



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Priest pays compensation to accuser but keeps his post!



Dungiven Roman Catholic chapel

Dungiven priest “Father” Andy McCluskey, who has admitted he was behind a sex abuse allegation, has been kept at his post by his bishop. A five figure compensation pay-out was made by the priest without admission of liability. The man who was paid the compensation claimed McCluskey made a sexual advance to him in Londonderry in 1992. The allegations relate to an incident at a parochial house, involving an 18-year-old man. A civil action over an alleged sexual advance by the priest was started two years ago and settled with no admission of li-

ability last October.

Dr. Hegarty, the bishop overseeing the affair, has said he is conscious of the need to protect the privacy of the man who was paid money, following sex abuse allegations involving the Dungiven priest. In a statement published in the Derry Journal, Dr. Hegarty confirmed he was aware of the allegations against the priest. He said the issue concerned two adults who were fully represented. Dr. Hegarty said it was settled without court proceedings between the priest and the complainant through their legal representatives.

#### Drunkenness

The bishop said that he was allowing the priest to continue to work in the Derry diocese after considering the matter thoroughly with his legal advisers and others, and taking into account the circumstances and the priest’s character. He blamed the whole incident on the priest’s drunkenness. It is clear that Rome does not consider such incidents as really that serious. Such impurity is an abomination in the eyes of God. It highlights once more the divergence between God’s view of sin and that of Roman Catholicism.