

## 11. Fr Oliver Joseph O'Brien SJ: 1920-1994

<b>Born</b>	June 30, 1920
<b>Entered the Society</b>	September 7, 1939
<b>Ordained</b>	July 29, 1954
<b>Left the Society</b>	December 1 1990
<b>Died</b>	October 28, 1994

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
▪ <b>Emo, Co. Laois</b>	Noviceship
▪ <b>St Stanislaus College, Tullamore</b>	Studies Philosophy
▪ <b>Clongowes Wood College</b>	Teacher
▪ <b>Milltown Park Dublin</b>	Studies Theology
▪ <b>Rathfarnham, Dublin</b>	Studies at UCD; Final Year of Training
▪ <b>Belvedere College Dublin</b>	Teacher
▪ <b>Gardiner Street, Dublin</b>	Working in the Church
▪ <b>Sacred Heart College, Limerick</b>	Teacher
▪ <b>Moves to the Australian Jesuit Province (1965)</b>	Incardinated into the Diocese of Adelaide (July 9, 1993)

### **Complaints**

The Order has received seven complaints of child sexual abuse, and one further concern raised by a third party, against Fr Oliver O'Brien SJ relating to his time in Ireland. The complaints against him refer to Belvedere College, Dublin, Gardiner Street Church, Dublin, and Sacred Heart College, Limerick.

### **What happened in consequence to the complaints?**

Fr O'Brien was moved from Belvedere College to Gardiner Street Church in 1961. A letter written in 1965 by the then Provincial references unspecified concerns regarding Fr O'Brien's behaviour in the Junior School, Belvedere College. We now know this letter was referring to child sexual abuse. There is no record of anyone at Gardiner Street Church being informed of Fr O'Brien's abuse whilst at Belvedere College.

A further complaint of child sexual abuse was received in 1962 whilst Fr O'Brien was working in Gardiner Street Church. On foot of that complaint, Fr O'Brien admitted his guilt and was moved to the Sacred Heart College, Limerick. Again, there is no record of anyone being informed of the complaints made against him.

Following a complaint made in 1965 whilst at the Sacred Heart College, Fr O'Brien requested a transfer to the Jesuit Australian Province and this move was facilitated by the Irish Province. The Australian Provincial was informed by the Irish Provincial of Fr O'Brien's 'difficulties' at two schools. He was accepted into the Australian Province.

The complaints against Fr O'Brien SJ were only reported to the Gardaí after his death.

### **Acknowledgement and apology**

We acknowledge how painful it must be for a survivor of abuse by Fr Oliver Joseph O'Brien 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](mailto:safeguarding@jesuit.ie); mobile: 083-0874254) and/or the relevant authorities.