

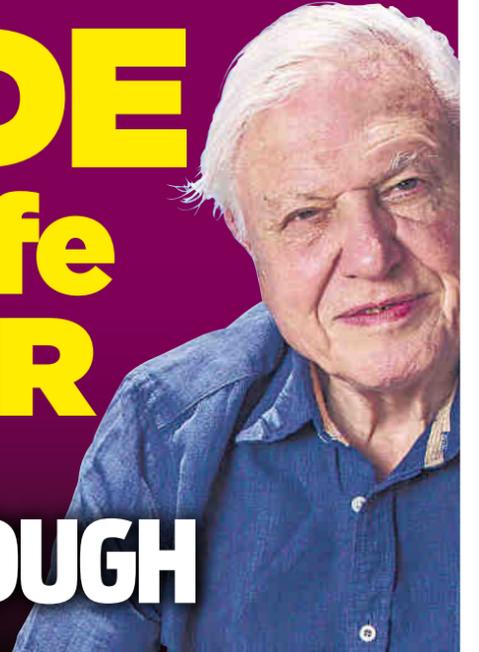


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# I WAS ABUSED BY MY UNCLE BISHOP CASEY

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

A NIECE of the late Bishop Eamonn Casey claims she was raped and sexually abused by him from the age of five for more than a decade.

The Irish Mail on Sunday can also reveal that two other allegations of child sexual abuse by Bishop Casey led to separate settlements – one through the Residential Institutions Redress Board – to women who accused him of abusing them as children in the 1950s and 1960s.

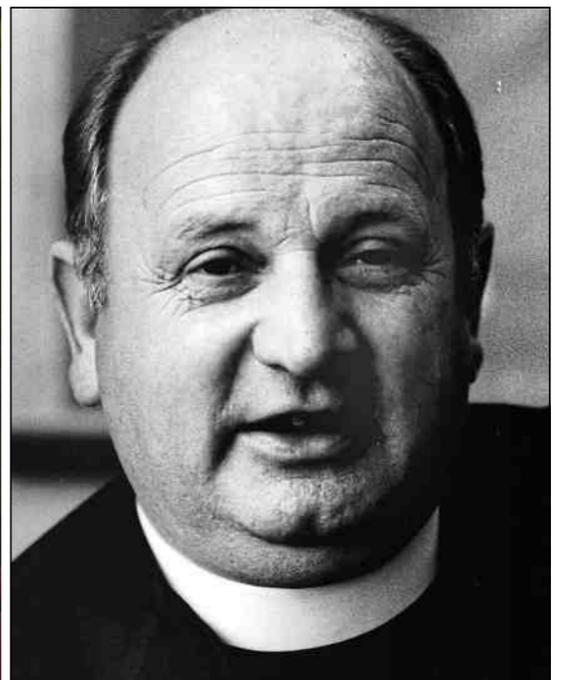
**EXCLUSIVE**

By Anne Sheridan

Documents obtained by the MoS reveal that Bishop Casey's solicitors in Dublin consented to a settlement of compensation to one woman under the Redress Board, which



**NIECE:** Patricia Donovan 'abused from age five'



**BISHOP:** Eamonn Casey accused of sexual abuse

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# 'Abused from the age of five'

► From Page One

has seen more than 16,000 alleged victims of abuse compensated by the State under the €1.5bn scheme.

A separate settlement was made after Bishop Casey's death to a third woman who initiated High Court proceedings against him in 2016.

Speaking for the first time, a niece of the famous cleric, Patricia Donovan, now 56, has documented her attempts to hold the Church to account and to prevent other children from potentially being abused.

'It was rape, everything you imagine. It was the worst kind of abuse, it was horrific,' she told the MoS.

Ms Donovan, who lives in England, brought her allegations to UK police in November 2005, alleging she was abused from the age of five for more than a decade. She claims this abuse occurred across the three dioceses of Limerick, Kerry and Galway.

Detectives in Limerick travelled to England to take a statement from her in January 2006 but, by August of the same year, the Director of Public Prosecutions directed that no charges be brought on 13 sample allegations.

A tranche of documentation seen by the MoS reveals the attempts made by Ms Donovan in the intervening years to ensure that he did not have access to, or abuse, any other children.

Files obtained by Ms Donovan in 2017, through a solicitor then acting on her behalf, revealed that Bishop Casey himself disclosed to religious authorities in England that there was another 'historical case' against him, which was settled through the Redress Board. Under redress legislation, gardai could not have been made aware of these allegations.

However, the name of the alleged victim is

**'He was saddened but did not resist having to leave the diocese'**

disclosed in the files. The same alleged injured party took High Court action against the bishop in November 2004. But it is listed as being 'struck out' on court files in July 2005, after a settlement was agreed.

The note on the files reads: 'She made a claim through the Residential Institutions Redress Board and was awarded compensation.'

This is the first time it has become public knowledge that Bishop Casey is among those named to the Redress Board. The State is currently planning to seal all documents on alleged child abuse in religious institutions dating back to 1936 for a period of 75 years.

Testimony against Bishop Casey is contained in documents held by the State, comprising part of the evidence obtained from some 1,400 complainants, who engaged with the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse's committee.

At the time Ms Donovan made her complaint, Bishop Casey was working in England as a hospital chaplain, having spent six years in South America – when he was forced to flee Ireland in 1992 after his affair with American divorcee Annie Murphy became a public sensation, along with the revelation that he had fathered their son, Peter, born in 1974.

Ms Donovan, then aged 12, maintains that Bishop Casey's abuse against her was continuing at the time he was leaving the diocese.

After she made her allegations to UK authorities, they took prompt action and Bishop Casey was sent back to the Galway Diocese, which had ultimate responsibility for him as the last post he held was as Bishop of Galway.

Canon Kieron O'Brien – who was the main child protection officer of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton at the time – said he had approximately three conversations with Bishop Casey about the allegations. He also met with Ms Donovan as part of his investigation.

Canon O'Brien told the MoS: 'I am confident that we followed all correct procedures at the time. Fr Casey [he was known as Father in the UK] did not have ministry in England, but worked mainly as a hospital chaplain, where he was doing good work. He had to be stepped

down after the complaint was made. He was saddened but was very compliant and did not resist having to leave the diocese.'

Bishop Casey was forced to return to Galway in 2006. The Vatican had imposed strict restrictions on his ministry but – based on files from the Galway Diocese seen by the MoS – he breached these restrictions on numerous occasions.

In 2016, Limerick-based solicitor Tommy Dalton came on record for one woman who took her case against Bishop Casey to the High Court, bringing to three the number of allegations currently confirmed.

However, in the midst of proceedings, Bishop Casey died on March 13, 2017, and the case was struck out. The Limerick Diocese has confirmed that a settlement was paid to this woman, among three complaints of child sexual abuse

brought to its attention between 2001 and 2014.

After Mr Dalton came on record as the woman's solicitor in this case, he was contacted by Ms Donovan, and they spent months working on a possible legal action.

It was an action Ms Donovan ultimately chose not to pursue. Mr Dalton told the MoS: 'Patricia spent several months consulting with me and I was very impressed with her courage and perseverance.'

'Court action can be quite adversarial and can take up to five years in some cases. It was extremely disappointing, even heart-breaking, to speak to such a good, decent person who wished to address issues, which could only be dealt with in an adversarial forum.'

'All options available to her led to conflict, rather than reconciliation and resolution. I was frustrated that

there wasn't a less difficult path for her to take,' he said.

After bringing her allegations to UK police and religious authorities, they were brought to the attention of gardai, the HSE, the dioceses of Limerick and Galway, and, ultimately, to the Vatican, where a separate investigation commenced.

Ms Donovan also wrote personally to the then-Bishop of Galway, Martin Drennan, after the Galway diocese initially agreed to fund 12 sessions of counselling for her and her two children and to pay for her to go on two healing retreats. The funding ceased in 2007.

Bishop Drennan, now 75, who retired three years ago, said: 'I can confirm that I was in correspondence with Patricia for a period of time. I heard her plea of suffering and alleged abuse but I was not in a position to verify any allegations

against any named individual. 'I am very sorry to learn that Patricia is still suffering. I hope she finds peace through forgiveness, as she said is her wish. Though I am now retired, I believe, as Pope Francis said, the Church should reach out to help people find the healing and peace that they deserve, rather than waiting for them to come forward,' he said.

Ms Donovan also contacted a UK-based group for abuse survivors, Macsas, (Minister & Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors), founded by Wicklow native Dr Margaret Kennedy. Dr Kennedy told the MoS: 'I was aware of a number of allegations made by several women against Bishop Casey. He was certainly on our radar.'

In 2010, Ms Donovan raised concerns when she learned that Bishop Casey was due to officiate

## 'Restrictions had been placed on his ministry'

### COMMENT: PAGE 23

THE Limerick Diocese has confirmed to the Irish Mail on Sunday that it is aware of three complaints of child sexual abuse by Bishop Eamonn Casey, which relate to the 1950s and 1960s.

A spokesperson said these complaints were reported to the diocese in 2001, in 2005 and in 2014, which in turn notified An Garda Síochána and Church authorities. 'Of the two complaints raised with the diocese directly, one was dealt with through the Redress Board and a settlement was agreed in the other. The third matter [which relates to his niece, Patricia Donovan] has not involved litigation but contact was

initiated by Limerick Diocese with the complainant.

'The diocese of Limerick has not required and does not require any conditions to be part of any settlement,' said a spokesperson.

The Galway diocese also confirmed that it is aware of one child sexual abuse allegation against Bishop Casey, made in 2005.

'Restrictions had been placed on Bishop Casey's priestly ministry by the Vatican Congregation for Bishops. These were still in place at the time of his death,' said a spokesperson.

A spokesperson for the Kerry Diocese, where Dr Casey was Bishop from 1969 to 1976, did not disclose whether any allegations have been made

against Bishop Casey. 'All allegations of abuse reported to the Diocese are forwarded to the gardai and Tusla... The Diocese fully cooperates with the authorities in these matters.

'Should you or a person you know have information relating to an allegation of abuse, we urge you to encourage the person involved to report... to our Designated Liaison Person for safeguarding or to go directly to the Gardai,' said the spokesperson.

at a baptism of a relative. She contacted several child protection bodies and also the former Bishop of Killaloe Willie Walsh as the Christening was due to be held in his diocese.

Contacted by the MoS, Bishop Walsh, 84, who has also retired, said: 'I advised Eamonn that he should not do the Baptism.'

In response to numerous questions from the MoS, a spokesperson for the Diocese of Limerick confirmed that it is aware of three complaints of child sexual abuse by Bishop Casey, which relate to the 1950s and 1960s.

The spokesperson said they forwarded all the cases to An Garda Síochána and alerted Church authorities. Two of the cases were brought directly to the diocese's attention and it was made aware of the third via a diocese in the

### 'Bishop Casey was certainly on our radar'

UK, the spokesperson added. One case was dealt with through the Redress Board, a settlement was agreed in the other and, in the third case – Ms Donovan's – litigation was not pursued. The other two parties had both initiated High Court action.

The Diocese of Limerick has not required and does not require any conditions to be part of any settlement,' said a spokesperson. The Diocese of Galway confirmed to the MoS that it is aware of one allegation of child sexual abuse, which was brought

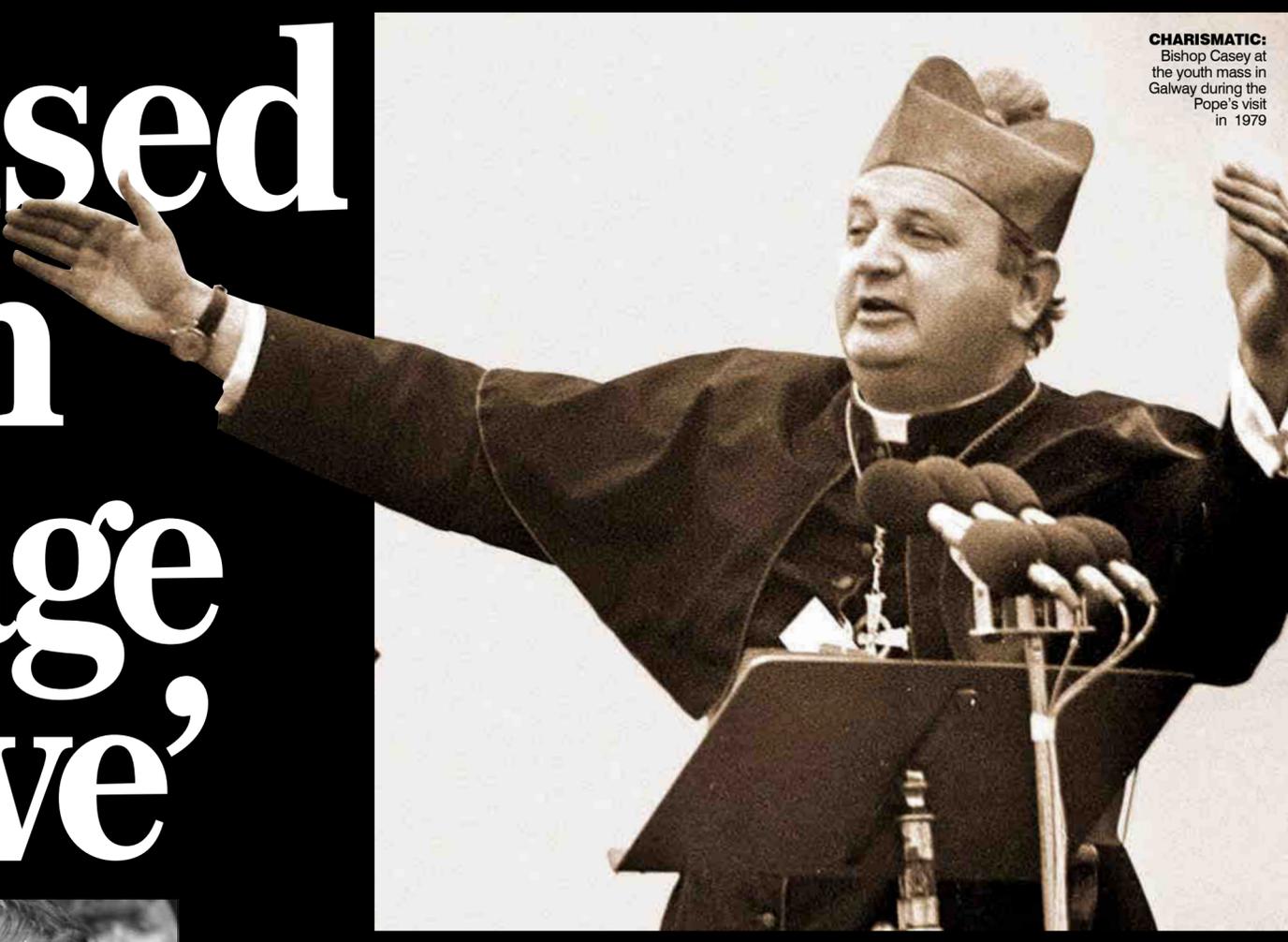
to its attention in 2005 – the same year it was notified of Ms Donovan's case. A spokesperson said: 'Restrictions had been placed on Bishop Casey's priestly ministry by the Vatican. These were still in place at the time of his death.'

The Kerry Diocese, where Casey served as bishop for seven years from 1969 to 1976, was the only diocese of the three contacted that would not comment on any allegations it has received in relation to Bishop Casey.

'The Diocese of Kerry does not discuss or disclose individual cases of abuse. All allegations of abuse reported to the diocese are forwarded to the gardai and Tusla,' said a spokesperson.

The MoS has not received a response from the Vatican regarding the complaints against Bishop Casey.

**CHARISMATIC:** Bishop Casey at the youth mass in Galway during the Pope's visit in 1979



**HIGH LIFE:** Bishop Eamonn Casey and former taoiseach Charles Haughey in Croke Park in 1979

## AN ILLICIT AFFAIR, A SECRET SON, LIES AND REDRESS SETTLEMENTS

**1967** Patricia Donovan claims she was sexually abused and raped by her uncle, Bishop Eamonn Casey, in this year when she was aged five, after he was ordained for the Limerick Diocese in 1951.

**1969** Appointed Bishop of Kerry, the alleged abuse continues in this era, and into the start of his term as Bishop of Galway in 1976.

**1992** American divorcee Annie Murphy reveals that he had fathered her child, Peter – born in 1974 – during a time when Patricia alleges that her abuse was ongoing. At this point, Patricia says she suffered a breakdown.

**1992-1998** Bishop Casey is forced into exile after the Annie Murphy revelations and spends six years in South America.

**1998** Bishop Casey is moved to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England, where he works as a hospital chaplain.

**2001** A woman initiates High Court proceedings in June against Eamonn Casey for personal injuries.

**2005** In July, the 2001 case is struck out after a settlement is made through the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

**2005** Patricia contacts Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, giving details of her alleged abuse to a child protection officer in November.

**2005** The same month, Bishop Casey tells a priest tasked with investigating the allegation that his solicitors in Dublin handled a claim by another woman – the 2001 case – through the Redress Board.

**2005** Patricia makes a complaint to British police.

**2006** Limerick detectives attached to Henry Street Garda station travel to the UK to take a statement from Patricia in January.

**2006** Bishop Casey is interviewed by gardai in July.

**2006** In August, the DPP directs that no charges be brought, reportedly on 13 sample allegations.

**2006** Bishop Casey is forced to



**Affair:** Lover Annie Murphy with Peter, her son by Casey

leave England on the orders of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, directly as a result of Patricia's allegations. He returns to Galway, but is not allowed any public ministry.

**2007** Patricia writes to the then Bishop of Galway, Martin Drennan, pictured, regarding her continuing concerns in relation to safeguarding children and about Bishop Casey infringing the restrictions imposed upon him, including that he would not say Mass.

**2010** Patricia is informed that Bishop Casey is to preside over a christening of a relative but, after she raises renewed concerns, this is stopped personally by Bishop Willie Walsh, in whose diocese the christening is to occur.

**2013** An investigation of the Galway diocese by the Church's own child protection watchdog, the National Board for Safeguarding Children, found that in the early 1980s Bishop Casey did not deal adequately with a credible abuse allegation against one of the priests in his diocese.

**2016** A third woman initiates High Court proceedings against Bishop Casey for personal injury damages.

**2017** Bishop Casey dies on March 13, aged 89.

**2017** In December, the 2016 case is settled posthumously and compensation is paid before it is officially struck out.

# He was like a Pied Piper

**W**HEN Patricia Donovan returned home from England for her mother's funeral she didn't imagine she would see the man she accused of raping her as a child seated on the altar.

But there he was – Bishop Eamonn Casey, her uncle – in clerical garb, officiating at the funeral of her mother in Limerick, in February 2007 in Monaleen Church, Castletroy.

Only two years previously, Patricia, then 43, had brought her allegations of sexual abuse and rape from the age of five against Bishop Casey to police in England, and later to gardai.

After years in exile in South America following the Annie Murphy revelations, Bishop Casey was forced to flee again.

This time, it was on the direct orders of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England, on foot of Patricia's allegations.

Openly, the Church made statements that he was welcome home – to Shanaglish, a small village on the Clare and Galway border – back to the county where he once presided as bishop. But Bishop Casey was placed under several restrictions – that he would not have any public ministry, that he would not say Mass, that he should not wear any clerical clothing, and that he could not give any media interviews.

The voice of one of the most iconic Irish figures in the Catholic Church was silenced.

But Patricia's was not. And yet, Bishop Casey would go on to flout these restrictions – imposed on him by the Vatican – time and time again.

After the funeral, Patricia told the Irish Mail on Sunday that he intimidated her at a family meal, poked her and said: "Are you not going to talk to me?"

"I felt incredibly threatened. He was playing to the audience and had the attention of the whole room. I was ostracised. Some people wouldn't even shake hands with me at the removal," she revealed.

Now, 14 years after she first brought her allegations to the attention of the authorities, Patricia has spoken out for the first time.

In a hotel outside London, the 56-year-old Limerick native, who left Ireland in 1987, spoke exclusively to this newspaper about the abuse she alleges she suffered.

The abuse began at the age of five in 1967 when she alleges she was raped, and continued for more than a decade in Limerick, Kerry and Galway, including during his reign as Bishop of Kerry and Bishop of Galway.

Bishop Casey was aged 35 when Patricia was born into a family of four other siblings in Co. Limerick.

His sister Josephine was Patricia's mother.

The abuse, she alleges, began just two years before he was appointed Bishop of Kerry in 1969.

"I think he saw something beautiful in me that he just wanted to destroy," she said.

"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.

The exact details, nature and extent of the alleged abuse are known to this newspaper but Patricia has asked us not to reveal them.

"He would frequently say out loud that God was instructing him to do this and he would say while abusing me, "I can't get the evil out of her."



**SPEAKING OUT:** Patricia Donovan at her home

**Patricia Donovan says her uncle Eamonn Casey sexually abused her for over a decade. Speaking for the first time, she says 'he saw something beautiful in me he wanted to destroy'**



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY ANNE SHERIDAN**

"It was as if he was in a trance, as if he was trying to purge himself. I only now know that he wasn't trying to get any evil out of me but out of himself. But, of course, I didn't recognise that as a child."

"Looking back, in a way, he was typical of an abuser. He was absolute destroy," she said.

**'Some people wouldn't shake hands with me at my mother's removal'**

lutely revered as a God in the family. He was benevolent, he had loads of money, he was generous, always giving sweets to kids and with adults queuing to kiss his ring. He was like a Pied Piper."

Brought up in Adare, Co. Limerick, Casey was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Limerick in 1951, and for many years served at St John's

Cathedral as curate. It was towards the end of November 2005 that Patricia had reported him to English authorities.

Gardai attached to the Henry Street branch in Limerick, travelled to the UK to interview her over the course of seven hours on January 2, 2006. By August, they contacted her to say the Director of Public Prosecutions wasn't taking the case forward.

By this point, both Patricia and gardai investigating her case were unaware that Bishop Casey's solicitors in Dublin had agreed a settlement of compensation to another woman under the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

The solicitor in that case has declined to comment.

Nor could gardai have been made aware if there were testimonies provided by other women against Bishop Casey, such were the legally binding restrictions imposed on those who gave evidence to the Commission to Inquire into Child

Abuse. "All I was thinking about when I reported it to gardai was protecting children. I wasn't think of the consequences for myself at all; if I was, I don't know if I would have done it," she continued.

"I was terrified that the Church wasn't trying to stop Eamonn abusing. I was very naive, and very much on my own. It was a stab in the dark, trusting that people would do the right thing."

Initially, she believed that the Church was going to help her.

The Galway Diocese, following correspondence with the then-bishop Martin Drennan, through the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, initially agreed to pay for two healing retreats for Patricia.

Later, the Galway Diocese agreed to fund at least 12 sessions of counselling for her and her children, and review further payments for counselling thereafter.

But after Easter in 2007, the funding was stopped.

A month later, she wrote an impassioned letter to Bishop Drennan, and poured nearly every part of the abuse she alleges she suffered at the hands of her uncle into those six pages.

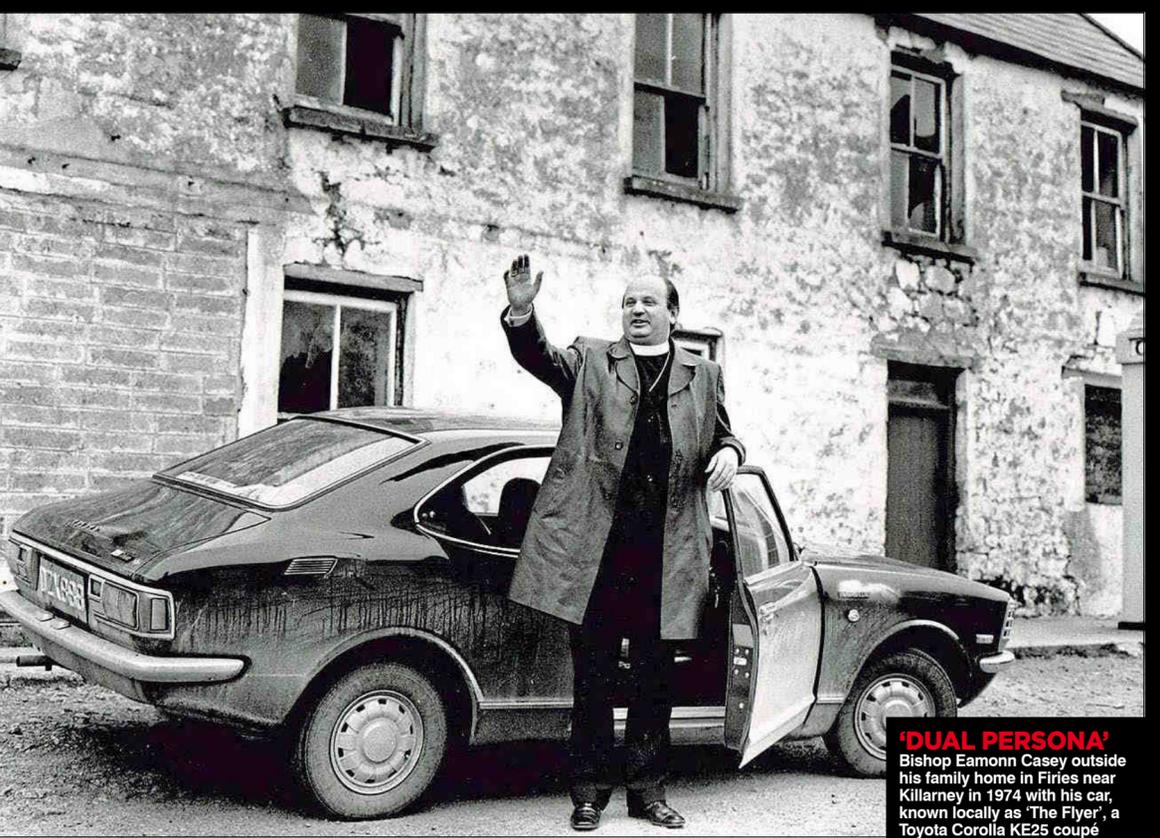
"Dear Bishop Drennan, You do not know me, so I will introduce myself first," she began.

"My name is Patricia. I am Eamonn Casey's niece. I am writing to you as I feel it is important that you know more about my story, as Eamonn is in your diocese and you are responsible for him."

"I feel very vulnerable having written this to you, as I don't know you, but I know it is important for me to do this so I can try and put this behind me and move on with my life."

Her plea for further funding for counselling was heard, but Bishop Drennan replied to her and to the English authorities saying they did not have the resources to provide long-term funding for therapy. Apart from some modest financial assistance for counselling, Patricia said that what she was mostly trying to achieve was accountability.

"I have tried every possible way to get someone to take responsibility," she said. "If he [Bishop Casey] wasn't in Arundel and Brighton at the time I made my complaint, I don't think I would have got a hearing at all. It seemed as if it was only because an outside diocese was



**'DUAL PERSONA'** Bishop Eamonn Casey outside his family home in Furies near Killarney in 1974 with his car, known locally as 'The Flyer', a Toyota Corolla KE25 coupé

involved, that they took some action.

"Why wasn't action taken before me, when another woman made a complaint? The Church continued to put children at risk and enabled people to be abusers by doing nothing. The amount of people who could have been at risk from when I reported it is staggering."

Correspondence seen by this newspaper, dating back to 2005, details the lengths she has gone to be heard – and for someone to take serious action against the trusted figure she claims abused her.

She has reported her allegations to police in England, to gardai, to child protection officers in England and Ireland, to support groups for victims of clerical abuse, to bishops and to diocesan officers.

And yet, she said: "I feel as if the Church always maintained I was lying. The Church has only caused me more abuse, in pretending to hear me – and the hearing they gave me was abysmal."

"There are so many people who don't believe me and some who do and know I am telling the truth."

"But this is not about being believed any more. This is about how the Church treated me and treated others. I naively believed for a time that they did care about me; that they were trying to help me. But they were just paying lip-service to

me, doing a dance around me and trying to manage me."

In 1992, the year the Annie Murphy revelations broke, rocking the Church and shocking a nation, away from the headlines Patricia's silent suffering began to lose ground. Inwardly, she felt as if she had been screaming for much of her life. When she saw the newspaper front pages, it was only years later that she could finally piece together why it had such a profound effect on her, and why it led to her breakdown at that time.

After countless hours of counselling, she said she could finally face what she claims her uncle did to her.

"While he was having an affair with Annie Murphy he was continuing to abuse me," she said.

Bishop Casey's son, Peter, was born in 1974. Patricia

was aged 12 at that time. By the time the story broke, Patricia was a mother of two young children, and today, she marvels at how she managed to survive at all.

All the while, Bishop Casey's permeating presence maintained a stronghold over her life and that of her wider family. It was Bishop Casey who, years later, called her in 2003 and, after she broke down on the phone, she said he sent a cheque for €4,000 for her to go to a treatment centre.

But it was also Bishop Casey, she claims, who had sent her on this downward spiral, with her allegations causing a rift in the family, with some refusing to believe he could be capable of such acts.

In fact, aside from the revelations that he

fathered a child with Ms Murphy, an American divorcee and a distant cousin of his, other allegations of abuse against him were an 'open secret' among some members of Church hierarchy, the MoS has established.

One senior figure told this newspaper: "There was a view that after the Annie Murphy scandal, that maybe the Church had been too hard on Bishop Casey and some contended that perhaps he should have been allowed to return to some form of limited ministry. And he may have been, were it not for these other allegations."

Another senior source said: "Casey was really a Jekyll and Hyde character. It was impossible to get a straight answer out of him when the allegations were put to him. He either claimed that he couldn't remember or that he didn't know the person who made the complaint."

Much of Casey's family – and indeed much of Ireland – refused to accept a different version of the beloved bishop, whose charm and personality cast a spell over a huge swathe of a then-Catholic nation.

He was a raconteur, a bon vivant, a larger-than-life personality, who was known for his work with the poor, the homeless and outspoken views on social injustice.

His well-documented fondness for

fine wines, good cigars and fast cars hid a much darker persona, Patricia feels.

"He did everything in our family. He managed to abuse people through his charisma. There were two distinct sides to him – one was charismatic and the other was absolutely violent. But I was not a human being to him when he was in his monster place."

The abuse continued for more than a decade, but eventually Patricia married and moved to England. She worked in administration initially, and later, as a book-keeper.

Ten years after she made her allegations to gardai, Patricia found someone who could help her.

In April 2016, the Limerick Leader newspaper reported that a woman was taking High Court proceedings against Bishop Casey for personal damages.

Patricia saw this report, and contacted solicitor Tommy Dalton, who was on record on that case, to see if he could help her to also pursue a case. But in the end, she decided she could not proceed with legal action.

"Because I have such high levels of anxiety and because of the money, I wasn't able to go through with it. I couldn't afford to go to Limerick. I didn't have the means or support.

**'He would say while abusing me, "I can't get the evil out of her"'**

And I couldn't sit in a room with a dog-collar and be examined. I just wouldn't be able for it," she explained. Nonetheless, Mr Dalton retrieved all the files held by three dioceses – two in Ireland and one in England – relating to her case.

The level of redactions, she feels, is equally telling in terms of the disparity in transparency between the Church here and in England.

"The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton was very open – they didn't black out anything. But about 70% of information from Galway and Limerick dioceses is blacked out," she said.

As a way to cope with and express the abuse, Patricia began self-harming at an early age. She has experienced suicide ideation at times. It has also tested her faith.

"The duality of the abuse is that the person who abused me was a member of the Church and I also got huge comfort from the Church. I have tried to make sense of that and, in a way, square it away, but I can't."

Explaining her reasons for speaking out now, she said: "I'm doing this because this has been my whole life. I wouldn't do it if I had any other option. It has been a nightmare of a life. My hope by doing this is to finally be heard in some credible way and to get some psychological relief."

"If doing this now makes any difference, if it can help anyone, maybe all this, this struggle, my life might just have been worth something."

anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

# WHY CASEY REALLY CAME BACK IN 2006

Across three dioceses – two in Ireland, one in the UK – Patricia Donovan sought assistance to ensure her allegations were dealt with appropriately by Church authorities. In recent years she sought access to records that detail her battle to have her allegations taken seriously. Here we reveal key documents that show the gripping timeline of a woman doing her best to ensure child protection standards were upheld as Casey's public ministry was restricted. The documents also reveal a shocking secret – Bishop Casey's settlement with the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

## ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In November 2005, a niece of Bishop Casey, Patricia Donovan, meets with police in Britain and gives a statement against him, outlining alleged sexual abuse and rape from the age of five. She alleges that the abuse continued for more than a decade across the three dioceses of Limerick, Kerry and Galway, and that it occurred during his time both as Bishop of Kerry and Bishop of Galway.

She also informs the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, where Casey lived at that time. The child protection officer of the diocese starts an investigation and informs Bishop Casey, who is immediately suspended from active ministry, as per the diocesan guidelines. A released document dated November 3, details this action: 'EC [Eamonn Casey] immediately made aware of allegation [by Patricia Donovan]. Asked to step down from all pastoral work, while remaining for the time being, at his house in Staplefield. He asked for a name – no information given.'

## REDRESS BOARD SETTLEMENT

The investigation by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton begins with a meeting between Patricia and diocesan child protection officers. Documents dated November 9, show the seriousness with which the allegations are taken, and the immediate restrictions placed on Bishop Casey's public ministry. Despite not previously being told who was making the allegations, Bishop Casey reveals he has found out from a priest – a child protection officer, according to documents – in Ireland. More crucially, the documents show that Bishop Casey

told Fr Kieron O'Brien, the main diocesan child protection officer, that his solicitors in Dublin dealt with another 'historical case'. While survivors of institutional abuse cannot reveal details of any settlements under the Redress Board, or the alleged perpetrators, Bishop Casey himself makes this disclosure. The name of the alleged victim under the redress scheme is disclosed in the documents. The file reads: 'She made a claim through the Residential Institutions Redress Board and was awarded compensation.'

The document also appears to confirm, using shorthand, that Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, Kieran Conry, is in the loop.

## SENT HOME TO GALWAY

In late 2005, the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton initiates the removal of Bishop Casey – or Fr Casey as he is known in England – from the diocese, directly as a result of Ms Donovan's allegations.

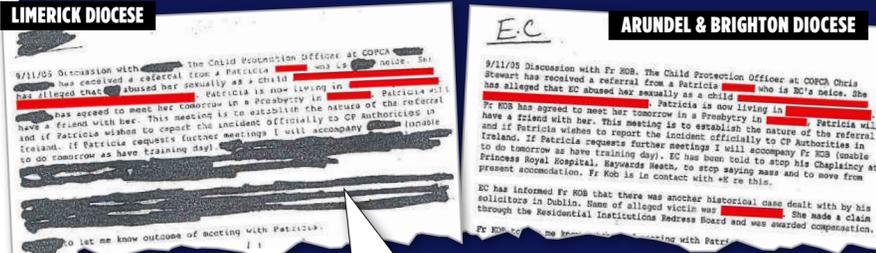
The documents show a clear log of the steps taken by the diocese following these allegations.

In January 2006, a child protection officer in the English diocese writes directly to then-Bishop Conry, expressing concerns that Bishop Casey continues to be in a position where he has access to children.

The child protection officer notes that Fr Casey is 'placed on administrative leave arranged by this diocese pending the police investigation which is currently underway.'

The document confirms that he has moved to live with a priest in Eastbourne, and that Fr O'Brien is

## Files reveal redress payment



*"EC has informed Fr KOB that there was another historical case dealt with by his solicitors in Dublin. Name of alleged victim was [XXXXX XXXXXX]. She made a claim through the Residential Institutions Redress Board and was awarded compensation."*

In 2017, Limerick-based solicitor Tommy Dalton receives a tranche of files from the dioceses of Limerick, Galway, and Arundel and Brighton, on behalf of his client Patricia Donovan with a view to potentially taking a case. Not all files relating to Ms

Donovan and Bishop Casey were released to her. Some of those released by the Galway and Limerick dioceses, are heavily redacted. By contrast, the case files on Ms Donovan and Bishop Casey released by the English Diocese of Arundel and Brighton had no redactions.

Crucially, three sentences in a key document, revealing Bishop Casey's settlement under the Redress Board, were entirely redacted by the Limerick diocese – but not by the British diocese.

\* [Red redaction marks are Irish Mail on Sunday legal redactions]

arranging for him to return to Ireland. The officer writes: 'While under the supervision of this diocese, Fr Casey has agreed not to have contact with children and young people, and this includes having holidays with his family. He has a letter from Fr Kieron in this respect.'

The officer expresses concerns that, over the Christmas period, Fr Casey returned home to Limerick, told his family he was 'on holiday', and was in a house that 'has lots of children coming and going as part of the extended family'. The documents add that if Fr Casey is in Ireland, he is 'the responsibility of the bishop in whose diocese he is living to ensure he is monitored'.

Bishop Casey returns to Galway in February 2006. He is restricted from public ministry.

## POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

In January 2006, detectives from Limerick travel to the UK to take a statement from Ms Donovan over the course of seven hours. In Febru-

ary 2006, the then-Bishop of Galway, Martin Drennan, is notified of the allegations by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Bishop Casey is interviewed in July, and, by August 2006, the DPP directs that no charges be brought on 13 sample allegations.

A document released by the Limerick Diocese reveals that the allegations have been brought to the attention of the Vatican, where another separate internal investigation commences. It also confirms that the HSE was told of the allegations in November 2005.

## FUNDING FOR COUNSELLING

In September 2006, Bishop Drennan writes to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton confirming that the Galway Diocese is willing to pay for an 'initial assessment', and would pay for the first 12 counselling sessions for Patricia Donovan if the UK could not. Bishop Drennan says he will review the payment for counselling after these sessions are completed and then make a decision

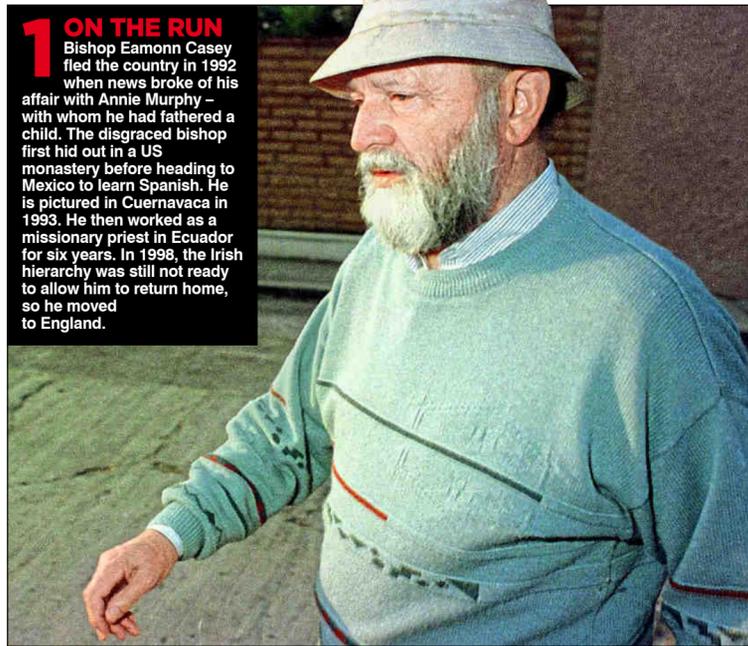
regarding further financial assistance for counselling.

That series of sessions takes place over the autumn/winter and ends in March 2007. Documents show that Galway also provides funding for two healing retreats in January and at Easter, which was in April that year.

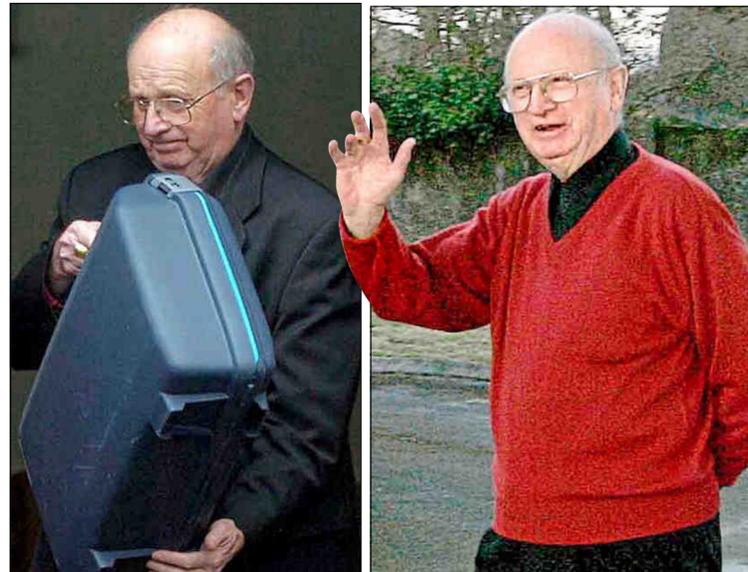
No further counselling funding is approved. In a six-page letter to Bishop Drennan in May 2007, Ms Donovan makes a direct appeal for funding. She is also distressed that Bishop Casey – after the DPP's decision not to prosecute – is not abiding by the ongoing restrictions on public ministry.

She thanks Bishop Drennan for providing funding for her to go on two healing retreats and outlines the alleged abuse she suffered at Bishop Casey's hands – as well as her continuing concerns for the safety of children.

In response, days later, Bishop Drennan writes separately to Ms Donovan and to the English diocese giving his dioceses' 'limited resources' as the reason it cannot continue to fund therapy.



**1 ON THE RUN** Bishop Eamonn Casey fled the country in 1992 when news broke of his affair with Annie Murphy – with whom he had fathered a child. The disgraced bishop first hid out in a US monastery before heading to Mexico to learn Spanish. He is pictured in Cuernavaca in 1993. He then worked as a missionary priest in Ecuador for six years. In 1998, the Irish hierarchy was still not ready to allow him to return home, so he moved to England.



**2 LEAVING ENGLAND** Bags packed at his then home in Sussex, England, Bishop Casey was ready to leave Britain. He had moved to the diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1998. Here, on February 4, 2006, he is returning to Ireland

**3 BACK IN IRELAND** By February 9, 2006, he was back on his old stomping ground. Here at Shanaglish in rural south Co. Galway, he posed for photographs and looked very relaxed. He would go on to officiate at his sister's funeral, Patricia Donovan's mother Josephine in February 2007

## RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC MINISTRY

The documents show a number of times where Casey 'had not honoured out-of-ministry rules' between 2007 and 2010.

These are mainly family events, at which he officiates without any official right to do so. He officiates at the funeral of Patricia's mother, Josephine Donovan, who was his sister, in February 2007; the funeral of her father in January 2009 and her cousin's funeral in April 2010.

He also concelebrates the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday in Galway Cathedral, again in April 2010.

In Bishop Drennan's letter to Ms Donovan in May 2007, he writes: 'Eamonn has no permis-

sion to concelebrate at Mass or to say a public Mass. What I do know is that he has not celebrated any public Mass in this diocese since his return from England, nor has he concelebrated at Mass.'

Later in 2007, Bishop Drennan writes to the English diocese on foot of Ms Donovan's concerns that Bishop Casey is breaching restrictions by saying Mass and wearing clerical garb.

In relation to the funeral of Ms Donovan's mother that year, Bishop Drennan writes: 'She [Patricia] was clearly very upset by what happened at her mother's funeral. Despite efforts, I have not been able to get a proper account of what happened on that occasion. The funeral was in Limerick diocese and therefore outside of my control.'

The next three lines in relation to those events are redacted. In May 2010, Arundel and Brighton's safeguarding officer Fr O'Brien receives a letter from Patricia detailing her ongoing concerns.

A letter from the diocesan office in Galway, dated June 2010, further confirms there are 'infringes of regulations' imposed on Bishop Casey.

One letter to Ms Donovan reads: 'Bishop Drennan wrote to and spoke with Bishop Eamonn Casey, who apologised and stated it would not happen again. Bishop Casey lives here in the diocese but has no public ministry.'

This week, the Galway diocese confirmed that the restrictions on his ministry were imposed by the Vatican, and remained until his death in 2017.

# Survivors say bill to seal child sex abuse documents for 75 years is 'another cover-up'

DETAILS of alleged abuse by Bishop Eamonn Casey are among those included in State documents, which could be sealed for 75 years under proposed new legislation.

Abuse survivors and representative groups have described this action by the Government as further evidence of a 'cover-up' and are calling for a debate and also for survivors to be individually consulted.

Under the Retention of Records Bill 2019, set to go before the Dáil this week, records from the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, the Residential Institutions Redress Board and the Residential Institutions Redress Review Committee, would be sealed in the national archives until 2094.

They would also be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act for three quarters of a century.

The move has been heavily criticised by survivors' groups – and even the minister who introduced the bill four years ago now believes the time period could be reduced.

Both An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Education Minister Joe McHugh have defended the decision to seal the records of testimonies relating to child abuse.

Mr McHugh said that, rather than destroy the records under the rules relating to redress bodies, the Government's preference is to seal them for 75 years – by which time those referenced in the reports would be dead.

Abuse survivor Carmel McDonnell-Byrne, who was in Dublin's Goldenbridge orphanage as a child, believes survivors' individual wishes should be respected. She added that this action by the State is an attempt to 'hide the past'.

Ms McDonnell-Byrne co-founded the Aislinn Centre in 1999 – alongside the now deceased campaigner Christine Buckley – to help survivors of institutional abuse.

'We don't know the scale of abuse that is contained in all those reports and isn't it so convenient to hide it all away? I think all names should be published. If they are put away, it's another secret. It's the secrets and lies that have governed this country for so long.'

'There were no discussions on this – survivors weren't asked in and asked, "What would you like?"'

'If survivors say, "Destroy the documents", that's their choice. But let it be an honest choice – not a cover-up.'

'Some survivors we have dealt with



By Anne Sheridan

have requested that, when they die, their documents be released because they can't tell their families – but yet they want their families to know what it was like for them. In 75 years only our great great grandchildren will be alive and it will mean nothing to them.

Ian Elliott, safeguarding consultant and first chief executive of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, told the MoS: 'Who is [sealing the documents] designed to protect? There are two key words here – integrity and accountability. I would not be in favour of sealing the documents. Whether it's one year or five years, or 75 years, I am against it,' said Mr Elliott.

Anne Marie Crean, the co-founder of Reclaiming Self, a voluntary group of psychologists, solicitors and advocates, said: 'If you are locking files away, how are we supposed to learn from what has happened? How are we going to move forward in terms of accountability and protecting children?'

'Closing the records goes against the principles of the acknowledgement and apology that survivors received. 'Unless they adequately consult with all survivors, or their families if they have passed away, then it raises questions as to why they would be doing that.'

Labour deputy Jan O'Sullivan, who was education minister when this legislation was introduced in 2015, told the MoS that she would like the records to be sealed for a shorter period. She also believes there should be a public debate on the matter.

'I would welcome if that length of time could be shortened,' Mrs O'Sullivan said. The understanding given to people who provided testimonies was that this information would not become public in their lifetimes, which was why 75 years was set.

'Certainly I think we need a public debate now on whether it should be modified – it is understandable that people want the records out there. These are people's lives and consulting them is probably the best option... but you have to respect the survivors who may not want their records out and who expected they wouldn't be,' she said.

**NAME AND SHAME:** Carmel McDonnell-Byrne



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## FREE INSIDE

### Mrs Hinch's guide to making spring cleaning fun

**8-PAGE SPECIAL**

SEE MAGAZINE

# BISHOP CASEY ACCUSED BY FOUR WOMEN

Details of victim's Magdalene 'hell' revealed on tape

**EXCLUSIVE**

By Anne Sheridan

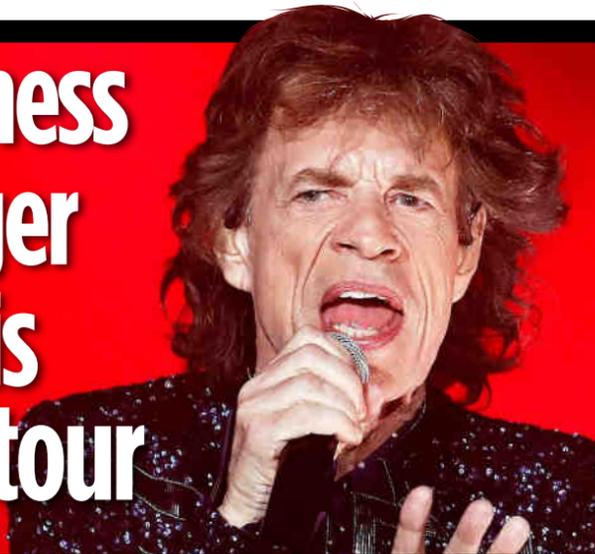
FOUR separate people have now made allegations of child sexual abuse against the late Bishop Eamonn Casey, the Irish Mail on Sunday can confirm.

The MoS can also reveal that the woman who made the redress settlement with Bishop Casey is dead – and spoke out about

Turn to Page 4 >>

**Mystery illness forces Jagger to cancel his \$250m US tour**

PAGE 8



Peter Casey in planning row... after he builds a wall!

EX-PRESIDENTIAL candidate Peter Casey is in a dispute over a sea wall at his Donegal home. The council says he has no right to build it – but he says that Lough Foyle is UK jurisdiction.

FULL STORY See Pages 8-9

# A nun fell on the flo or screaming... The baby came out... We knew it was a priest

AS REVEALED last week, Bishop Eamonn Casey made a settlement with a woman under the residential redress scheme for alleged sexual abuse. This week the Irish Mail on Sunday can reveal a two-hour oral testimony from the woman, given in 2013. The official documents from an oral history project for the Justice for Magdalene Research group, confirms the woman, then 72, has since died. The woman – who we have chosen not to name as we have been unable to contact her family – told researchers about her life in a number of institutions in the late Fifties and early Sixties. In 2013, she was precluded by statute – under the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2002 – from giving details of her redress settlement or naming her abuser. At the age of 23, she escaped the Magdalene Laundries after eight years. But the abuse she suffered never left her, and her harrowing testimony reveals priests with evil intentions and a nun giving birth.

**SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BY ANNE SHERIDAN**

IN August 1955 a teenage girl was picked up by five nuns from an orphanage in the west of Ireland and placed in the back of a van. She was transported to Limerick by the Good Shepherd Sisters. It was at this juncture in history that her life would change forever. One by one, she and her siblings had been placed into the hands of nuns by her parents, who lived in poverty. But life in the west of Ireland was virtually idyllic in comparison to what she would endure in Limerick. There was a time when she blissfully recalled seeing planes flying overhead, out across the Atlantic, and dreamed that one day she might

she said. 'That was a life for me that I should never have had. I never did wrong to anybody. I was an innocent little girl. If someone came to the gate for me, I would be gone. But no one ever came for me. I just had to wait.' The woman revealed her life story to an oral project for the group Justice for Magdalenes Research in 2013. She has since died. The woman's name and the majority of her biographical details are being protected by this newspaper. In her young life, she was confined to a number of different laundries around the country, before she eventually managed to escape at the age of 23.

Age 15, she was brought to St Mary's, on the sprawling Good Shepherd grounds at the junction of Clare Street and the Pennywell Road in Limerick city. It was situated a stone's throw from St John's Cathedral, where Fr Eamonn Casey was installed as curate that same year. The site and buildings were later sold and underwent a series of refurbishments. They now house the Limerick School of Art & Design. The past has been almost entirely erased save for a simple plaque – and the scars ingrained in so many who passed through its doors, with women leaving as vastly dif-

**'That was a life I never should have had'**

ferent human beings to those who entered as young girls – if they managed to leave at all. The Justice for Magdalenes Research Project recorded the names of 284 women and girls who died at this laundry. It was around this time, in 1955-56, that she encountered Fr Eamonn Casey, who would later become Bishop of Galway and Kerry. Here, he had been curate at St John's Cathedral, after being ordained for

the Diocese of Limerick in 1951. The woman, who received a redress settlement for alleged sexual abuse, was never able to reveal her full story, such were the limits placed on more than 16,000 people who received compensation from the State and the religious orders, following the Ryan Report. This woman was just one among a sea of survivors, spread across the world, who wanted to be heard, not silenced. 'I got more beatings [in Limerick] than I ever got in my lifetime. I knew my childhood had changed and finished. I never got those beatings in the west of Ireland. You were like a dog, beaten on

» From Page One

her time in Magdalene Laundries in 2013, at a time she was precluded by law from revealing details of her settlement. The other woman who made a settlement over her allegations against the Bishop received a six-figure sum, and was made to sign a non-disclosure agreement by lawyers acting on behalf of Casey's estate. The MoS can also reveal that a senior Church source has said two women in London contacted the Church regarding their accounts of alleged abuse, following Casey's time there in the early 1960s, without making any formal complaint. Last week, this newspaper exclusively revealed that Patricia Donovan, 56, a niece of Bishop Casey claims she was raped and sexually abused by him from the age of five, for more than a decade. As part of the investigations into Ms Donovan's claims, the MoS confirmed for the time – 27 years on from the Annie Murphy revelations – that two other allegations of child sexual abuse by Bishop Casey led to separate settlements, one through the Residential Institutions Redress Board. This was confirmed by the Limerick Diocese after the MoS discovered documentary evidence that had previously been redacted referencing the redress settlement. The Galway Diocese also confirmed it received one complaint in 2005. That complaint is understood to be Ms Donovan's. The Kerry Diocese had last week refused to confirm to this newspaper if any complaints against Casey had been received by them. However, following public pressure, the diocese was forced to confirm on Tuesday that it had received one complaint. To date, it has refused to reveal in which year this complaint was made. But the MoS can confirm that allegation does not involve any of the three women who we last week revealed had made allegations. Solicitors for the two plaintiffs against Casey have confirmed to the MoS that their clients did not lodge complaints with the Kerry Diocese, while Ms Donovan never contacted that diocese about alleged abuse that happened there. Kerry Diocese said this week: 'We can confirm that one historical concern regarding Bishop Casey was received by the diocese. This information was forwarded to the Gardaí and the HSE and the person concerned was offered support by the Diocese.' Crucially, none of the three women previously revealed were offered or received support from the Kerry Diocese – another confirmation that a fourth person had made a fourth set of allegations. This newspaper has also learned that one

of the women, who took a High Court case in 2016, was forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement after she was offered a settlement of over €100,000 for the abuse she alleges she suffered during Casey's years in the Limerick Diocese. When queries regarding the sum and the non-disclosure agreement were put to the solicitor then acting for Casey – Liam F Coghlan in Killarney, who is a relative of the bishop – said he had 'no comment' to make. The MoS also asked Mr Coghlan to comment on all the allegations which have emerged against Bishop Casey and if he wished to comment on behalf of the Casey family. Again, he declined to comment. A spokesperson for the Limerick Diocese, which ultimately paid this compensation from diocesan funds, said it could not detail the sum offered, but again confirmed it did not impose any conditions upon this woman as part of that settlement. Solicitor Tommy Dalton, of Crowley Millar in Limerick city, who acted on behalf of this plaintiff, said he wasn't in a position to comment when contacted by this newspaper. The MoS can also reveal that the woman who was offered compensation under the Residential Institutions Redress Board – again for alleged child sexual abuse during Casey's time in Limerick in the mid-1950s – has passed away. However, before she died in her 70s, the woman revealed, in an oral testimony to a survivors' organisation, harrowing details of her life in Magdalene Laundries (see story, above). Due to the Redress laws under which she received compensation, she could not reveal any details of her alleged abuser, Bishop Casey, or of her redress payment. Cork-based solicitor, John Hussey, who acted for the woman in her claim, this week declined to comment on his client's case. Reacting, Ms Donovan – who has received no payment from this newspaper – this week told the MoS: 'I am relieved the truth has come out after all this time and I am very grateful for all the support I have received.' Every diocese in the country was contacted this week by the MoS by phone and email to determine if they had received any complaints against Casey. The dioceses which had not responded last night were: Killala, Kildare, and Derry. Every other diocese confirmed that they had not received any complaints in relation to Casey. Trócaire also confirmed it had received no complaints against him.

## Woman's petition to stop child abuse records being sealed for 75 years

A PETITION to stop child abuse records being sealed for 75 years has been started by a woman whose three relatives spent years in the Magdalene Laundries with devastating consequences.

Laura Angela Collins, from London, has been compelled to try to stop the Retention of Records Bill – approved by Cabinet but which has yet to pass through the Dáil – as her mother Mary Teresa Collins spent years in a Magdalene Laundry in Cork. Laura's grandmother, Angelina, died aged 57, and was buried in a mass grave in the Peacock Lane site at St Finbarr's Cemetery in the county.

To further compound the family's sadness, her aunt died by suicide one Christmas Day after she was released from a Magdalene Laundry, where she was confined from the age of 14 to 27. She said her mother Mary Teresa, 58, from Cobh, Co. Cork,

has spent decades fighting to ensure survivors' voices are not further silenced after being 'gagged' by the Residential Institutions Redress Board when they accepted compensatory payments. 'I started the petition to show the Government that this is not what survivors and the public want. The effects the laundry had on my mum have never gone away. 'She should feel vindicated and I hope it is now acknowledged that what she said happened, did happen and that should be acknowledged by the Church. She should be supported in every way from the Church. It is a tragedy that she is not receiving help and support. The Church should be supporting those they have hurt,' said Mr Elliott. He continued: 'Casey's reputation is in tatters. I don't

think anyone could believe that he has not done what he has been accused of. I hope that this Bill will not pass.' Solicitor Tommy Dalton, of Crowley Millar in Limerick, who consulted with Ms Donovan and acted on behalf of another woman who took High Court proceedings against Bishop Casey, said this week: 'Questions are now being posed for the Church that need to be answered. 'I am satisfied that in at least two instances there was suffering and, in those two instances, they had to prove their case. 'I don't think that is the message the Church should be sending out,' said Mr Dalton.

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**The Irish Mail CAMPAIGN DON'T HIDE THE TRUTH**



**PETITION:** Laura Collins with her mother Mary Teresa



**HOLDING COURT:** Bishop Eamonn Casey at the Trócaire Lenten campaign launch in Dublin 1980

## 'I don't know what my father may have done'

THE son of the late Bishop Eamonn Casey has said he did not know his father well enough to comment on any allegations of sexual abuse against him. Speaking to the MoS, Peter Murphy was informed by this newspaper of the allegations by a number of women. 'I wouldn't be able to comment on that. What limited time I spent with my father was maybe meals three times a year, so I can not provide any insight. We just hung out and talked. I don't have any opinion as to what he might have done before in his life,' said Mr Murphy, 44, who lives in Boston. Born in 1974, the revelation in

1992 that he was Casey's son shocked the nation, after it emerged the then-Bishop of Kerry had an affair with Annie Murphy, an American divorcee and a distant cousin of his in the 1970s. For the last six years of his life, Bishop Casey lived in a nursing home in Co. Clare until his death, aged 89, in March 2017. His son met him intermittently, and previously said they ended on good terms. The first time they met, before the revelations emerged in the media in 1992, he said his father was 'just like a stone wall'. 'I just freaked and ran out of the room,' he said.



the floor, kicked into the stomach, everywhere. 'After that, I didn't know what it was to be kind. You got so immune to the beatings. We got beaten with the sweeping brush until the brush got broken, and they would still beat you with the broken pieces. I thought I was going to die there.' But the abuse she suffered went beyond physical beatings. 'We knew the priests and respected them, but I am sorry to say they didn't respect us. But I said, "One day I will be able to tell my story,"' she said. She did not mention Bishop Casey, or any sexual abuse against her in that interview, nor could she under the stringent terms of the redress settlement which gagged the voices of survivors in speaking out against

the perpetrators. But she did reveal that she and the other women feared rape from the priests, and spoke of how she witnessed a nun giving birth in the religious compound. 'Oh, that convent, they slaved us, gave us no education. We were like animals to them. They had no respect for us. Just bring it out, let the public see for their own two eyes, how badly we were treated. If they had their own way the priests and all would rape us, but the nuns were there. 'One day a nun fell on the floor and she was screaming. The next thing the baby came. We knew the priest must have done that. Of course, she couldn't be left back to the convent again. They must have adopted the child, because she was put out of the convent. They probably took her baby and sent her to America. She was treated like dirt, and that's why I don't trust priests or nuns now.' She told researchers after the abuse she suffered she believed nuns and priests to be 'hypocrites'. 'I had no religion in me from the time I was born so badly; religion just went out of me. I would say to myself, "Why would these people go to Church, hurt other people that never did wrong, and they'd still go to Communion?" To me, I call

**COMMENT Page 21**

Turn to Page 6 »

anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

# A 'feel of Guy Fawkes' as Metro tunnel will go under Leinster House

## Drillers under the Dáil set to shake up our politicians

By John Drennan

THE Houses of the Oireachtas are set to be both shaken and stirred – once tunnelling begins along the new agreed Metrolink route.

To date attention on the route has focused on the over-ground consequences for Ranelagh and Dublin Bay South.

However, the final route for the underground section of the Metrolink has revealed that it will also rock the foundations of the state as it passes under the Houses of the Oireachtas and the National Library in Dublin 2.

The issue was raised by Senator Michael McDowell at a private briefing of political representatives by the National Transport Authority at Dublin's Alex Hotel last week.

Mr McDowell asked officials what sort of impact the tunnelling would have, in terms of noise.

Responding to the queries, NTA officials conceded some form of noise would disturb the musings of our parliamentarians.

The official, on further questioning, conceded: 'the disturbance will be like a washing machine in the room next to you.'

But Mr McDowell retorted: 'Tunnelling under the national houses

of parliament has a bit of a Guy Fawkes feel to it.'

But a possibly relieved Mr McDowell also revealed that: 'the tunnel will go under the Dáil rather than the Seanad chamber, so the upper house will be spared the worst of it.'

One member said it would be terrible: 'if our TDs and senators like David Norris have to shout even louder to be heard above the tun-

nelling. It will be interesting to see what the tunnellers will find. This is a 17th-century house. There could be anything buried down there.'

One TD warned: 'It would be unfortunate if there was an ongoing rumbling, there is enough of that here already.'

Separately, controversy is growing over the plan to extend the tunnel by 650 metres beyond

Charlemont towards Ranelagh.

Sources within the NTA said the tunnel would be sealed off for 20 years and would not be used for passenger traffic.

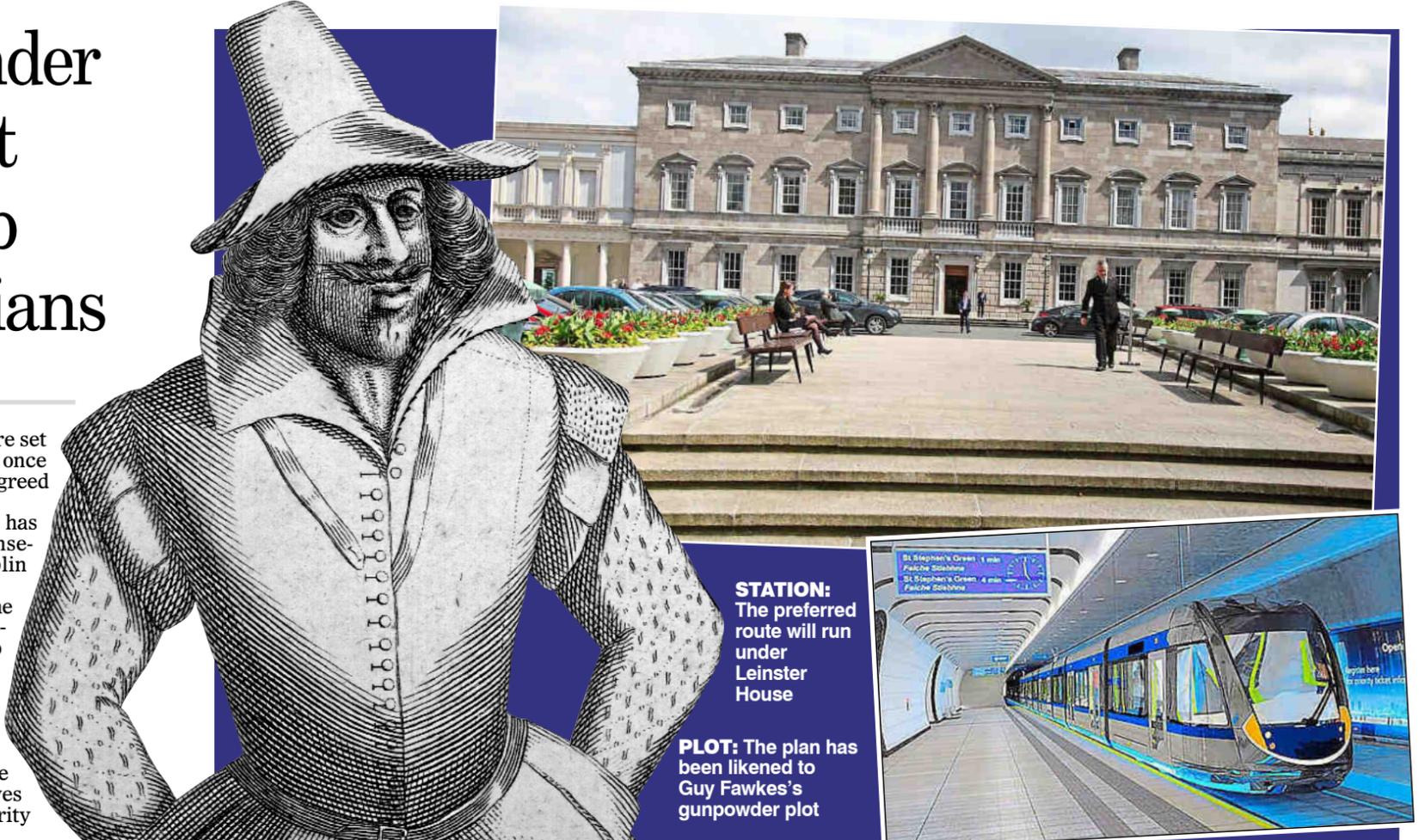
Green Party leader Eamon Ryan, slammed the proposal, insisting it was 'crazy, they should keep going on to Donnybrook and UCD and linking up with Trinity college and DCU'.

He said: 'it would be 'economic

madness to just create some sort of pharaoh's tomb that will be sealed off for 20 years'.

Although the NTA said that the tunnel could be used to store trams, Labour's Kevin Humphreys warned: 'Past form does not rule out the possibility that once the election is over the NTA will resurrect the original plan to turn Ranelagh into Berlin.'

news@mailonsunday.ie



## 'I never did wrong to anybody. I was a little girl'

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them hypocrites. They have hurt so many people.'

Initially, she was placed in the reformatory school in Limerick, before moving on to the laundry. She was told by the nuns: "You're here because you had a baby. You're here for stealing."

'I didn't know what those words were. I said I never did. I said I was sent here from the west of Ireland. They told me I was lying.'

She was slapped across the face, beaten; they shaved off all her 'lovely hair' and locked up her in a dark room, where they would throw buckets of water on her for 'crimes' or 'offences' she said never existed. Why, she wondered, could the public not hear her screams and come to help her?

'It was a place where you learnt to bury the pain. Days and months didn't bother me – I didn't know what they were. I thought I was there forever.'

'We were slaves from one end of the day to the other,' she said. 'I had to stay alive.'

Years on, she would finally leave her life in the laundries and was let out into the world, with little support and no map to guide her way in life.

'They gave me two half crowns, but said, "You'll be back again. No one will want you. You are no good for nothing". So, I wanted to get on.'

'After that, I was as free as a whistle. I thought maybe the gods are looking after me. Maybe I am staying out now. The day they opened the door, and left me out, and left me at the bus stop, though I had nowhere to go, I thought I am finally free.'

Even after she moved to London, where

she would marry and have a child, she said her past continued to haunt her all her life.

While she was physically free, she said: '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. 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.'

The mental shadow of the Magdalene abuse would persist right up into her seventies, when she passed away.

Through a support group in the UK, she helped other survivors of abuse, and encouraged them to speak out, to tell their truth, and help free themselves from the chains of the past. She warned that internalising all those years of abuse

would only destroy them, and their families.

'You have to bring it out and don't be one bit ashamed. There is nothing to be ashamed of. The truth is good.'

She entered her High Court proceedings for personal injury damages against Bishop Casey in 2001, and they were later struck out in 2005 after the redress settlement was confirmed. The Redress Board made awards to people who were abused as children. But the fact of her redress was only revealed for the first time last week, after a reference to it was found in files relating to former Bishop Casey, given to his niece Patricia Donovan.

The settlement was subsequently confirmed by Limerick Diocese.

Vindication that came too late for one victim.

# Nephew of Bishop Casey abused me

By Anne Sheridan

A NIECE of disgraced Bishop Eamonn Casey, who has claimed the late bishop sexually abused her from the age of five, has also alleged she was abused by her own brother, Fr Michael Donovan.

Fr Donovan has made a separate sex abuse settlement in a case that was previously raised in the Dáil – and three child abuse allegations have been made against him.

Patricia Donovan, 56, who lives in England, is speaking out about her brother, the bishop's nephew, in the hope of ending a campaign to discredit her allegations, which was started by Bishop Casey, after she reported him 14 years ago.

The mother of two exclusively told the Irish Mail on Sunday last month about her battle to try and protect other children from her uncle. She alleges she was sexually abused and raped by Bishop Casey for more than a decade. She is among four women to have made complaints of child sexual abuse against him, two of whom received settlements, including one through the institutional redress board.

## 'I was simply quoting Bishop Casey. I regret quoting him'

However, prior to reporting her uncle to gardai, she made another complaint, that her brother, now dead, was abusing her at around the same time.

The Limerick diocese has now confirmed it received three complaints against Fr Donovan, one of which resulted in a settlement of €30,000. Allegations against the priest by an altar boy led to questions, in the Dáil in 1995, as to why no charges were brought.

Ms Donovan reported her claims against her brother to police in the UK in July 2004, and to gardai in September that year. She was worried about the safety of children after Fr Donovan moved to Poland, where he was teaching English to students.

The MoS has established that Bishop Casey used members of the media and the clergy, including the former Bishop of Killaloe Willie Walsh, to discredit his niece's claims, after she reported him to UK police in late 2005.

Bishop Walsh told the MoS this week that he now regrets remarks he made in 2005, after receiving a phone call from Bishop Casey. He said Dr Casey claimed 'there wasn't any foundation for this allegation' and his niece made 'unfounded allegations' against others. He did not back up his claims to Bishop Walsh.

Bishop Walsh said: 'I was simply quoting Bishop Casey. I regret quoting Bishop Casey at that time. I should not have expressed confidence then that his name would be cleared.' He had made the comments to Clare Fm at the time.

Separately, in August 2006, Bishop Casey told the Irish Times of his 'utter and absolute relief' that no charges were brought against him. He was 'utterly amazed' at the speed of the decision, as it was just three weeks since gardai questioned him.

The article stated: 'The woman, who is believed to have known Dr Casey most of her life, made similar unproven allegations against others in the past and it is understood to have suffered ill-health in recent years.'

Ms Donovan said the only complaints she made to gardai were against Dr Casey and Fr Donovan.



Victim speaks out in hope of finally ending campaign to discredit her that was started by the bishop

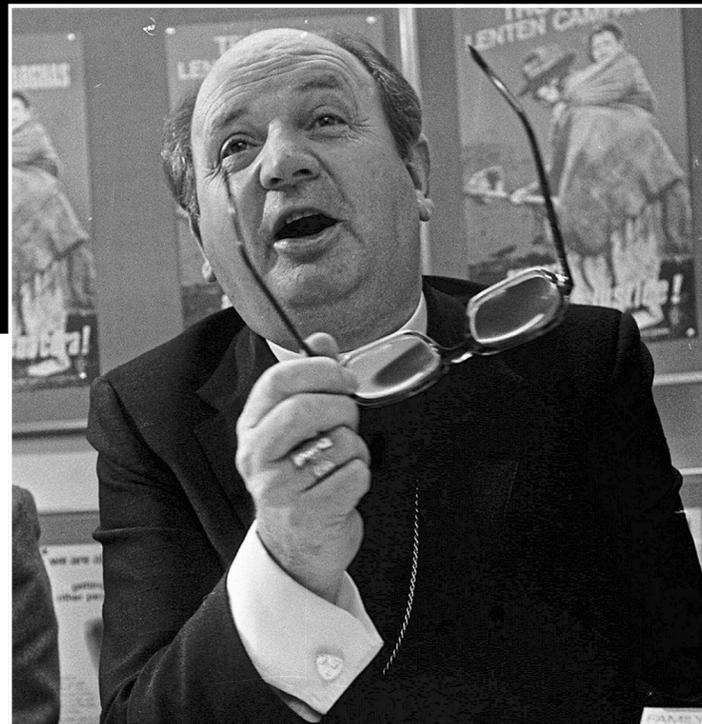
## 'Forbidden' to act as a priest

DOCUMENTS obtained by Patricia Donovan through her solicitor reveal the limitations the Church imposed on her brother, Fr Michael Donovan. They include correspondence regarding her uncle Bishop Eamonn Casey, as revealed in the Irish Mail on Sunday on March 24. As with much of the correspondence previously published relating to Bishop Casey, large parts of the files concerning her brother – who faced three complaints of alleged abuse within the Limerick Diocese before his death in 2018 – were redacted.

In one letter from November 2005, then-Bishop of Limerick Donal Murray wrote to one authority – the identity of which has been redacted or blacked out – about Fr Donovan's ministry. It reads: 'A nephew of [redacted], who has been out of ministry and forbidden to present himself as a priest since my arrival in Limerick' (below). Bishop Murray was forced to resign as Bishop of Limerick in November 2009 after the Murphy Report found that he had mishandled child sexual abuse allegations within the

Dublin Diocese. The report described his lack of action as 'inexcusable'.

Another letter from Bishop Murray sent to Fr Donovan, dated November 12, 2005, reads: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that another complaint has been received, this time from your sister Patricia. She made this complaint in England in the last few days and I have not received any details... I am sure this is distressing news for you and I am sorry to have to convey it to you by letter. Obviously, there will have to be an investigation into this by the gardai.'



**BISHOP CASEY:** He moved the priest, his nephew, to his own diocese in Galway after the altar boy's claims

diocese, and then in Galway from 1990 to 1995, when he was removed from ministry. In Galway, he served at the Church of the Resurrection and at St Patrick's Church.

When he died last November no death notice was published. He was disgraced in 1995 when it emerged he paid about €30,000 in damages to a former altar boy, who was allegedly sexually abused in Limerick in 1989, when he was aged 12.

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

Fine Gael TD Alan Shatter raised

## 'It is not good enough that damages were paid'

the issue in the Dáil in 1995, with calls for an inquiry as to why there was no prosecution.

Deputy Shatter, who later became justice minister, said at that time: 'It is not good enough that damages are paid, matters are covered up and people are shifted around the country as if they are participating in a game of musical chairs.'

'It is my understanding that the Director of Public Prosecutions, for whatever reason, decided in this case, as in the other two [cases, in relation to other priests], that no prosecution should proceed. I am very sad to note that it was only as a result of the publication of The Sunday Tribune on Sunday that the priest concerned was withdrawn from parish work.'

anne.sheridan@mailonsunday.ie

# I apologise unreservedly to Patricia ...I deeply regret any hurt caused

By Anne Sheridan

THE former Bishop of Killaloe has made a public apology to Patricia Donovan, the niece of Bishop Eamonn Casey, after he was used in a smear campaign to tarnish her allegations.

Bishop Willie Walsh, 84, told the Irish Mail on Sunday this week that he wants to 'unreservedly apologise' to the mother of two, who claims she was raped and sexually abused by her uncle, Bishop Casey, from the age of five in the late 1960s.

A short time after Ms Donovan made her complaint about Bishop Casey to police in the UK in 2005, he called Bishop Walsh and insisted she had also made 'unfounded allegations' against others.

Ms Donovan also made a formal complaint to gardai that she was sexually abused as a child by her brother, Fr Michael Donovan, who was forced to step down from his ministry in 1995 after an allegation of sexual abuse was made against him by an altar boy.

Bishop Casey made a series of claims about his niece to Bishop

Walsh, which the Killaloe bishop went on to repeat on Clare Fm in December 2005, before Ms Donovan was formally interviewed by gardai. At that time, she had only been interviewed by police in the UK, but that interview was not accepted by the Irish authorities and detectives from Limerick travelled to England to interview her some months later.

Bishop Walsh's remarks were reported in a number of national newspapers at the time and have been repeated since.

The former bishop, who retired in 2010, told the MoS he is now 'deeply

sorry' for any hurt he caused for repeating Bishop Casey's remarks.

He said that when he spoke on local radio he was not aware of any other allegation by Ms Donovan, nor was he aware of her allegation against her brother, until he was told by this newspaper this week.

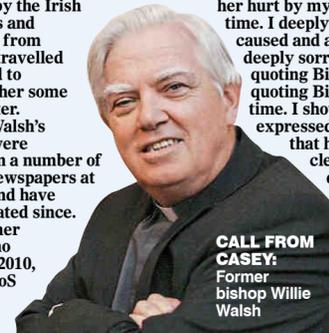
He said: 'I want to apologise unreservedly to Patricia if I caused her hurt by my comments at that time. I deeply regret any hurt caused and apologise to her. I am deeply sorry. I was simply quoting Bishop Casey. I regret quoting Bishop Casey at that time. I should not have expressed confidence then that his name would be cleared.'

He added: 'I did not say and had no intention of saying that her allegation had no credence nor did I make any judgment on her. I did not say that her allegations

were true, or that there was no foundation to them. If she or other people interpreted my comments as such I deeply apologise.'

The DPP did not bring charges against Bishop Casey on foot of Ms Donovan's complaint, nor was any prosecution brought against her brother in relation to her complaint against him, nor in the case of the altar boy he allegedly sexually abused. Bishop Walsh said: 'If there isn't a direction by the Director of Public Prosecutions, or even if a person is found not guilty in court, that doesn't mean that there is no merit in a person's case.'

In an article in The Irish Times on December 10, 2005, Bishop Walsh was quoted as saying: 'He [Bishop Casey] assured me that there wasn't any foundation for this allegation.' He added: 'The person is personally known to him for a long number of years and he spoke with a lot of sympathy and compassion for that person.'



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