



31st Sunday Ordinary Time – 03 November 2024

## CATHOLIC CHURCH NEEDS CLEAR RULES ON VICTIM COMPENSATION



The Catholic Church needs to unify policies on compensating victims of sexual abuse by clergy, the Vatican's child protection commission said in its first annual report on Tuesday. For decades, the church has been shaken by scandals across the world involving paedophile priests and the cover-up of their crimes, damaging its credibility and costing it hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements. The commission stressed "the importance of compensation for

victims/survivors, as a concrete commitment to their healing journey", and pledged to work "so that standardised and known procedures are developed in a more comprehensive way". It said compensation was not only financial, "but embraces a much broader spectrum of actions ... such as acknowledging mistakes, public apologies, and other forms of true fraternal closeness to victims/survivors and their communities". It added it would delve deeper into the issue of reparations in its report next year. The strongest criticism in the report is reserved for the Vatican's Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith, which deals with abuse cases. It provided only "limited statistical information on its activities," making it difficult to conduct an accurate audit of its productivity, the report said. The report is the first of what are planned to be annual reports on church policies and procedures for safeguarding children from the Vatican's Commission for the Protection of Minors, which was set up in 2014 by Pope Francis. Approximately 50 pages in length, the latest report follows the gathering of data from across the continents, as well as from various religious institutes, congregations, and the Roman Curia, which it encouraged to be more transparent in its procedures and processes. It stressed the need for better governance on the issue at the Vatican with "consolidation and clarity around the jurisdiction held by dicasteries of the Roman Curia, to ensure the efficient, timely, and rigorous management of cases of abuse referred to the Holy See." There was a need, where abuse cases were mishandled, for "a streamlined process for discharge from office, to enable a smooth and simple pathway for the resignation or removal of a church leader," it said. The report also called for further development of the church's teachings on safeguarding and for studying damage and compensation policies to promote a rigorous approach to reparations. The Commission for the Protection of Minors reviews safeguarding practices in between 15 and 20 local churches each year and aims to publish its findings throughout the entire Catholic Church over the course of the next five or six annual reports. Those churches looked at in this report do not include Ireland, but the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (male) or the Spiritans, is among the two religious congregations it reviews. The Spiritans run some of Ireland's best-known private fee paying schools. While the report said 31 cases of abuse involving Spiritans had been received at the Vatican between 2014 and 2024, it does not give their country of origin. It said that while one such case was handled at the Vatican in about five months, "most of the cases are reported to take several years." It added that "this long turnaround time is of urgent concern," and criticised the Vatican's Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith for providing only "limited statistical information on its activities," making it difficult to conduct an accurate audit of its productivity. It found child protection in the church worldwide was varied, with parts of the Americas, Europe, and Oceania benefiting from "substantial resources" for safeguarding, whereas many from Central and South America, Africa, and Asia "have inadequate dedicated resources." There was, therefore, it said, an urgency "of increasing solidarity among episcopal conferences, to mobilise resources for a universal standard in safeguarding." Since becoming pope in 2013, Francis has taken numerous measures to tackle abuse, from opening up internal church documents to punishing high-ranking clergy. The pontiff faced some of the strongest criticism yet levied against him over clergy abuse during a September visit to Belgium, where both the country's king and prime minister called for more concrete actions for victims. Meanwhile, a Vatican summit of world bishops ended on Saturday with a final text apologising several times for the "untold and ongoing" pain suffered by Catholics who were abused by clergy. The report also called for more transparency, with victims given greater access to documents concerning them, a clearer division of roles between Vatican

departments dealing with abuse, and more effective punishment of offenders. It noted that past "actions and/or inactions" by church leaders "have been the source of additional harm to victims/survivors of sexual abuse", revealing the need for "a disciplinary or administrative proceeding that provides an efficient path for resignation or removal from office".

*Courtesy Patsy McGarry Irish Times*

### Remembered this Weekend

Mary Daly (Birthday Rem)  
Margaret Nolan (Birthday Rem)

We also remember the victims of the floods in Spain.



### November Remembrance Mass

#### Correction.

Tues 05 Nov 7pm in Meath St.  
Weds 06 Nov 7pm in James's St.



### Liberties by Fiach Moriarity

Liberties is a concept album about Fiach's great-granduncle Jack Kavanagh from Francis Street in Dublin's Liberties. Fiach explains, 'Like many men from the Liberties area of Dublin, Jack joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and fought in World War I. <https://fb.me/e/2qw0XbVPR>



### Jonathan Swift Festival

returns from 22nd–27 November with an eclectic programme of performances, talks, music and tours to celebrate the life and times and work of the famous 18thC satirist and author. Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Park is the focal point for the Festival, while other events take place in venues such as St Werburgh's Church, the Irish Film Institute and St Patrick's Hospital. Details [here](#)

## 31ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration,  
let us remember the inclusive love of God.

For our lack of compassion and welcome. Lord have mercy

For our willingness to exclude those who are different.  
Christ have mercy

For our failure to see you in the poor and marginalised.  
Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has conquered selfishness, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

### Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are people subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia  
If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them. Alleluia

### Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question

to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

### Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, Your love for us is unconditional and eternal. We thank you. Lord hear us

True Love, calls us to be open to one another and to accept one another. Lord may our lives reflect this Love. Lord hear us

Help Lord, us to create a society where no one feels unwanted, unloved or excluded.  
Lord hear us

We remember all who have died. We pray for those killed in the floods in Spain and all who have died through violence, hunger and war. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, your Kingdom is a place where justice and peace are stepping stones to compassion and forgiveness. May your Kingdom come. Lord hear us

Let us remember in silence, all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



### Reflection

"When love awakens in your life, in the night of your heart, it is like the dawn breaking within you. Where before there was anonymity, now there is intimacy; where before there was fear, now there is courage; where before in your life there was awkwardness, now there is a rhythm of grace and gracefulness; where before you used to be jagged, now you are elegant and in rhythm with yourself. When love awakens in your life, it is like a rebirth, a new beginning."

*John O'Donohue*