why, ultimately, the only way to bring an end to the housing emergency is with a general election and a change of Government.

Sinn Féin's alternative housing plan would deliver the most ambitious public housing programme in the history of the state. We would deliver an average of 25,000 social and affordable homes for workers and families every year.

In Government we would make housing our number one priority. We would move heaven and earth to deliver the homes that people need. With a general election only a matter of months away people will face a very clear choice.

Do you want more of the same failed housing policy from Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael? It has given us years of rising rents, rising house prices, rising homelessness and unacceptably low levels of social and affordable housing.

Or do you want a Sinn Féin-led Government with a Sinn Féin housing minister and alternative housing plan that will finally put an end to the decades-long housing emergency.



By **EOIN Ó BROIN TD**

SINN FÉIN HOUSING SPOKESMAN

Abuse magnified by the Church failing to take victims seriously

BISHOP Casey's Buried Secrets is a monument to the bravery and tenacity of two women whom Catholic cleric Eamonn Casey sexually abused as children.

The late Ellen Murphy and the bishop's niece, Patricia Donovan, deserve the thanks of all justice-loving people and of the worldwide Catholic Church for telling the awful truth about the powerful and popular – but also manipulative and mendacious – man, despite the toll it took on them and their families.

That toll was magnified over the decades by the unwillingness, until relatively recently, of the Catholic Church to take Ellen and Patricia seriously.

It took the Vatican at least 15 years to admit for the first time, when pressed by the programme's makers, that Pope Benedict XVI had formally barred Dr Casey from ministry in 2007, following allegations which the programme makers have established included child sexual abuse.

This decision included a ban on the bishop saying Mass in public. It was imposed 10 years before the Kerry-born prelate died.

‘He flouted the ban with the attitude of a Prince of the Church’

But the Catholic hierarchy in Ireland, along with the Vatican, failed to inform the Church's faithful of that restriction. So Eamonn Casey flouted it with the attitude of a Prince of the Church who enjoyed impunity.

The Vatican's only surreptitious nod in the direction of public censure was to refuse to send the Pope's representative in Ireland, the Papal Nuncio, to Bishop Casey's funeral in 2017.

But no statement was issued explaining the snub.

The vast bulk of the Catholic faithful who noticed the absence assumed that it was due to the German Pope's distress at Dr Casey's 1974 affair with Annie Murphy, which had come to light in 1992 when Annie revealed that he had fathered their son and unsuccessfully pressurised her to have the child adopted.

Instead of the Vatican clarifying that the late bishop's affair was only part of the Pope's concern, and that credible allegations of child sexual abuse was the greater sin, 11 bishops gathered around the altar in Galway Cathedral to concelebrate the funeral Mass of the former 'rock star bishop' as a journalist colleague of mine had called him during Monday's programme. They then committed his mortal remains to their current honoured resting place in the cathedral crypt.

In the case of his niece Patricia Donovan's longstanding allegations, nearly all Irish media outlets effectively ignored her,

In revealing the secrets of Bishop Casey, we also give his survivors their voice



By **JOE LITTLE**

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT,
RTÉ NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS, 1994-2019

particularly after some newspapers prominently printed smears, peddled by anonymous sources, that she was mad and, therefore, not to be believed.

The exceptions to this were the Limerick Leader, the Irish Mail on Sunday and latterly, RTÉ working in partnership with the Irish Mail on Sunday.

NOW, some media outlets cannot get enough of the campaign by survivors of abuse in the Catholic Church and their supporters to have the late bishop evicted from the crypt!

This weekend, Dr Casey's successor-but-three as Bishop of Galway, Dr Michael Duignan, has responded by asking for time and space to allow him to consult and consider carefully the calls for Bishop Casey's body to be interred outside the precincts of the Cathedral. These are the same precincts in which, Patricia Donovan says, he sexually abused her wearing his full bishop's garb, including purple socks.

She says he began abusing her when she was aged five while he was visiting his sister, Patricia's now-deceased mother. The abuse continued into her adolescence.

It would be unnecessarily painful for Patricia – and for her and Ellen's loved-ones – to have to read again here the sordid details of precisely how the man of the cloth who they trusted robbed them of their childhoods.

The programme is a 'must-watch' and recounts the survivors' trauma in their own words in a balanced way which avoids sensationalism and allows the viewer to consider the details in context.

It's notable that Ellen speaks to us from beyond the grave, as it were. This is thanks to a 2013 audio recording of her testimony about her 18 years, beginning at the age of five, in St Joseph's Magdalene Laundry in Limerick City which was run by the Good Shepherd Sisters.

In 1956, the then-Father Casey, a curate in the nearby St John's

Cathedral, was the laundry's chaplain. Ellen recalls that he used this access to prey on her twice when she was 15 years old. Far removed from her west of Ireland home, Ellen was isolated and it's likely that Casey knew this.

Fortunately, Ellen had been interviewed by the Magdalene Oral History Project.

It's a measure of the value of this enterprise which is led by the Women's Study Centre at University College Dublin, that Ellen was able to put flesh on her complaints against Bishop Casey which she had only voiced formally behind closed doors a decade earlier at a hearing of the Residential Institutions Redress Board (RIRB).

It's a crime for any victim who got an award from that board to speak publicly about either the outcome or the testimony justifying it. Ellen received €40,000 in redress and Eamonn Casey did not contest her allegations.

But fortunately for Ellen, not even the authorities of the Irish State, which have kowtowed to Church power for decades – and, in many cases, are continuing to do so – can serve writs in heaven. The DPP can't prosecute her for breaking the law banning all survivors from ever speaking about their redress.

In general, I agree with the gagging rule because the Redress Board did not establish guilt in the strict legal sense on the balance of probability. To do that would have required a fully fledged adversarial courtroom contest, a scenario

which the redress scheme was designed to avoid.

But, in this case, given that Bishop Casey did not contest Ellen's testimony when offered the opportunity to do so, I agree with the Mail on Sunday's and RTÉ's decisions to publish details of her award despite the legal risk involved. I understand that they did so on the basis that the public interest demanded that the details in question should be revealed.

FIVE years ago, the Fine Gael-led cabinet published draft legislation which would have sealed Ellen's RIRB records for 75 years together with those of the thousands of other witnesses who had testified about their abuse in institutions before either the RIRB or the Laffoy-Ryan Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse.

Thankfully, shortly after coming to power, the current Government announced it was delaying and further examining the Retention of Records Bill 2019. Nothing has been heard of it since apart from Education Minister Norma Foley's response to Catherine Connolly's Dáil Question about the measure in 2022.

The Fianna Fáil minister said the Bill had 'lapsed with the dissolution of the Dáil in January 2020' ahead of that year's general election. She added that 'the future of the records of the redress bodies will be considered in (the) context' of the Government's March 2022 plans for a National Centre for

‘There are interests who'd prefer this was sealed away for 75 years’

Research and Remembrance.

She went on to promise that the proposed centre would be a 'National memorial to honour all those who were resident in industrial schools, Magdalene Laundries, mother and baby homes and related institutions'.

Watch that space.

The publication of the 2019 bill clearly demonstrates there are some interests within the State apparatus who'd prefer if this mountain of source material on the embarrassing history of Church-State collusion in child abuse was sealed away for 75 years.

This would effectively mean a century-long omerta because survivors began asking to give evidence to Judge Laffoy's Child Abuse Commission in 2000.

By 2100, survivors' formal testimonies about institutional abuse at the hands of church representatives, facilitated by the State's inadequate regulation, would have little impact on Church hierarchies or public representatives.

Like Bishop's Casey's secrets, they would have been buried in a sealed coffin, effectively banished beyond the ken of both scholars and journalists.

‘The man of the cloth they trusted robbed them of their childhoods’



'Sensitive matter of the interment': Eamon Martin

By Anne Sheridan

CATHOLIC Primate of All Ireland Eamon Martin has said he understands the 'anger and profound distress' felt by many people following the allegations of child sexual abuse against former bishop Eamonn Casey.

Taoiseach Simon Harris has also said the Catholic Church has 'serious questions to answer' following revelations in Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, a documentary by RTE in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday.

Bishop of Galway Michael Duignan is questioning the interment of the disgraced cleric's

'Questions for the Church to answer'

remains at Galway Cathedral, where Casey was buried in the crypt in March 2017, at a time when some members of the Church knew that at least five allegations of child sexual abuse had been made against him.

There have been repeated calls and a petition for his remains to be removed from the crypt and laid in a more appropriate location, in line with a member of the clergy removed from ministry.

The Vatican confirmed to RTE that the ban on Bishop Casey's ministry was reiterated to him in 2007 and was never lifted in spite of insistence from him and on his behalf. The Church never revealed the ban on his ministry to the public in his lifetime, nor its reasons for not doing so.

A spokesman for the Catholic Primate of all Ireland told the

Pressure mounts on Church to disinter sexual predator's remains from cathedral crypt

I understand the anger over Casey, says archbishop

Irish Daily Mail: 'Archbishop Eamon Martin is aware that the Bishop and Diocese of Galway is committed to carefully considering the sensitive matter of the interment of the body of Bishop Eamonn Casey and has published a statement in this regard.

'Archbishop Eamon Martin reiterates the comments of Bishop Michael Duignan earlier this week when he observed "recent media coverage concerning the life and legacy of Bishop Eamonn Casey is a source of anger and profound distress to many people, and in different ways".

'Like Bishop Duignan, the Archbishop remains committed to stringent standards and practices in the Church for safeguarding of children and anyone at risk of harm, and to working with survivors of abuse to help bring truth, healing, and peace.'

The Taoiseach, in a statement to the Irish Mail on Sunday, paid tribute to Casey's niece Patricia Donovan and other victims whose harrowing accounts of sexual abuse were exposed last Monday night. The documentary has been watched by more than 550,000 people in Ireland and around the world on the RTE Player.

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 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.'

In a carefully worded statement

that neither confirmed nor denied whether the disgraced cleric's remains may be removed from the crypt at Galway Cathedral, the Galway Diocese said: 'Bishop Michael Duignan 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

'Time and space are required'

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.'

Labour leader Ivana Bacik said it's now 'time for action on this following the powerful revelations

Banned from ministry: Late bishop Eamonn Casey

of child abuse and Church cover-up outlined so clearly in the Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets programme'.

The Irish Daily Mail revealed last Friday that Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has now directed that all complaints on file against Eamonn Casey be reviewed. Bishop Casey was never charged with nor convicted of any sexual offence, and remained a bishop to his dying day.

Bishop Casey's niece, Patricia Donovan, is the only known person to have directly gone to gardai with her complaints.

However, the various dioceses which were notified of at least five allegations of child sexual abuse against Casey, allegedly occurring from the 1950s to the 1980s, said all matters have been referred to gardai and other statutory bodies.

Former justice minister Alan Shatter said: 'There should be full transparency and the outcome of the review made public. The review should include the gardai engaging with Patricia Donovan, the bishop's niece, who informed the gardai she was a victim of abuse, and she should be first told of the result of the review.'

anne.sheridan@dailymail.ie

Beak with a bang as rising puffin population protected

A NEW special protection area for seabirds off the coast of Co. Wexford could help to safeguard the puffin population on the uninhabited Saltee Islands, experts have said.

It is believed that the number of puffins nesting on the islands five kilometres off the coast has begun to rise after years of decline.

Their breeding season usually starts in late March or early April, finishing in July or August.

A spokesman for the National Parks and Wildlife Service said the most recent census of breeding seabirds in Ireland covering the period 2015-2021 estimated the

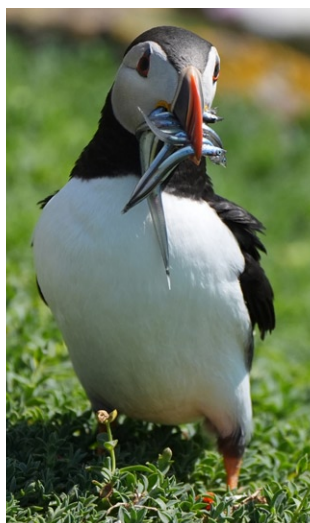
By Jonathan McCambridge

number of puffin breeding in the country to be 14,232 pairs.

Earlier this year Nature Minister Malcolm Noonan announced that the new special protection area (SPA) would be designated under the EU Birds Directive.

The SPA will cover more than 305,000 hectares of marine waters for a range of bird species, giving protection to 20 species.

Professor John Quinn, from the School of Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences at University College Cork, said 'The SPA is an important step for the protection of the area's seabirds.'



Step: A puffin on Saltee Island off Co. Wexford

'Important that State engages with the Omagh bomb inquiry'

THE Government has been urged to give 'more than face-value co-operation' to the Omagh bomb inquiry.

The British government ordered an independent inquiry into the 1998 outrage in Co. Tyrone which claimed 29 lives, including a woman pregnant with twins.

Earlier this month, the Cabinet formally agreed to provide assistance to the inquiry which is to examine alleged security failings that led a High Court judge to conclude the outrage could plausibly have been prevented. The first public hearing of the inquiry is set

By Rebecca Black

to take place in Omagh tomorrow. Campaigner Mr Michael Gallagher, whose son Aiden was killed in the blast, said full co-operation from the Government is vital given the belief that the dissident republican bomb was planned, prepared and delivered in the south.

He has called for garda officers, those involved in intelligence and politicians to assist the inquiry.

'We believe that it is hugely important that the Irish Government engage because this was a cross-border crime,' he said.



Unvarnished truth about settling for **Mr OK** instead of waiting for **Mr Right**

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WE ARE WILLING TO TAKE BISHOP CASEY'S REMAINS TO LIMERICK

As pressure mounts on Galway Diocese to remove his body from cathedral crypt, his former base offers a solution

EXCLUSIVE

By Anne Sheridan

LIMERICK Diocese has said it is willing to take the remains of the disgraced Bishop Eamonn Casey for burial.

However, it stressed that this decision is not up to the diocese.

The Irish Daily Mail can also reveal Bishop Casey's death notice has been taken down from the internet, in line with Church protocol for clergy removed from ministry due to credible allegations of child sexual abuse.

The recent RTE documentary Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, in association with The Irish Mail on Sunday, revealed the former Bishop of Galway had been removed from ministry by the Vatican before 2006 and that the ban was reiterated to him in 2007 after multiple allegations of abuse were received.

Galway Diocese had multiple

Turn to Page 8

Gráinne Seoige canvassing to get on FF ticket for upcoming Dáil election

FULL STORY - PAGES 6-7



House prices set to rise even further, officials warn

By Craig Hughes
Political Editor

IN A further blow to first-time buyers, documents given to Minister for Finance Jack Chambers last month highlight the ongoing risk of 'price inflation' in the housing market.

As interest rates are cut, house prices will continue to rise, Finance Department officials warned. They advised the newly appointed minister that given the shortage in housing, increased spending power, as a result of interest rate cuts, will fuel property prices further.

FULL STORY - PAGE SIX

Moving Casey to Limerick a 'more appropriate' burial

Continued from Page One

allegations of child sexual abuse against Bishop Casey on its files when a decision was taken to inter him in the crypt of Galway Cathedral following his death in March 2017.

The Vatican has stressed that it did not get involved in any decisions left to the 'local level'.

The documentary on RTE prompted calls for the cleric's removal from the hallowed grounds of the crypt, where other deceased bishops of the diocese have been buried.

The Galway Diocese reiterated its previous statement from July 27, which outlined: '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.'

Sources have said that a burial in Limerick, where several of his family members have been laid to rest, would be a more appropriate interment.

When asked by the Mail if the Limerick Diocese would be will-

'Would fully cooperate'

ing to accept his remains to the diocese where he first served in the late 1950s, a spokesman said: 'This is not a matter for Limerick Diocese to decide but in the event that all relevant parties were to make such a decision, Limerick Diocese would fully cooperate to facilitate such a move.'

Bishop Casey's late sister Josephine 'Patsy' Donovan (née Casey) was buried in Kilmurry cemetery in Limerick in 2007.

His brother Fr Michael Casey, a priest who served in south Perth in Australia for many years, died aged 97 in 2022 and was laid to rest in Mount St Lawrence cemetery, also in Limerick.

Bishop Casey's nephew Fr Michael Donovan, an alleged abuser who was removed from ministry, was also buried in Limerick, in 2018.

While Bishop Casey was born in Fies, Co. Kerry, his family later moved to Adare, Co. Limerick, and he was first ordained a priest for the Limerick Diocese, maintaining strong links with the county throughout his life.

Meanwhile, his death notice has now been wiped from RIP.ie and no record of his death exists on that site. While condolences close on death notices after a period of 60 days, they can still be read after that time, and as a rule notices remain on the site indefinitely, according to RIP.ie.

A search for Bishop Casey's



Packed: Galway Cathedral during the funeral of Bishop Eamonn Casey in March 2017

President was among mourners at disgraced bishop's funeral

PRESIDENT Michael D Higgins was among the mourners at Bishop Eamonn Casey's funeral in 2017.

Many who attended to pay their final respects were unaware at the time that the Vatican had formally removed the cleric from ministry, banned him from saying Mass and had placed severe restrictions on him, following multiple allegations of child sexual abuse against the cleric.

President Higgins declined to comment when asked by the Irish Daily Mail if there was any message he would like to now give to Bishop Casey's multiple alleged victims.

No response was received from the President's office on whether Mr Higgins, a former mayor of Galway, feels the crypt in Galway Cathedral is an appropriate resting place for



In attendance: President Higgins at Casey's funeral

the now-disgraced bishop, and if, when attending his funeral Mass in the cathedral on March 16, 2017, mourners had a right to know that restrictions were placed on his ministry for the last 12 years of his life.

The ban on Bishop Casey's ministry was never made public in his lifetime.

The cleric and Mr Higgins had worked together during their

time at the development charity Trócaire. President Higgins paid tribute to him following his death, writing: 'I have heard with sadness of the passing of Eamon Casey, former Bishop of Galway and Kerry. There will be many who will remember his work on homelessness and housing with the Irish emigrant community in Britain.'

'As chairman of Trócaire, he encouraged the organisation to become a leading NGO campaigning for justice as well as responding to humanitarian distress and poverty in the developing world.'

He added: 'Other aspects of his life were the source of pain to others, for which Bishop Casey has apologised and expressed his deep regret, and he himself had the experience of pain visited on him in later life.'



Shocking accusations: Bishop Eamonn Casey back in 1985

■ The deceased priest is not to be buried in his vestments or clerical garb.

The funeral of notorious child abuser Fr Brendan Smyth took place before dawn and the grave was covered in concrete to stop it being vandalised.

However, the ban on Bishop Casey's ministry and the reasons for it were never made known to the public in his lifetime. Some 1,600 people turned up to his funeral, including 11 bishops and 61 priests. There were some notable absences, including the Papal Nuncio, and no archbishop or former archbishop was present.

Bishop Casey's published death notice had read: 'The death has occurred of Most Rev. Eamonn Casey - Bishop Emeritus of Galway and Kilmacduagh. Sadly

Five child abuse allegations

missed by his son Peter, his brother, Fr Michael (Perth), sister, Ita (Furlong), sister's in-law, nieces and nephews and their extended families, Most Rev. Martin Drennan, Bishop Emeritus of Galway and Kilmacduagh, Canon Michael McLoughlin, Diocesan Administrator and the clergy, religious and faithful people of the Dioceses of Limerick, Kerry, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora.'

Galway Diocese has been asked to comment on whether it sought the removal of his death notice from the internet.

Of the five child abuse allegations made against Bishop Casey, which were said to have occurred over four decades, three relate to the Limerick Diocese.

Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets is still available to watch on the RTE Player.

anne.sheridan@daily mail.ie

tions of child sexual abuse.

Policies exist across Irish dioceses and the Church worldwide governing the funerals of priests who are out of ministry due to an accusation of child abuse.

There are significant limitations around the rights of such priests to have a funeral ceremony similar to everyone else, as victims argue that to allow such a ceremony would be to victimise them a second time. Some of the proto-

cols in the policy are:

■ Consideration should be given to having funeral liturgies in a private chapel and/or at a time other than the usual time;

■ A death notice should not normally appear on newspapers or on social media sites;

■ Concelebration is to be avoided;

■ The deceased priest should be referred to by his Christian name;