

Naming of deceased Jesuits: Fr Paul Andrews SJ and Fr Dermot Casey SJ

The narrative record, *Fr Joseph Marmion SJ: His Abuse, the harm caused and Jesuit accountability*, references Fr Paul Andrews SJ as being the subject of a complaint of child sexual abuse in 1991. This complaint was repeated in 1994. Fr Andrews had an important role in the story of Jesuit failures in relation to Joseph Marmion SJ. He was the person to whom was made, in September 1977 the first known disclosure that Fr Marmion had sexually abused children.

Fr Andrews was Director of St Declan's Special School from 1977 until the end of 1994. The Jesuit Order believes that it is necessary and right also to communicate that another deceased Jesuit, Fr Dermot Casey SJ, who was Fr Andrews' predecessor as Director at the school (1958 -1977), has been the subject of 17 complaints of child sexual abuse. These complaints were received during the period 1975 to 2023 and relate to events dating from the 1950's through to 1977.

This information is being provided now because of its importance to the present-day St Declan's school community, to past pupils and their parents, and to many others with long connection to St Declan's.

Fr Paul Andrews SJ

Fr Paul Andrews joined the Jesuit Order in 1944 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1958. He was a well-known psychologist who specialised in working with children and parents. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s he was a prominent voice on radio and television, speaking about child development issues, parenting and psychology. He was an academic, writer and newspaper columnist. Over the course of these decades and beyond, he provided counselling and assessment to a great number of children and was hugely trusted and valued by parents. He also enjoyed high esteem and respect amongst his fellow Jesuits and served in roles of key importance and influence within the Province.

Fr Andrews was appointed Director of St Declan's Special School, Northumberland Road, Dublin in April 1977. This appointment arose because the Provincial, Fr Paddy Doyle, had received a complaint of child sexual abuse against Fr Dermot Casey SJ, the then Director of St Declan's School. Fr Andrews was informed by Fr Doyle of the reason why Fr Casey was being removed. Fr Andrews served as Director of St Declan's from April 1977 until December 1994.

In February 1991 a complaint of child sexual abuse against Fr Andrews was received by the then Provincial, relating to an event in the mid-1980s. The event did not relate to a school. The complaint was put to Fr Andrews by the Provincial. Fr Andrews denied that abuse had occurred and provided his own account of the event in question. The Provincial took advice from his Consultants (Jesuit advisers) about the matter. The Provincial chose to believe the account given by Fr Andrews instead of taking further investigative action, a decision he later recognised as having been an error.

In October 1994, the complaint of 1991 was repeated to the Society. The new Provincial Fr Laurence Murphy decreed in November 1994 that a preliminary investigation be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Church law. Its function was to ascertain the facts and assess the credibility of the parties to the complaint, not to make findings regarding culpability. Fr Andrews was asked to step down from his role at St Declan's whilst the investigation was underway. Ultimately, he resigned his position as Director in December 1994.

It should also be noted that, in 1992, Fr Andrews had been appointed as a Consultor/Adviser to the Provincial and he continued in this role until 1999. Although Fr Andrews was not present in the Consult for any discussion of his own case, Fr Andrews should have been removed from this role in December 1994, but this did not happen.

In February 1995 the report of the preliminary investigation was delivered to Fr Murphy. It provided detailed accounts of the complaint and of Fr Andrews' response and recognised that there was a conflict of evidence. It offered the opinion that Fr Andrews' account gave cause for concern about his credibility. The report considered that there was a coherence and ring of truth to the description given by the complainant warranting further steps. Several recommendations were made on actions to be considered by the Provincial including that of making a report to the Gardai and Health Board.

Following renewed representation about the complaint, in November 1995 the Provincial notified the complaint to the Gardai. Fr Andrews was then asked to cease providing counselling to children. Over the course of the following 15 months a Garda investigation was conducted. In February 1997 the Director of Public Prosecutions decided that a prosecution would not be brought. Although he did not resume his role at St Declan's, Fr Andrews was permitted to resume his work as a psychologist and continued to provide counselling and to conduct assessments of children.

Knowledge of the existence of the complaint against Fr Andrews, and of the Garda investigation, was confined to those Jesuits who were directly advising the Provincial. This meant that neither rank and file Jesuits, nor lay staff working in Jesuit ministries, had any knowledge of the fact that Fr Andrews had become the subject of complaint.

In July 2002 the then Provincial requested Fr Andrews to restrict his ministry to those over the age of 18. Fr Andrews again asserted his innocence of any wrongdoing but agreed to abide by this restriction.

In August 2010 two Gardai called to the Jesuit Curia seeking to interview Fr Andrews in connection with a new complaint of child sexual abuse which the Gardai were then investigating. This complaint related to Fr Andrews' time as Director of St Declan's. The complainant went to the Gardai but did not approach the Order with their complaint. It is known that at the conclusion of the Garda investigation, the file was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who decided in August 2011 that a prosecution would not be brought.

In 2016 a parent of a former pupil of St Declan's contacted the Jesuit Safeguarding Office and spoke of concerns about how Fr Andrews conducted himself with children, concerns that remained, over 20 years after their child was in the school. The parent also spoke of information obtained in 1994 that at an earlier time two other parents had also raised a concern or a complaint. The parents' concerns were reported in 2016 by the Jesuit Safeguarding Office to Tusla. The Safeguarding Office also made inquiries to establish if there was a record at St Declan's of any concerns or complaints having been made. These inquiries did not locate any information. More recently, in preparation for this public communication, additional inquiries were undertaken. The limited information available points towards two complaints having been made directly to Fr Andrews about his own behaviour, whilst he was Director of the school.

Although at different dates, limitations were imposed upon Fr Andrews' exercise of ministry, including the provision of counselling, no proper system of supervision regarding his adherence to these limitations was put in place. It is believed that Fr Andrews continued at times to provide counselling to children over the years. He is also known to have been celebrating Mass in the Parish of St John the Baptist, Clontarf over many years and at least as recently as 2015. An acknowledgement of formal prohibition from all public ministry was signed by Fr Andrews in April 2015. However, he continued certain editorial functions on Jesuit publications and was permitted to serve as Chaplain in the Jesuit nursing home at Cherryfield, Dublin until March 2016.

Fr Andrews died in November 2018.

Fr Dermot Casey SJ

Dermot Casey SJ was born in 1910. He joined the Jesuits in 1928 and was ordained in 1939. He received a PhD in Psychology from the University of Paris in 1947.

For most of the years from 1940 until the 1960's he lectured in psychology to Jesuits in formation (scholastics) in Tullabeg. He also engaged in other work related to his psychology studies. In 1949 he spent a year working at Manor Hospital, Epsom, England, and a semester lecturing in psychology in a Jesuit University in Detroit USA (1954). On returning from England, he again lectured Jesuit scholastics in psychology. He is also listed as a 'psychological consultant' for [Jesuit] colleges. In 1956 he set up a pilot education scheme for children with special educational needs. In collaboration with many dedicated lay people, in 1958, he established St Declan's Special School and Child Guidance Centre, Northumberland Road, Dublin, becoming its first Director, a position he held until March 1977.

The first complaint of child sexual abuse against Fr Casey, of which the Jesuit Order is aware, relates to St Declan's school and was received in 1975 by Fr Paul Andrews SJ, who was then working in Loyola House. Insofar as we are aware, Fr Andrews did not inform his Provincial of this information at that time. In November 1994 he informed the then Provincial of what he had learned in 1975.

In March 1977 the then Provincial, Fr. Paddy Doyle, received a complaint of child sexual abuse against Fr Casey. Fr. Doyle removed Fr. Casey from Saint Declan's immediately, and he appointed Fr Andrews to succeed him as Director. The circumstances of Fr. Casey's removal were not shared within the Jesuit Province or within the St Declan's school community where he had been Director for almost 20 years. The public reason given for his 'retirement' was his health which was known to have been a cause of concern in previous years.

Fr. Casey was assigned to the Sacred Heart Jesuit Community in Limerick in April 1977 and he remained there until 1979. Despite the factual circumstances behind his removal, Fr. Doyle placed no restrictions on Fr. Casey's ministries and he continued to be identified as engaged in the work of child guidance in the annual Jesuit catalogue up until 1982. His fellow Jesuits remained unaware of his abuse until very recent times. In 1979 Fr Casey was assigned to the Jesuit Community at Clongowes Wood College in Clane Co. Kildare. He practised child guidance in Clane for that year, until he was moved to the Jesuit Community in Rathfarnham Castle in 1980. In 1982 he was assigned to the Leeson Street Community where his work was as a writer of articles.

In 1994 another complaint of child sexual abuse by Fr Casey was received by the then Provincial. This complaint related to events in the 1970s when Fr Casey was Director of St Declan's. Inquiries arising from this complaint brought to light that Fr. Andrews had also been the recipient of a complaint about Fr. Casey in 1975, as mentioned above.

In October 1995 the then Director of St Declan's notified one of these complaints to the Director of Community Care in the Eastern Health Board. Two further complaints about Fr. Casey were received by the Provincial in 1996. Fr. Casey died on 16th February 1997. Further complaints against him have been received by the Provincial on various dates between 2002 and 2023.

All the complaints of abuse against Fr. Casey are said to have occurred in the period from the 1950's up until 1977. They have all been reported to the relevant statutory authorities.

Despite the complaints that had been made against him, Fr. Casey remained ostensibly a priest in good standing at the time of his death in 1997. A formal Church investigation was started in December 1994 but did not proceed.

Irish Jesuit Provincial Fr Shane Daly says, "It is a source of deep shame for us to see that once again when crimes of abuse by Jesuits were first reported to us, we placed the reputation of the Order and the person accused above the concerns of those who had been abused, their well-being, and their needs. As was said before, things were done that should never have been done, and things that should have been done were not.

Once more, we ask forgiveness for the pain and suffering that has been inflicted on innocent victims, and we express our shame for when our response to their suffering was utterly inadequate. There are no excuses. Our hope is that we are given this opportunity to atone in whatever way possible for what was done in the past in our name. We thank those who suffered abuse who have to date and with generosity and courage, allowed us to do so.

*I make a renewed appeal to anyone who has any concerns or who has suffered abuse at the hands of any Jesuit to contact our **Safeguarding Office** by emailing : safeguarding@jesuit.ie or by phoning our **Jesuit Safeguarding Helpline** at 00 353 830874254. If you do not want to contact the Order directly you may of course contact Tusla and or the Gardai.*