

5. Fr Patrick Kelly SJ: 1920-2012

Born	February 21, 1920
Entered the Society	September 7, 1937
Ordained	July 31 1950
Died	May 4, 2012

LOCATION	ASSIGNMENT
▪ Emo, Co. Laois	Noviceship
▪ Rathfarnham, Dublin	Studies at UCD
▪ St Stanislaus College, Tullamore	Studies Philosophy
▪ Belvedere College, Dublin	Teacher
▪ Milltown Park, Dublin	Studies Theology
▪ Rathfarnham, Dublin	Final Year of Training
▪ Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia	Moderator of schools; Teacher
▪ Mungret College, Limerick	Teacher
▪ Crescent College Comprehensive, Limerick	Teacher
▪ Chicago, USA	Sabbatical
▪ Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, 196 W. Centennial Ave, Roosevelt, New York 11575	Prison chaplain
▪ Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 10321 Tujunga, Canyon Blvd., California 91042	Assists in parish
▪ Gardiner Street, Dublin	Ministers in church
▪ Sacred Heart Church, Limerick	Assists in church
▪ Milltown Park, Dublin	

Complaints

There have been five complaints of child sexual abuse made to the Order against Fr Patrick Kelly SJ. All complaints relate to his time in the USA during the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s. These complaints were first made in the USA, as were a number of concerns by third parties that other children may have been abused by him there.

What happened in consequence to the complaints?

In 1988 whilst Fr Patrick Kelly was working in New York, USA, the Irish Jesuit Province was notified by the Bishop of Rockville Center that complaints of child sexual abuse had been made against Fr Kelly. The bishop terminated his appointment.

Fr Kelly was then allowed by the Irish Provincial to go and work in Our Lady of Lourdes Church Tujunga, Los Angeles, California. There is no indication that his history of complaint at the Diocese of Rockville Center, New York, was notified to the Diocese of L.A.

In 1991, a warrant for Fr Kelly's arrest was issued in Los Angeles regarding a child sexual abuse complaint made against him in the course of his ministry there. Fr Kelly SJ returned to Ireland on foot of the charge and thereafter from Ireland, he entered a "no contest" plea. His sentence included the requirement that he 'stay out' of California.

On returning to Ireland in 1991, Fr Kelly SJ was permitted by the Irish Provincial to minister in Gardiner Street parish, Dublin. He moved to the Sacred Heart Church in Limerick in 1994. There is no record of his history of abuse being communicated to his superiors in Limerick. In 2002, on receipt of new complaints from the USA, the then Provincial removed him from his public ministry in Limerick, returned him to Dublin, and required him to cease his public ministry. The Provincial also informed the Gardaí and statutory authorities in Ireland of the U.S. allegations against Fr Kelly SJ.

Acknowledgement and apology

We acknowledge how painful it must be for a survivor of abuse by Fr Patrick Kelly SJ to read this. We are truly sorry for the pain inflicted on you, the abuse you suffered, and the fact that you were not protected by the Order. We know that words of sorrow from us, no matter how sincerely meant, will ring hollow if they are not accompanied by action. One of the key factors for the Order in naming deceased Jesuits accused of child sexual abuse is to try and reach out to those who have been abused by such Jesuits and encourage them to contact our safeguarding office and/or the relevant authorities. We want to assist you in whatever ways we can, and we have services on offer that you might want to avail of. So once again, we ask you or anyone who has suffered abuse or has any concerns relating to any Jesuit to contact our safeguarding office (email: safeguarding@jesuit.ie; mobile: 083-0874254) and/or the relevant authorities.