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The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland and the wicked abuse of children.

- “. . . . instruments of cruelty are in their habitations,” Genesis 49:5.
- “. . . . the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty,” Psalm 74:20.

There can be no greater example of man’s cruelty than the abuse of children. Humanity universally has a natural affection for its young. Even the animal kingdom manifests such tenderness. Have we not all watched in wonder as the fearsome lion, the terrifying crocodile and many other savage creatures display a kindness toward their young, so uncharacteristic of the reputation they have earned for themselves?

Yet, in this age, we see crimes unspeakable committed against little children by those one would expect to be showing gentle kindness and love.

Just a few days ago, I read from an news article on the BBC news site of a woman charged with murdering a little boy of three. The picture accompanying the article showed a delightful looking little lad.

The woman is accused of beating the little boy over a four-day period. She is also accused of putting his body in a suitcase and burying it in woodland. She then phoned the emergency services to report him missing, knowing he was dead.

That woman is the little boy’s mother!

The Bible speaks of one of the features of mankind’s apostasy in the past as being “. . . . without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful,” Romans 1:31. The same writer, Paul the apostle, tells us that “in the last days perilous times shall come,” 2 Timothy 3:1. Those days will also see those who are “without natural affection,” 2 Timothy 3:3.

Such days have indeed come upon us, as the news article I have quoted shows, and I could have turned up dozens of like terrible reports from recent years.

Perhaps the events I wish to speak of today are at least as heinous as that of a mother murdering her own offspring, for I want to highlight the actions of leading figures within the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland who were charged with caring for children and young people but in fact abused them most cruelly.

The records shows that countless thousands of children have suffered at the hands of “Mother Church”, as she likes to be known.

While it is most difficult to measure these things, one is inclined to believe that the child, who, in its infancy, was done to death at the hands of a parent, was, in truth, treated more kindly than the poor child that was repeatedly and over a long period of years, abused most wickedly.

What wretched memories have lived on in the lives of such victims, even into adulthood, to still torment, torture and afflict those who were thus subjected to the cruelties of these so-called servants of God, into whose hands the innocents were placed that they might be cared for and protected?

What I will say of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland may be said of that same institution in Australia, Canada, England, the United States of America and who knows how many other places.

I wish first of all to state a number of things which I believe are true about the Roman Catholic Church worldwide and that throughout the ages and then substantiate my views by quoting the findings and views of some of those who have investigated her activities. I hasten to add that the individuals and organisations quoted are not to be found in the camp of “Bible-believing Christians”, but rather they are Roman Catholic politicians and others whose religious disposition is unknown, except that it may be stated emphatically they



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would not call themselves "Bible Believers".

I. I believe that Roman Catholicism is rightly identified with the system of Antichrist revealed within Holy Scripture. She is the chief manifestation of Anti-Christianity today.

That has long been the position of Protestants. Such a conviction has come from a study of God's Word and that which they have experienced at her hands for centuries. She is a system of Christ-denying doctrines and practices. Her public persona of pomp and riches, rituals and mystical antics are far removed from the humble, holy person of the lowly Christ of God, revealed in Scripture. The Lord Jesus said of Himself, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head," Matthew 8:20. Peter on one occasion said to a beggar, "Silver and gold have I none," Acts 3:6.

Which pope, cardinal, bishop or priest of Rome could honestly utter such words today?

The message of Christ was a message which converted sinners and made them holy. Paul records the message he was charged by Christ to proclaim. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," Acts 26:18.

Such fruit has not followed the preaching of Rome's doctrines. The histories of those nations dominated by Rome rise up to testify to this sad and terrible truth.

II. Romanism has proved to be a plague upon her own people.

That surely may be substantiated by the incidents of child abuse alone. I need not point to the poverty of her European and Latin American domains nor highlight the centuries of corruption and terror endured by the people of Italy and Sicily and wherever the wickedness of the Roman Catholic zealots, who exclusively make up the Mafia, has been exported.

I have recently spent two months preaching in the town of Lewes in East Sussex, England. At the time of the Marian Persecutions of 1555-1557, Lewes was the site of the execution of seventeen Protestant martyrs, who were burned at the stake in front of the Star Inn. This structure is now the Town Hall. There is a large monument overlooking the town which marks the martyrdom of those who were burned to death by the Roman Catholic Queen, rightly called "Bloody Mary", in order to quench the gospel of Christ. How many other countries suffered similar atrocities at the hands of "Holy Church"! Roman Catholic rulers and leaders were more than ready to treat cruelly their fellow citizens in this manner and all in the name of their religion. The volumes of depositions and testimonies which bear witness to Rome's cruelties to her own people are legion.

III. Roman Catholicism is irreformable.

Time and time again, Rome has apologised for her actions. Indeed, the present pope has just recently offered yet another one. It has been reported that after meeting with six victims of sexual abuse by priests, Pope Francis apologized for the crimes committed against them and begged forgiveness "for the sins of omission on the part of church leaders who did not respond adequately to reports of abuse."

How many times has this been done before? But still the abuse goes on and the cover-up of former crimes continues. Rome cannot speak the truth. That has been shown throughout history and repeatedly shown to be so during the recent controversy that has surrounded child abuse.

When accusations are first made by victims there is a blank denial. When the claims are pursued, every form of twisting, lying chicanery is engaged in until the matter can be no more concealed or denied. Then the fawning, Uriah Heep-like humility and hand-wringing theatrical display begins.

This recent "apology" by the pope is but the latest act of this unholy, deceitful pantomime.

True repentance. True repentance is demonstrated for us by the man Zacchaeus, whose conversion is re-



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corded in Luke 19:1-10. He was a rich publican, or tax-collector, at the time of his conversion. Publicans in the days of Christ were notorious for their dishonesty and unmerciful dealings with the tax-paying populace. It was for this reason we read in verse 7, "And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner;" a man notorious for his sin. Zacchaeus had made a fortune in his infamous trade.

But he was converted. Proof of the change of heart he experienced is found in the words he uttered to Christ. "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, (this how the tax-collectors defrauded the people) I restore him fourfold," verse 8. Here is clear, indisputable evidence of a change of heart within the man. He immediately gave half of his fortune to the poor and of what remained he was ready to restore fourfold that which he had gained dishonestly. Those are the actions of the truly repentant.

Where is that spirit in all of Rome's apologies and responses to her crimes? It is totally absent!!

IV. Rome's Satanic power to deceive is seen in her ability to retain her hold upon her adherents, despite the repeated revelations of her iniquities.

There are, of course, many individuals who have forsaken the fold of Rome as a result of the disclosures of her world-wide crimes. But sadly they have gone from the darkness and delusion of popery into the dark night of utter rejection of God. Deceived into believing that Roman Catholicism is God's Kingdom on earth and having seen first-hand the utter vileness of this system, they have sadly concluded that there is no God.

This is but another example of the terrible harvest that Romanism has inflicted upon mankind.

While there are many who have turned from Rome to the darkness of atheism, there are many times that number who have blindly clung to Rome's skirts, even though it has been discovered that guilty priests and clerics have been concealed and hidden by the hierarchy as long as concealment was possible.

This concealment involved members of the hierarchy right up to the pope. Indeed, it has now been discovered that it was official Vatican policy.

COVER-UP

An article in the 'London Evening Standard', dated 30th September 2006, was headlined: **Pope 'led cover-up of child abuse by priests'. 'Pope as Cardinal Ratzinger issued secret Vatican edict to bishops around the world to put Church interests ahead of child safety.'**

Part of that article read:

The Pope played a leading role in a systematic cover-up of child sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests, according to a shocking documentary to be screened by the BBC.

In 2001, while he was a cardinal, he issued a secret Vatican edict to Catholic bishops all over the world, instructing them to put the Church's interests ahead of child safety.

The document recommended that rather than reporting sexual abuse to the relevant legal authorities, bishops should encourage the victim, witnesses and perpetrator not to talk about it.

And, to keep victims quiet, it threatened that if they repeated the allegations they would be excommunicated.

The Panorama special: '**Sex Crimes And The Vatican**', investigates the details of this little-known document for the first time.



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The programme also accuses the Catholic Church of knowingly harbouring paedophile clergymen.

Patrick Wall, a former Vatican-approved enforcer of the Crimen Sollicitationis in America, tells the programme: **"I found out I wasn't working for a holy institution, but an institution that was wholly concentrated on protecting itself."**

And Tom Doyle, a Vatican lawyer until he was sacked for criticising the church's handling of child abuse claims, says: **"What you have here is an explicit written policy to cover up cases of child sexual abuse by the clergy and to punish those who would call attention to these crimes by the churchmen. When abusive priests are discovered, the response has been not to investigate and prosecute but to move them from one place to another. So there's total disregard for the victims and for the fact that you are going to have a whole new crop of victims in the next place. This is happening all over the world."**

It most certainly happened in Ireland. This is one of the few times I find myself agreeing with a Roman Catholic priest!

IRISH GOVERNMENT ACTS

In 1999, the Government of the Republic of Ireland established "The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse" (CICA) to investigate the extent and effects of abuse on children from 1936 onwards. It is commonly known as the Ryan Commission after its chair, Justice Seán Ryan. The Commission's work started in 1999 and it published its public report on 20 May 2009.

In the document, an "Executive Summary", which may be downloaded from the internet (**click here**), there is given a synopsis of its investigations.

It states in its introduction:

"The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse was established in 2000 with functions including the investigation of abuse of children in institutions in the State.

It was dependent on people giving evidence which they did in large numbers.

The Commission expresses its gratitude to all those who participated and contributed with their testimony and documents. The witnesses who came to the Confidential and the Investigation Committees ensured that the Inquiry had sufficient information to investigate the difficult issues that it was mandated to explore. The Commission was impressed by the dignity, courage and fortitude of witnesses who endeavoured to recall events that had happened many years ago."

The introduction further states:

"This Report should give rise to debate and reflection. Although institutional care belongs to a different era, many of the lessons to be learned from what happened have contemporary applications for the protection of vulnerable people in our society."

How I wish that the document would indeed have given rise to "debate and reflection", for there are indeed many lessons for the Irish Roman Catholic people to learn from the disclosures in this report.

It is a very large report and it is available for downloading on the internet so that what I say may be checked.

Here is what is found in the summary regarding the activities of the "Christian Brothers" various establishments.



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Chapter 6 gives an overview of the Congregation (of the Christian Brothers), including its foundation, its organisation and management and its funding. It also looks at the vows taken by religious Brothers and the impact of these vows on the care they gave to children in their Schools. The Chapter examines the Congregation's own Rules regarding corporal punishment and discipline in its schools and outlines the strict limitations imposed by the Authorities on its members in the way they could administer punishments in their schools.

This Chapter also looks at the attitude of the Congregation to allegations of abuse and the apologies it issued. These apologies acknowledged that some abuse had taken place but failed to accept any Congregational responsibility for such abuse."

Regarding the Artane Industrial School in Dublin, the Summary states:

"The Conclusions on sexual abuse which are outlined at Paragraph 7.549 were **that sexual abuse of boys in Artane by Brothers was a chronic problem. Complaints were not handled properly and the steps taken by the Congregation to avoid scandal and publicity protected perpetrators of abuse. The safety of children was not a priority at any time during the relevant period. Neglect and emotional abuse were also found to have been features of Artane. The numbers of children made it impossible for any child to receive an adequate standard of care.**"

The Summary continues:

"Chapter 8 deals with another Christian Brothers' school, Letterfrack, County Galway. The school in Letterfrack was founded in 1885 and was situated in a remote hillside location in Connemara, miles away from Galway or from public transport. The remoteness of Letterfrack was a common theme of complainants and of Brothers who had worked there. It was an inhospitable, bleak, isolated institution accessible only by car or bicycle and out of reach for family or friends of boys incarcerated there.

Physical punishment was severe, excessive and pervasive and by being administered in public or within earshot of other children it was used as a means of engendering fear and ensuring control.

Sexual abuse was a chronic problem. For two thirds of the relevant period there was at least one sexual abuser in the school, for almost one third of the period there were two abusers in the school and at times there were three abusers working in Letterfrack at the same time. Two abusers were present for periods of 14 years each and the Congregation could offer no explanation as to how these Brothers could have remained in the School for so long undetected and unreported."

"Chapter 9 contains the report into St Joseph's Industrial School, Tralee, Co Kerry. This School was established in 1862 and was certified for 145 boys. **Serious allegations were outlined both in documents and in oral testimony about a Brother who was violent and dangerous over a number of years** (Paragraph 9.46). **This Brother was moved from a day school because his violence towards children was causing severe problems with their parents, and was moved to Tralee Industrial School. Such a move displayed a callous disregard for the safety of children in care. He went on to terrorise children in Tralee for over seven years."**

We quote again from the Summary.

"Chapter 13 deals with the final Christian Brothers' School investigated by the Committee, St Jo-



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Joseph's School for the Deaf, in Cabra. This was not an Industrial School but was a residential school for boys from the age of eight who were profoundly or partially deaf. This school was also investigated on a document only basis. **It was the subject of Eastern Health Board Investigations in the 1980s which revealed disturbing levels of sexual abuse and peer sexual activity amongst boys who were resident there. These documents reveal a persistent failure on the part of school Authorities to protect children from bullying and abuse."**

In addition, the documents revealed that physical punishment of these children continued into the mid-1990s and that staff were protected by management when physical abuse was discovered.

It is significant that the Industrial Schools owned and managed by the Christian Brothers did not keep a Punishment Book as was required by the Rules.

Chapter 14 of the Ryan Report looks at the career of a serial sexual and physical abuser, given the name of Mr John Brander, who taught children in the primary and secondary school sector in Ireland for 40 years.

"He was eventually convicted of sexual abuse in the 1980s. He began his career as a Christian Brother and after three separate incidents of sexual abuse of boys, he was granted dispensation from his vows. This chapter goes on to describe this man's progress through six different schools where he physically terrorised and sexually abused children in his classroom. **At various times during his career, parents attempted to challenge his behaviour but he was persistently protected by diocesan and school authorities and moved from school to school. Complaints to the Department of Education were ignored.**

The Committee received a large number of complaints from individual national schools and the investigation conducted into the career of Mr Brander, apart from being shocking in itself, also illustrates the ease with which sexual predators could operate within the educational system of the State without fear of disclosure or sanction."

The Ryan report has to be read fully in order to get the complete dreadful import of its revelations of every form of abuse against children by Roman Catholic institutions and the wicked deceitfulness of those in high places to protect the guilty and to enable them to continue their vile activities.

Other investigations

The Ryan Report was not the only report on the scandal of perverted priests of the Irish Roman Catholic Church. The Murphy Report, so called because it was headed by Judge Yvonne Murphy, is the name of a report of an investigation conducted by the Irish government into the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic archdiocese of Dublin. It was released in 2009, a few months after the Ryan Report at which we have had a brief look. The original brief was to report in 18 months, but such was the volume of evidence and allegations concerning the abusive behaviour of a sample batch of just 46 priests that time extensions had to be allowed.

The Murphy report was publicly released on 26 November 2009. It concluded that:

"the Dublin Archdiocese's preoccupations in dealing with cases of child sexual abuse, at least until the mid-1990s, were the maintenance of secrecy, the avoidance of scandal, the protection of the reputation of the Church, and the preservation of its assets. All other considerations, including the welfare of children and justice for victims, were subordinated to these priorities. The Archdiocese did not implement its own canon law rules and did its best to avoid any application of the law of the State". The 720-page Murphy report said that it has **"no doubt that clerical child sexual abuse was covered up"** from January 1975 to May 2004. As charted by the Murphy commission, the **complaints of parents and their children were ignored and other families placed in immediate danger as prelates from John Charles McQuaid onwards suppressed scandals and took refuge in canon law to protect offenders at the expense of children. Com-**



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plainants alleged that most uninvolved priests turned a blind eye to their allegations.

It was found that some acts of abuse had taken place inside the Pro-Cathedral, which has been the archiepiscopal seat of the Archbishop of Dublin since 1825.

The Report states at section 1.32:

“Another consequence of the obsessive concern with secrecy and the avoidance of scandal was **the failure of successive Archbishops and bishops to report complaints to the Gardaí prior to 1996.** The Archbishops, bishops and other officials cannot claim that they did not know that child sexual abuse was a crime. As citizens of the State, they have the same obligations as all other citizens to uphold the law and report serious crimes to the authorities.”

These reports and other enquiries were to a large degree the result of the labours of some investigative television reporters. Television documentaries in the 1990s on the immoral activities of priests such as Bishop Eamon Casey and the infamous priests, Brendan Smyth and Seán Fortune and others, served to lift the lid on the moral morass within the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Propaganda

Sadly, the propaganda machine of Rome, having centuries of experience in such operations, quickly swung into operation in the wake of these reports. Numerous displays of mock concern and anxiety were reported and televised.

Oh how masterful is Rome at such stagecraft!

But she has still not changed. New horrifying events have been recently reported which shows this to be so.

Tuam babies

Media reports of the finding of the bodies of 796 children who died in a former mother and baby home in Tuam, County Galway, which was operated by the Sisters of Bon Secours between 1925 and 1961, have recently come to the fore, though the presence of the bodies has been known about for quite a while.

There are death records but no burial records for these children. The location of their graves is a mystery, although it is probable that they were buried near the home, and that some of them, according to testimony from two local boys, who found skeletons in 1975 after disturbing a concrete slab, may be in what was once a septic tank in the grounds.

The Irish General Register Office records show 796 children died at an average age of 7.7 months.

Figures provided by that Office, show measles, whooping cough and influenza were some of the most common causes of death among the children who passed away in the Co Galway home between 1925 and 1961.

St Mary's Mother and Baby Home was a maternity home for unmarried mothers and their children that operated between 1925 and 1961 in Tuam, County Galway, Ireland. Thousands of unwed pregnant women were sent there to give birth. Some of the poorer women were afterwards forced to work without pay, in reimbursement for some of the services rendered. Their children were separated from them and cared for by the nuns until they could be adopted.

In 2012, local historian Catherine Corless published an article revealing that 796 babies and toddlers had died at the Home during its years of operation. Her research led her to conclude that almost all had been buried in an unmarked and unregistered collective grave at the Home, some of them in a septic tank.

Numerous news reports alleging the existence of a mass grave containing 800 babies have been recently published. The story sparked outrage in Ireland and internationally, and the Irish government came under



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pressure to launch an investigation. The government called the allegations "deeply disturbing" and shortly thereafter, the government and police began a preliminary investigation with the aim of launching an inquiry.

What exacerbated the concerns aroused by the initial reports was the revelation by a nun who worked at Bessborough House, another child care home, that children were involved in medical trials. Here is how one newspaper, the "Belfast Telegraph" reported it .

"Ireland's "mother and baby homes" scandal - revelations about mass graves where hundreds of infants were dumped - grows with separate allegations that children were used as guinea pigs for vaccinations."

That report appeared on 9th June 2014. It continued.

"The Irish government was facing mounting calls for a full investigation into its care homes last night, as the scandal over the deaths of 800 children at a residence in County Galway was compounded by allegations that hundreds of children had also been used for testing of vaccinations. The country's ten care homes were said to have participated in the trials, which took place between 1960 and 1976, and involved 298 children. In one of the trials, 80 children became ill after they were accidentally administered a vaccine intended for cattle. No documentation about the trials has ever been published, but an Irish radio programme recently alleged wide-scale testing on children." The station was Dublin radio station, Newstalk.

Pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline uncovered the experiments after it purchased one of the labs involved but GSK was in no way involved in the trials.

The radio report spoke to 'Christy', a former child resident of Bessborough House in Cork. "I remember speaking to my mum and I asked her why I'd so many marks on my body, she said 'I don't know' and said 'when you arrived your arms were sore and bandaged.'" He said both his arms were badly scarred and that he had 8 injection marks on his arms and two on his legs. "Most people from my generation have one, if not two, that's it, not as many as me."

Documentation from the British Medical Journal thanks the Chief Medical Officers for their consent for the trials, however does not state whether parental consent was sought. There were no laws on medical testing in Ireland until 1987. However Sister Sarto said that parental consent was sought there for the trials."

Growing pressure

These new revelations put pressure on the Irish Government for a full investigation into its care homes. Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has appointed two senior police officers and they will immediately begin work examining the Tuam mass grave claims.

Vigils have been held in Dublin and Galway in memory of the hundreds of children who died.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, has said that only an independent inquiry, led by a senior judicial figure, could provide the answers required from Ireland's escalating mother-and-baby home scandal. A government source has said that any wide-ranging commission of inquiry cannot interfere with Garda investigations. "But it is not a question of if there will be an inquiry – rather when, and how far will its remit go," the senior source said."

Jumping on the bandwagon

I have to say that I view the Archbishop of Dublin's call for a full judicial inquiry as a cynical exercise whereby he seeks to distance the very institution that instigated the monstrous regime within these homes and which had to grant permission for the medical experimentation, from the growing public horror and angry condemnation of these activities.



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How cold and callous are those who can permit such activities and then publicly put on a display of charitable concern and anxiety when their wrong-doing is exposed?

Point to be noted

The important point to take note of in this incident is not only the callous way in which the bodies of the infants were disposed of and the indifference to keeping a record of the life and death of the little ones as if they were of no value and did not matter, and the medical experimentation on little children, possibly without the permission of their parents, but the fact that must be noted is that this shameful treatment of little children had to be known to the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church at the time and yet, in this age of supposed repudiation of the old cruel ways, nothing was said or done to disclose the matter fully and properly inter the remains of the babies.

How could anyone or any organisation that had supposedly repented of the wickedness that Rome has been forced to admit to, harbour such a knowledge as that of the improperly interred remains of some 800 little infants and the cruel medical experimentation on little children?

These latest disclosures stamp indelibly upon the forehead of Rome the words:

“THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH,” Revelation 17:5.

Roman Catholicism lives up to that name all too adequately today.

This report was presented by Rev. Foster on an edition of *The Heart of the matter* broadcast on July 18th, 2014.

Click here to listen to that audio presentation.



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