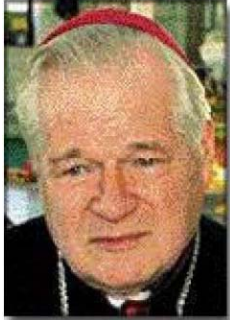


## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

---

### Roman Catholic Archbishop arrested for rape



Archbishop John Ward, 70

The Archbishop strenuously denied the allegations and immediately denounced the leaking of his case to a Sunday newspaper. He said that police connections with the media had made a misery of the lives of many priests, doctors and teachers who had been falsely accused. The Roman Catholic Church has had enough of such tragedies and travesties, and he intended to use his position to challenge what he saw as a dangerous machinery for grave miscarriages of justice, he said.

His arrest follows a complaint from a 45-year-old woman, now living in Ireland. She accused the Archbishop of raping her three times in a chapel in Peckham, London, in 1960 when she was six years old. As of yet, no charges have been preferred and the Archbishop is out on bail and is continuing with his duties.

If the matter does come to court, it will be the first time that such a high ranking Roman Catholic cleric has gone on trial for child sex-abuse in the United Kingdom.