



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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### Call for police checks on all priests for history of child abuse



A committee chaired by retired judge, Lord Nolan, and set up to advise the Roman Catholic Church on how to stop sexual abuse has called for police checks to be carried out on all clergy, staff and volunteers. The recommendation is among 50 put forward in a report by the committee. Others include the establishment of a national database on candidates for the priesthood and a national child protection unit within the Roman Catholic church to provide support and advice and information at a national level. The report says that cautioned or convicted child abusers should not hold any position that could put children at risk and that

clergy should be dismissed in the most serious cases.

**The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, launched the review last September after admitting "inadequate procedures" had led to errors in the past.**

Between 1995 and 1999 a total of 21 Catholic priests in England and Wales were convicted of offences against children.

But Susan ni Rahilly, an author on child abuse, said that she thinks "the church has been forced into owning up because its cover has been blown."

Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor was severely criticised last July over the case of paedophile priest "Father" Michael Hill. He faced calls to resign when it emerged he had been responsible for allowing Hill to continue working as a chaplain, despite warnings he would re-offend. The poor vetting of prospective priests was also exposed in the case of teacher Joe Jordan, who had been accused of abuse while at a school in Doncaster and barred from teaching. When he then trained to become a priest this information was never passed on to the appointments board in the Cardiff Diocese which subsequently employed him. He was later convicted of more cases of abuse.

If any religious organisation or denomination, other than the Roman Catholic church, was required to enact such procedures because of past crimes, it would be shamed into disbanding. But not Romanism, that present-day manifestation of "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Revelation 17:5. The voice of her innumerable child victims cries to heaven for her judgement. Praise God, it will come and that very soon.