



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Devious, duplicitous Rome!



**Archbishop
John Aloysius Ward**

In a fashion peculiar to itself, the Roman Catholic Church has responded to the outcry of its adherents against its hierarchy's dealing with deviant priests, by replacing the Archbishop of Cardiff, John Aloysius Ward, in the day-to-day running of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, while leaving him in his office. It has been announced that the Bishop of Wrexham, Edwin Regan, has been appointed as an Apostolic Administrator to run the Archdiocese. He will replace John Ward, who is allegedly recovering from deep vein thrombosis.

His problem is doubtless deep but is likely to have nothing to do with his veins! The archbishop had been under increasing pressure to step down over his handling of the cases of two paedophile priests from his diocese, who have been jailed.

Fresh calls for the leader of the Catholic Church in Wales to go followed a BBC documentary, which uncovered evidence that Archbishop Ward ignored serious warnings about paedophiles working in his diocese. It was revealed the archbishop had ignored serious warnings about "Father" John Lloyd - jailed in 1998 - and "Father" Joe Jordan. A spokesman for the Catholic Media Office said: "Pope John Paul II has appointed the Rt Rev Edwin Regan, Bishop of Wrexham, to be apostolic administrator for the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff." "The position will be a temporary appointment to provide episcopal governance for the diocese while the current Archbishop, the Most Rev John Aloysius Ward, is convalescing." Archbishop Ward wrote to the Pope asking him to appoint another Archbishop to work alongside him.

Edwin Regan told BBC Wales he would do his best to fulfill his new role. "I want to listen to people and discern with them the best way forward."

It is most certain that he will not listen to the Bible!

This is but the latest in a long line of scandals brought to light by journalists. Back in July, one of the most senior figures in the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales defended his decision to allow a known paedophile to continue working as a priest, despite warnings he would re-offend. At that time, a BBC investigation found evidence suggesting Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor ignored the advice of doctors and therapists that "Father" Michael Hill would carry on assaulting children. Archbishop Murphy-O'Connor told BBC News that he "regretted exceedingly what happened" - namely that after he allowed Hill back to work in 1985 after suspending him as a priest, Hill went on to indecently assault more altar boys and was jailed in 1997.

The news that yet another papist cleric has been accused of sexually abusing children is not uncommon. There is mistrust between parishioners and priests, the general public and priests. Sadly, it does not bring home to the people the awful wickedness of the Romish system. BBC religious affairs commentator, Andrew Brown, says revelations that Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor allowed a known paedophile to continue working as a priest will damage the church's reputation in the UK.



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John Wilkins, editor of the Roman Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, says the image of the church has been tarnished "appallingly" by paedophile priests around the world. "It has done enormous damage to priests themselves - their morale is very low. They feel depressed and defensive. It has been appalling for the church - there is mistrust between parishioners and their priest, the general public and priests."

In truth, this has always been the character of the Roman Catholic institution. Former Jesuit priest, Peter De Rosa makes that plain in his book, "Vicars of Christ -- the dark side of the papacy." A brief summary of recent events of this nature from around the world serves to highlight this truth.

Remember, these are only the ones who were caught. Many others, thanks to the manoeuvring of the hierarchy, escaped justice.

Wales

Last October, Pope John Paul II sacked Father John Lloyd, who raped a 16-year-old girl and indecently assaulted two altar boys in south Wales.

Ireland

The Pope dismissed three priests in 1998, and sacked two diocesan priests in Ireland in recent years. This must be seen in the light of the Pope having twice received the former archbishop of Vienna, Hans Hermann Groer, at the Vatican, despite allegations that he had sexually molested young clergymen. In April, prison authorities in Ireland moved "Father" Eugene Greene to another jail following attempts to kill him. The retired priest is serving a 12-year sentence for abusing altar boys. The Irish government recently began an inquiry into allegations of abuse at so-called industrial schools, where children were detained if their parents were deemed too poor to look after them, or if they stole or played truant. Campaigners for an inquiry have said that priests and nuns subjected most of the children in their care to physical or sexual attacks. Following these and other allegations made during the 1990s, the Christian Brothers, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of Mercy have issued public apologies for abuse inflicted over the years in their institutions.

Canada

The Christian Brothers have also been implicated in sex scandals in Canada. More than 300 former pupils at Mount Cashel orphanage, Newfoundland, have alleged the lay brothers abused them. The scandal forced the order to sell property and assets to pay legal and compensation bills.

USA

In 1998, the Roman Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas, agreed to pay more than \$30m to 12 former altar boys molested by a priest. Church authorities allegedly ignored warnings and covered up "Father" Rudolph Kos's activities. He is serving a life sentence for more than 1,300 attacks carried out between 1981 and 1992.

Britain

Back in Britain, this year the victims of convicted paedophile "Father" Eric Taylor have said they plan to sue the church for failing to protect them. Taylor is serving a seven-year prison sentence for sexual offences against children in "Father" Hudson's Homes, a Catholic



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charity, in the 1960s. "Father" James Murphy pleaded guilty to 18 charges of indecent assault against seven children at south London parishes from 1976 to 1990. He attacked some of his victims in church itself. Four years ago, "Father" Adrian McLeish, of Durham, was jailed for six years. He had abused four boys - the sons of parishioners - and boasted about it on the internet. Police had seized the UK's biggest collection of child pornography from his home.