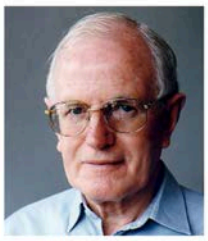
From: Mark Vincent Healy <markvincenthealy@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday 17 November 2022 at 14:41
To: An Taoiseach <taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie>, Micheál Martin <micheal@michealmartin.ie>, Micheal Martin TD <Micheal.Martin@oireachtas.ie>, Tánaiste <minister@dbei.gov.ie>, Leo Varadkar TD <leo.varadkar@oireachtas.ie>, Tanaistes Office <Tanaiste@enterprise.gov.ie>, Minister for Education <MINISTER@education.gov.ie>, Norma Foley TD <norma.foley@oireachtas.ie>, Minister for Justice <minister@justice.ie>, Helen McEntee TD <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade <minister@dfa.ie>, Simon Coveney TD <simon.coveney@oireachtas.ie>, "Newcombe, Derek" <Derek_Newcombe@education.gov.ie>, Dee Forbes RTÉ Director General <Dee.Forbes@rte.ie>, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs <minister@dcya.gov.ie>, Roderic O'Gorman TD <roderic.ogorman@oireachtas.ie>, Fiodhna Ní Ghríofa RTÉ Communications <fiodhna.nighriofa@rte.ie>, Maureen Catterson RTÉ Communications <maureen.catterson@rte.ie>, Ailbhe Conneely RTÉ <ailbhe.conneely@rte.ie>, Willie ODea TD <willie.odea@oireachtas.ie>, Archbishop Dermot Farrell <dermot.farrell@dublindiocese.ie>, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly <archbishop@cashel-emly.ie>, Archbishop Eamon Martin Office <admin@aracoeli.com>, Limerick Diocesan Office <office@ldo.ie>, "O'Mahony, Conor (Law)" <conor.omahony@ucc.ie>, Fianna Fáil <info@fiannafail.ie>, Labour <labourpress@oireachtas.ie>, Sinn Féin <sinnfeinpress@oireachtas.ie>, People before Profit <data@pbp.ie>, "President Michael D. Higgins" <info@president.ie>, "O'Mahony, Conor (Law)" <conor.omahony@ucc.ie>, "Martin Kelly, Provincial CSSp - AMRI Chair" <provincial@spiritanplt.ie>, Patsy McGarry Religious Affairs <pmcgarry@irishtimes.com>, Patsy McGarry IT <patsy.mcgarry@gmail.com>, Carl O'Brien IT <cobrien@irishtimes.com>, Carl O'Brien IT <carlobrien@gmail.com>, Barry Roche IT <broche@irishtimes.com>, Paul Cullen IT <pcullen@irishtimes.com>, Conor Lally IT <clally@irishtimes.com>
Cc: Emma O'Kelly RTÉ <Emma.OKelly@rte.ie>, Joe Duffy Liveline RTE <joe@rte.ie>, David McCullagh RTÉ <david.mccullagh@rte.ie>, Pat McGrath RTÉ <Pat.McGrath@rte.ie>, Paschal Sheehy RTÉ <paschal.sheehy@rte.ie>, John Cooney <cooneyjohn47@gmail.com>, Sarah Mac Donald <sarahrmacdonald@gmail.com>, Noel Baker Examiner <noel.baker@examiner.ie>, Paschal Sheehy <paschal.sheehy@rte.ie>, Jess Casey Examiner <jess.casey@examiner.ie>, Jack Power IT <jpower@irishtimes.com>, Conor Feehan IN <cfeehan@independent.ie>, John Cooney <cooneyjohn47@gmail.com>, Jess Casey IE <jess.casey@examiner.ie>, Pat Kenny NewsTalk <patkenny@newstalk.com>, Lisa-Marie Berry <LisaMarie.Berry@rte.ie>, Patrick O'Donoghue <patrick.o'donoghue@sunday-times.ie>
Subject: 221117 - DOT-DES-DJE - IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY - "The process we did not deal with" - Mr Bertie Ahern

Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, Reference: DOT-TM-14827-2022
Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, Reference: DES-CU-04237-2022
Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, Reference: DJE-MO-10586-2022

Thursday 17 November 2022

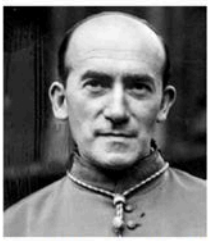
RE: IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

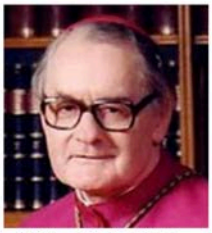
Dear Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister for Justice, RTÉ, and those addressed,


Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp

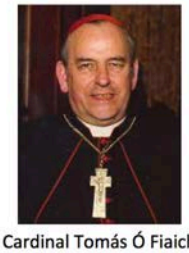

Fr James Hurley, CSSp


Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp


Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, CSSp


Archbishop Kevin McNamara


Archbishop Desmond Connell


Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich


Cardinal Cahal Daly

What is the connection between all these men, and many more one could include, in a call for an **immediate independent inquiry** into child sexual abuse in primary and post-primary, public and private, schools in Ireland prior to, but not necessarily excluding, the introduction of child welfare policy, procedures and practices to protect school going children in Ireland from the known sexual predation that was rife as it was systematic?

Well it has everything to do with a necessary and immediate independent inquiry that might expose a culture of child sexual abuse in day schools which was never challenged when it ought to have been by the powers of the day who appeared to prefer to protect their reputation over that of the traumatised lives of children exposed to horrendous levels of child sexual abuse, some of which was more violent than one might ever believe.

The story centres around one of my abusers, Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp who died on 10 January 2011, and who left a wake of devastation of destroyed children's lives, first noted in 1969 when he had returned from the missions in Onitsha, Nigeria, West Africa, where he was appointed from his ordination in 1950 to 1969. I include reference to his service record which I collated for your reference - https://bit.ly/3EBD2d8 - which is a sad trail of the grossest sexual violations of young boys where he had a predilection and preference for boys of 8 or 9 years of age.

Immediate Independent Inquiry

Without an inquiry, one will never know the true and appalling extent of the collusion, concealment and cover-up which characterised the culture of child sexual abuse in day schools in Ireland, which were overwhelmingly run and administered by the Catholic clergy. The focus of any such inquiry will not exclude or exonerate the responsibility of the Irish State to have had robust child protection and welfare policy, procedures and practices in place over the decades since the establishment of the Republic of Ireland to the early 90s.

I have previously shared with you the audio recording (here's it in colour - https://bit.ly/3Anns2e) I made in 2019 for the 20th Anniversary of the State Apology of an interview I had with the former Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, who endorsed the call for work to commence in the areas not covered by the "Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse" that delivered its world scandalising findings in 2009 into the horrifying scale of abuse in residential homes and industrial schools in Ireland. It triggered a papal response and the calling for an Apostolic Visitation which is the highest inquiry that can be invoked by the Vatican, by a sitting Pope.

What must be done now is no less significant or deserving in calling for and delivering an inquiry which hopefully might expose the culture which gave rise to such depravity, such violation of innocence, such immeasurable burdens that crushed those young lives. They and their families deserve the truth even if it is all too late for some such as Jeffrey Fischer, a victim of Fr Arthur Carragher CSSp who passed away last month, but not before he bravely came forward in 2018 to relate his avoidable abuse at the hands of this notorious flagrant violator of such young lives, aided and abetted to avoid justice, and let free only to continue the carnage of defenceless young lives from the age of eight, which was his preferred age to violate and sexually abuse.

Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp

One can only imagine that Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp - https://bit.ly/3EBD2d8 - did not begin his predation of young prepubescent boys, for the most part, on returning from an 18 year stint in Nigeria where war had broken out and hundreds of Spiritans, or Holy Ghost Fathers, had to leave the country. I have no doubt whatsoever that there is a trail of abuse in Onitsha, Owerri and elsewhere in Nigeria by this priest which has never come to light. One has to feel sickened that he may have been destroying the lives of the poorest people for his sick insatiable desire to wreak havoc on lives, on such innocent young lives in Africa.

In the short two years he was in Ireland, 1969-1971, his was to abuse at least seven boys, two were sons of his cousin, a fellow schoolmate in the year following me, another in the year ahead of me, myself, and finally two brothers who bravely came forward in 1971 and told their parents. Following the most credible allegations and distraught parent's demands for action, the Principal, Fr James Hurley, CSSp relayed the allegations to the then Provincial, Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp who took the action to move Carragher to Canada to assuage the anger of those involved.

Fr James Hurley, CSSp

In both 1971 and 1973, Fr James Hurley, CSSp was faced with complaints of child sexual abuse by Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp and by the then Fr Henry Moloney, CSSp, but later laicised. In both cases, Hurley referred them to the Irish Provincial Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp who dispatched them respectively to Canada and Sierra Leone.

In the case of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, Hurley was alive at the time of Carragher's return to Ireland when he was Principal of Rockwell College and ought to have been aware of Carragher's appointment[1] as a Catholic Curate to the Middletown Parish[2], Co Armagh in 1989.

Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp, who was also alive at the time, ought to have opposed any thought of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, returning to Northern Ireland to take up a support position as Catholic Curate in Armagh. In any event, the Spiritans would have known that they had aided and abetted his escape in 1971, eighteen years earlier, for crimes he had committed in Ireland, a place where he no longer had the protection of a non-extradition treaty as he had when he lived in Canada.

He returned to Northern Ireland for six years from July 1989[1] to July 1995[2], exact dates are unknown.

Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp

The attempt to aid and abet made Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp, a co-conspirator in the subsequent crimes of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, in Canada, and Northern Ireland.

In 2018, due to Pope Francis' visit to Ireland and the world media focus at that time, an interview I gave to Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, reached those far off shores. Those interviews were to trigger three additional victims to come forward who had been abused in Guelph, Ontario which was the first of a number of locations in Canada to which Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp had been appointed. This brought the total number of victims to ten.

I have received anecdotal story of two more cases, one in Canada and another in Northern Ireland. The latter is very significant as any idea that Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, was to be welcome back from Canada was an injurious insult to all his victims on the island of Ireland. Even though these two cases are tenuous and rather vague stories, I nonetheless mention them.

I have no idea if the latter case was from Carragher's time in Ireland in 1969-1971, if it related to a trip home from Canada to folks in Cullyhanna, or whether it was from his work as a curate in Middletown, 1989-1995. Obviously if it were the latter, the matter would be considered much more seriously. Regardless, the movements of Carragher were facilitated, and exposed countless children to his horrifying abuse, made all the more egregious because he had a particular interest in such young innocent vulnerable unprotected boys.

Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, CSSp

The amount of criminal abuse committed by Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, was at the time of John Charles McQuaid, CSSp who was Archbishop of Dublin and was reportedly known for having the largest collection or library of pornography in Ireland and had been accused of being an abuser himself on information related by others and told in a book on his life by John Cooney entitled, "John Charles McQuaid: Ruler of Catholic Ireland". One thing is certain, that Archbishop John Charles McQuaid was responsible for all religious who were working in his Archdiocese. In one of the cases of abuse from Blackrock College and Willow Park involving Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, compensation was allegedly paid by the Office of the Archdiocese and not the Spiritans as one might expect. This was of interest to me to substantiate, as I had been told that Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp did not work for the Archbishop of Dublin or aegis of his office. To my knowledge, Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp only worked for St Mary's College, Rathmines in Dublin. It would appear that there is a need to answer, question and clarify information as to the role played by John Charles McQuaid, CSSp, in relation to child sexual abuse in day schools for which an inquiry is called immediately.

Archbishop Kevin McNamara

According to reports, Archbishop Kevin McNamara, was more than aware of the scale of clerical child sexual abuse and was credited with instructing bishops of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to take out insurance against a rise in expected legal cases involving clerical child sexual abuse from his experience of abuse reports in the USA. It is during his time as Archbishop in Dublin, that Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp is employed as a curate in the Archdiocese of Armagh. This awareness of clerical child sexual abuse now spawned action to offset liability through arming up with big insurance policies. No doubt the hounds were closing in on all concealment, connivance and cover up on someone like Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp who made good his second escape back to Canada in 1995 just before a complaint is raised against Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp by a survivor from St Mary's College, Rathmines, in Dublin.

Archbishop Desmond Connell

This first reported case of sexual abuse by Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, in 1996, following that in 1971 which lead to his escape to Canada, was to be particularly horrifying. I first received notice of it from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in 2010 where for three years I was noted as an only case, but more than that, that I was deemed 'malicious' in my allegation as no other cases were apparently known despite the fact Fr James Hurley, CSSp was alive, Fr Christy O'Brien, CSSp was alive, and two particular cases were known and admitted involving two brothers who went to Blackrock College and were relatives of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp. There were five cases known before mine but I was potentially being accused of being 'malicious', according to those who were investigating my case that received no word or information of the five preceding cases despite their powers and the Spiritans' duty to cooperate with a criminal investigation.

The case reported in the time of Archbishop Desmond Connell came with excruciating detail regarding its processing. The complainant who was abused at 8 years of age, was disbelieved, and under psychiatric assessment was deemed to suffer from 'false memories', caused by extreme distress in losing his second parent for a condition termed as 'second parent syndrome'. He was in fact telling the truth but was submitted for treatment and observation to a psychiatric hospital for three years as an inpatient and repeatedly told that his memories about Carragher's sexual abuse were false. This tyranny continued till the two former pupils from Blackrock College brought forward their case in 1999 which was believed.

The psychiatric fraternity now realised they had made a gross error in the diagnosis and treatment for false memories of the brave man who came forward three years earlier in 1996 who had been sexually abused by Carragher in St Mary's College, where Carragher was appointed as a religion teacher, 1969-1971, in Junior School.

The rehabilitation of this survivor has been ongoing and his suffering and that of his family increased by factors. I knew him at school as the meekest, most gentle of boys, and it still upsets me deeply to know just how badly he has been affected by his abuse at the hands of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, following his courage to come forward at a time of great loss personally.

Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich

This summer in 2022, I was to receive another piece in the jigsaw puzzle that is clerical child sexual abuse about Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp. I received an email from John Cooney author of the book on McQuaid mentioned above with a link to "Remembering Cardinal Ó Fiaich 25th Anniversary Extract from the Examiner" - https://bit.ly/3AoaHnZ - in which I noted that Cardinal O'Fiaich's mother was Annie Carragher. I asked John for further information about Annie Carragher wondering if she being from Cullyhanna might be a relative of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp. Cardinal Ó Fiaich has no familial relationship to Fr Arthur Carragher. What was disclosed to Cardinal Ó Fiaich by Fr Martin Keane, Irish Provincial CSSp in 1989 is unknown[1].

From the history of Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp's appointments - https://bit.ly/3EBD2d8 - I realised that Cardinal Ó Fiaich was responsible for offering him a job back in Northern Ireland from Canada in the parish of Middletown, County Armagh, in the Archdiocese of the Primate of All Ireland. I have only confirmed his appointments from the current Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin, from a meeting with him on 25 March 2019 in his house in Ara Ceoli, in his dining room, but Carragher's appointment by Cardinal Ó Fiaich is strangely unavailable from 1989 - https://bit.ly/3GoeKVi (1990). How and why he was given such a position knowing his history of abuse, when those who had aided and abetted his fleeing justice were still very much alive.

It is just not conceivable that Cardinal Ó Fiaich knew nothing of Fr Carragher's abuse of very young boys and the 1971 allegations[3] reported to Fr James Hurley, CSSp and Fr Christy O'Brien, following his meeting with Fr Martin Keane, Irish Provincial CSSp, in July 1989[1].

Cardinal Cahal Daly

Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich was followed by the appointment of Archbishop Cahal Daly who is known for the scandal of the Brendan Smith affair and continued Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp's appointment or incardination as curate in the Middletown parish till 1995 - https://bit.ly/3THe6VS.

Finally

This is but a fraction of the information known about Fr Arthur Carragher, CSSp, because I have diligently worked to find out and more importantly inform his survivors that he was clearly being concealed, receiving considerable assistance by more powerful figures to evade and avoid justice.

Such is but one example that is crying out for an inquiry.

I urge the Taoiseach to confirm that an immediate independent inquiry into the horrendous abuse in day schools will be conducted and that he apologise for its delay.

I have repeatedly asked for a meeting to discuss the outline of an independent inquiry which will appoint a judge or senior counsel to oversee the process, provide the necessary legislation to authorise the appointee to conduct an expedited inquiry, to establish a panel of experts and a panel of survivors to oversee proceedings, to conduct a consultation process, to collate all data gathered and have a report generated outlining time specific implementation of the recommendations.

I would appreciate more than a read receipt or that someone is reviewing the contents of my correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Mark-Vincent Healy

Some References:

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern:

Photo Mr Bertie Ahern, Former Taoiseach of Ireland (1997-2008) and
Mark Vincent Healy (Council of Survivors): https://bit.ly/2OnQp6L
Audio recording made by me of Mr Bertie Ahern on 26 April 2019: https://bit.ly/2sjVpAE
Audio Transcript: https://bit.ly/35BAK9B
Video recording made by me of Bertie Ahern on 26 April 2019: https://bit.ly/3Anns2e

My audience with Pope Francis, 7th July 2014, on behalf of Irish clerical child sexual abuse survivors



Mark-Vincent Healy - Marc Uinseann ÓhÉalaighthe
Survivor Campaigner seeking 'Rescue Services' and 'Safe Space Provisioning' for survivors of clerical child sexual abuse
Founder of Council of Survivors | Member of RISN | Member of ECA
Campaigner for Justice for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Day Schools In Ireland and the European Parliament
Negotiator for Residential Institutional Survivor Consultation Talks with the Department of Education
Assistant and negotiator to many legal case closures and settlements
Email: markvincenthealy@gmail.com
Mobile: +353-87-6374006
Articles: http://www.thejournal.ie/author/mark-vincent-healy/
http://ncronline.org/person/mark-vincent-healy
CCSA Report on C.S.Sp. by Mark Vincent Healy - https://bit.ly/2Oobdhj - published 4th September 2012

Notes:

1 1989 Diary of **Cardinal Tómas Ó Fiaich** - https://bit.ly/3F5Jfyc
25 July - meeting with **Fr A Carragher CSSp** [promised work in North]
26 July – meeting with Fr Keane CSSp [**Fr Martin Keane**, Irish Provincial CSSp]

2 Irish Catholic Directory
Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, died 8 May 1990
1990 - https://bit.ly/3VxLSyj
Cardinal Cahal Daly, Archbishop of Armagh, appointed 6 November 1990; died 31 December 2009
1991 - https://bit.ly/3gIdEZV
1992 - https://bit.ly/3ulXXLv
1993 - https://bit.ly/3XzMXY8
1994 - https://bit.ly/3GSTB5M
1995 - https://bit.ly/3AMGRdb

3 Complaints against Fr Arthur Carragher were first '**recorded**' on 17 January 1996 by Fr John Dolan of the Archdiocese of Dublin who in turn contacted Fr Colm Cunningham CSSp, the Spiritan Designated Officer. However, complaints against Fr Arthur Carragher had in fact been '**reported**' by a mother in 1971 to the Principal of St Mary's College, Rathmines, Fr James Hurley CSSp regarding the sexual abuse of her two sons. Fr Hurley notified the then Irish Provincial CSSp, Fr Christy O'Brien of the crimes, who in turn facilitated Fr Carragher's transfer to Canada where he arrived on 15 June 1971, thus avoiding prosecution. No one was ever brought to account for the collusion, concealment and cover-up surrounding the movements of Fr Arthur Carragher CSSp who left a wake of devastation behind him in the most profound injury and impact to those young innocent boys he so vilely abused, mostly form around 8 or 9 years of age.