



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Roman Catholic priest administered 'last rites' to victims before the IRA murdered them



Columba McVeigh, aged 17. He was from Donaghmore in County Tyrone. Abducted and murdered in 1975 by the IRA after allegedly confessing to being an army agent with instructions to infiltrate the IRA.

At least one Roman Catholic priest in Northern Ireland administered 'last rites' to people who were "executed" by the IRA, including some of those who disappeared and whose bodies have never been recovered, it has been reported in the press.

The horrifying disclosure comes after Roman Catholic priests in Co. Armagh have been making pulpit appeals for information about the location of IRA victims whose bodies have never been recovered. The pulpit appeal was in response to a plea by the Independent Commission, set up to try and locate the remains of nine men whose bodies have never been recovered.

Missing

Seven of those still missing were murdered by the IRA and one by the Irish National Liberation Army. Seamus McKendry, whose mother-in-law was Jean McConville, confirmed yesterday that he had been told that priests had administered last rites to people who were about to be murdered by the IRA. "When I was making inquiries in the early days, that was often mentioned to me. They got the last rites. It was said: 'What's the problem? Sure, they got the last rites'. They were God's henchmen."

One of the victims, who disappeared from west Belfast in 1981, was last seen kneeling on waste ground on the outskirts of west Belfast as the priest administered the rites to him. The victim, Danny McIlhone, who was in his early twenties, was abducted in Andersonstown in July 1981. He was "interrogated" by the IRA's internal security unit which, at the time, included at least two figures who later emerged as agents working for the British army who were passing on high-level intelligence. After he received the rites, he was bundled into a car and driven to south Armagh where he was shot dead and then secretly buried. Republican sources say it was normal for people who had been sentenced to death by the IRA to receive the last rites before being executed. In all, the IRA 'executed' about 70 people, including women. In most cases their bodies were left, usually in isolated Border roads, where they could be easily found.

Indictment

What an indictment of the Roman Catholic church this is. It is in keeping with the many times that her priests blessed and absolved IRA men before they went out on terrorist missions of murder. This latest revelation makes her complicit in the murders of these victims and exposes her



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as the very epitome of hypocrisy, as she then takes part in a series of appeals for information about the location of the murder victims' bodies.

This is the twisted and amoral system that the current plans for a coalition with Sinn Fein/IRA would bring us under and have us trust with our lives and those of our children.

Warning

God in His providence has once more provided Ulster with a dire warning about the path we are being urged to go down.

In the face of such a warning, surely the plan for a coalition with Sinn Fein/IRA will be abandoned as the height of folly.