



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Scandal highlighted in Australian Anglican Church



John Crump's church

**An Anglican cleric, investigated in Australia's biggest child porn sting, is still on the church payroll, despite senior figures saying he has confessed to police. Parishioners at a Mount Waverley service were recently told that the Rev 'Father' John Crump had admitted possessing child pornography. But he is still entitled to live rent-free and will continue to be paid until his term expires.**

Crump was one of 68 Victorians and more than 200 Australians questioned in the huge swoop that recently stunned the nation. He was in hiding yesterday as his congregation gathered

at St Philip's Anglican church. They were read a letter sent to 'Father' Crump, 58, by church registrar John McKenzie, explaining why he had been stood down.

#### Computer images

"I have been advised . . . that a computer and other material have been seized by police, and that you have made a full admission on tape in relation to certain matters of which you are likely to be charged," the letter said. It said the priest was suspended immediately, pending the outcome of police investigations, but he would still receive normal pay and entitlements. The Mt Waverley vicarage where Crump lives with his wife and two children was deserted as parishioners struggled to deal with allegations against him.

"We're absolutely devastated," one said. Fellow worshipper Rohan Abeysinghe said: "It was quite a surprise to us. None of us are without sin, but the important thing is to recognise it and seek help."

Senior church figures said they were horrified by allegations against the priest, who had been at the parish for about three years. They said he would be offered counselling and other assistance, but would not be helped with his legal costs.