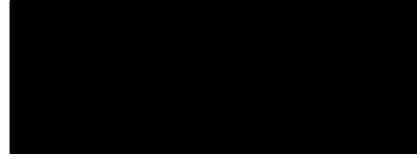


Dr Peter Lazzari.



MY CHURCH

THE RAPE OF CHILDREN

THE POLITICIANS

and THE INTEMPERATE TRUTH

The Baillieu Government took an important step recently in announcing a Parliamentary inquiry into child abuse by Catholic clergy and the role of the Church of managing child abuse.

IS THAT ENOUGH?

I believe that despite the importance of this step, a national inquiry and in particular a national Royal Commission should be held into the abuse.

However, the Baillieu Government has made a very important step and must be congratulated.

A CATHOLIC UPBRINGING:

I am of Catholic Australian/Italian and Protestant Scottish/Irish background, with mainly catholic upbringing.

We were told at school as children to despise the Jews for what they did to Jesus. The Jews were not to be forgiven and would remain stateless.

We were told that what Hitler did to them was long overdue and was the punishment they deserved.

We were told that all blacks were inferior, particularly the Australian Aboriginal, the most inferior race on the planet.

We were told that the yellow races were weak and were Communist, and were not welcome in Australia, as the Communists were determined to lead the world, and the yellow races were leading that battle along with the Russians.

We were told that all women were weak and unstable, and like Eve, couldn't be trusted.

We were told that women lead men into temptation.

We were told that women had to submit to men, because men were the only ones who could be trusted and who could be wise.

We were told that it was Eve's fault that we were all born in a state of sin, original sin.

We were told that only a Catholic baptism could cleanse us and make it possible for us to enter heaven.

We were told that State school kids were inferior to us and could never get to heaven unless they converted to Catholicism.

We were told we must not trust our conscience that we must only trust what we were told by the priests, the Catholic teachers and the Church.

We were told that we were never to question the Church, it was heresy and we would be excommunicated, and damned to Hell.

There were other things that they didn't tell us.

They didn't tell us that over the centuries many Popes raised powerful armies to devastate, to kill, to rape, and to conquer vast areas and populations.

They didn't tell us that in 1933 Hitler had made a pact, a concordat, with the papal nuncio of Berlin, Cardinal Pacelli, to sentence the Jews to death and keep German Catholics out of politics so he could execute his plans.

We were not told that the same Cardinal later became Pope Pius XII in 1939 and watched as Hitler exterminated as many Jews as he could.

No, the Church did not tell us the truth on so many things.

The Church kept the people "povero", "stupido" and "ignorante".

When I was 12 I saw pictures in my father's book at home, showing piles of gassed, emaciated, naked bodies. Children, women and men, like piles of rejected rag dolls.

I saw pictures of the gas chambers and the barbed wired fences.

This was not Christ's revenge. Christ would have had nothing of revenge.

I discovered that state school children were just as good or bad as I was. They were good fun and I played games of football and cricket endlessly with them, in the street.

These were good boys from good families. Why wouldn't they get to heaven?

At University I met a lot of Jewish students studying to practice medicine. I liked these people. I am sure that they had the same right to heaven as I may have.

/...cont.

BACKGROUND:

I was named after my Italian uncle, Monsignor Pietro Lazzari who died the year I was born and who ministered to the sick in the Red Cross Hospitals of Leipzig in Nazi Germany during the war. I wonder what we he did to help the Jews.

I write to you as a man, a husband, a father, a son, and as a physician who has worked for several decades as a specialist at the coalface in acute hospitals and community medicine across Victoria and in Melbourne.

During that time I have been astounded at the high rate of child abuse that is at the basis of many and varied illnesses, both physical and psychological, in the patients who gave me the privilege of being taken into their confidence.

So many of these patients knew what the root cause of their ill health was but had been able to divulge it to very few, if any, not even their spouse and adult children or their own parents , into middle age and even much later.

We must now embrace the victims unreservedly.

They are the only ones in this crisis who have acted with integrity.

As Gandhi would say, they are the only ones who can "make the injustice visible."

Only they can lead us out of the crisis.

Bringing their tormentors to justice is an essential part of that process, a critical step for them to be able to move on, to achieve some sort of peace in their troubled lives.

I believe the State has a critical role to play in the victims' achieving that state of peace.

Unfortunately, both major political parties have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo with the Catholic Church.

Liberal and Labor movements alike recognize the Catholic school system is a major provider of education services.

In reciprocity the Church relies heavily on the State for substantial funding, viz State Aid for Catholic schools.

What is the nature of the agreement on State Aid?

- is it an enforceable contract subject to performance and propriety, and the rights and protection of every single child?
- why and how did both major political parties happen to guarantee the Church an identical level of Aid in the lead-up to the last State election in 2009?
- why was the Archbishop of Melbourne given significant control over the terms of reference for the Parliamentary Inquiry? /...cont

The Church is a major provider of a wide range of other community services, such as hospital care, palliative care, and help for the poor and destitute, all of which ease the material and manpower burden on Government.

Thus, there exist powerful mutual vested interests between Church and the major parties.

It can be argued, justifiably in my view, that these mutual interests and dependencies have rendered all three parties (the Church and the two major political parties) impotent in dealing with clerical abuse of children for several decades.

Certainly it is important that an effective, diplomatic and practical relationship exists between Church and State.

However, harmony is entirely inappropriate when one partner is harbouring scores of serial child abusers.

Both Church and State have essential roles in society in being totally objective and openly critical of each other's failures.

Whether we recognize, like it, or not, the views of Church leaders when they GENUINELY comment in the interests of society have a significant influence on our attitudes and behavior.

In fact we expect, yes, demand, critical appraisal by the Church of everything Governments do.

Parliamentarians, whatever their persuasion, have no excuse for having done nothing in the past to intervene on clerical abuse of children:

- nothing to support our numerous school friends whose nascent sexuality was forever mutilated and their futures destroyed by monsters in the garbs of the Church.
- nothing to protect our children.
- nothing to prosecute the perpetrators.
- nothing to hold the Church to account.

The politicians have asked no taxes, no rates from the Church, despite the Church's being the nation's biggest holder of property, and yet in return these politicians have not asked accountability of the Church.

What sort of attitude do our politicians really have toward our children?

What other reciprocities exist between the Church and the major parties that they have kept secret from us? /...cont.

Perth's recently retired Archbishop Hickey referred to this not long ago when he belatedly admitted his regret at having failed to criticize Government on its record in social justice issues during his years in office, *because he suspected that his schools might lose State aid.*

Melbourne Archbishops have behaved similarly.

Obsequious behavior, with the Church cringing to the politicians rather than acting robustly and honestly on issues of social justice, is intolerable and unacceptable.

The Church must execute its duties to the people in these matters.

Only sustained and vigorous campaigning by surviving abuse victims, their families and supporter groups, and the local media, in parallel with mountains of evidence of the century's long pandemic of abuse, finally broke Government inertia.

Thank God for the journalists!

In this situation, how can it be expected that Members of Parliament will now capably and rigorously execute their duties to the community as a whole, and to the victims?

How will these politicians divest themselves and their parties of the long standing allegiances, particularly of the fiscal type, to the Church, during the Parliamentary inquiry?

What of the political backlash to the Parliamentarians comprising the panel of the inquiry?

The Parliamentarians know the political reality that religion and politics DO mix.

Religion and politics always have mixed and they always will.

The panelists know they face the real and imagined Catholic block vote at election time.

The same Catholic vote they buy with State Aid, blatant corruption at a Church/ State level, both participants, willing and pre-meditating the whole affair.

They know they face the vindictive roar of the sheepish lion of Catholic officialdom that their inquiry potentially awakens.

The panel members of the Parliamentary inquiry, some clearly reluctant and out of their depth, are already burdened with an impossible task, the proverbial poisoned chalice.

They must not compound the pain, suffering and distress of the victims and their families.

Parliamentary privilege has always been reserved for parliamentarians and the privileged in society.

/...cont.

Victims and their families are fully justified then in suspecting that the Church will take action against them for anything they say before the parliamentary inquiry.

I believe the role of Government at this point in the crisis is not to complicate it, to compound the agony.

It is not to add a list of politicians to the victims of the crisis.

I believe it is more appropriate to set up a Royal Commission, properly empowered to address all the issues raised here, to make recommendations back to Government, and then for the Government to act swiftly and decisively on those recommendations.

On this basis I believe the Baillieu Government, despite its good intentions, has erred in failing to initiate an independent judicial inquiry, instead choosing to pursue the Parliamentary option.

Personally, I do not believe that inquiry appointees from Parliament have the will, the skills, the impartiality, and the independence, *or the trust of the community at large*, to run it justly, sensitively and fairly.

Will surviving victims of abuse feel that they are in skilled, sensitive and safe hands when they face the panelists?

Can their privacy and vulnerability be managed by parliamentarians?

Should victims expose themselves, their tragedies and their families and risk their lives in this environment, knowing that the triggers to destructive and suicidal behavior are unpredictable and remain powerful, even decades after the crimes have been committed?

THE FIX.

In 1996 when the Father Ridsdale Ballarat affair was exposed, former Melbourne Archbishop, now Cardinal Pell recently admitted in Ireland that Premier Jeff Kennett advised him that if he, Pell, didn't fix it, Kennett would fix it himself.

Astounding!

What a pity, Kennett trusted the Archbishop, a long-term close acquaintance and confidant of Ridsdale, the infamous serial child rapist, relocated a number of times by his bishop and archbishop, to rape again.

Archbishop Pell didn't fix it.

He gave us the curiously labeled "Melbourne Response", a blight on the city's name.

We got an "Independent Commissioner", appointed and paid for by the Church, and accountable only to the Church. /...cont.

Was that part of the agreement with Premier Kennett?

How many of the suicides of the victims could have been prevented by decisive intervention in 1996 when Premier Kennett first chastised Archbishop Pell?

What research did the Church do on the human effects of lifelong celibacy and repression of sexuality?

What research did the Church undertake on the victims and how the Church dealt with them?

What research did the Church do on the clerics who failed repeatedly and became sexual predators?

What research has the Church done on those religious who actually do successfully achieve celibacy?

What are the critical elements in the makeup of those who are successful and has the Church supported, recognized and sought in those who wish to become religious?

Did the Church recognize that its rigid brand of celibacy was markedly different from that practised successfully and voluntarily by non clerics, that included in the Church's brand was a lifelong preclusion from the giving and receiving of simple physical affection?

This exclusion from physical affection causes serious psychological harm as is well known by those who engage in torture and brainwashing.

Is that why the Church demands celibacy - to make the priests submit?

What review process and quality controls were put in place, if any, by the Premier?

THE KENNETT LEGACY:

Did Kennett understand that for so many victims, "Beyond Blue" was only death? Their personal suffering ended, only to continue in surviving family members.

Yes Beyond Blue.

What did subsequent Premiers of Victoria do, if anything?

Yes the Bracks' crew with the disturbing Ballarat connection, what did they do about the "Bishops of Ballarat", Mulkearns and Pell, who shuffled Ridsdale from one unsuspecting parish to the next and then repeated the process for good measure, hoping no one would know.

I note another Bishop of Ballarat has just resigned on account of the child abuse scandal

/...cont.

Was the Bracks team so impotent in dealing with the Archbishop and his rapists because it had in some way protected the clerics, courtesy of the Government's Religious Tolerance Act of 2001?

One must ask, is it "religious tolerance" when those who expose the Church's shocking behavior are threatened by senior Church officials with legal action, funded by a Church that doesn't pay taxes or rates, receives State Aid and siphons money out of the poor parishes?

Was the Act another secret deal between Church and State?

The Bracks Government's failure to intervene on child abuse in association with exploitation of the defective Act gave the seal of approval to the continuation of the barbaric and pagan rituals of the Church's psychopaths and narcissists.

Religion gone mad in the 21st Century!

Hence in the press, Barney Swartz's "Sacrificial Altar Boy".

Gavin, the Christian Doctrine prize winner at school who sat next to me in year 10. Gavin, a quiet intelligent, innocent and gentle "boy", small yes, a boy, not an adolescent.

Indoctrinated to be obedient, to submit to authority particularly The Church, to never complain. To not even cry.

To be seen and not heard.

No, don't show your feelings.

Be a good boy and shut up, even when the Monsignor from the Cathedral, the school chaplain rapes you.

No, boys don't cry.

But grown men do cry.

Yes, the tears came years later, over and over again for the victims.

By the bucket load.

Heart wrenching and from the soul but the loss unrelenting, the grief and the horror unrelenting.

The visceral leonine roars of unrelenting agony - - - and then the deathly silence of the broken spirit.

For some, even worse, the self destruction.

All this because the Church disowned these boys-to-men, said they were making it up, then forced them again to be silent or they would lose the pay off, *the hush money*.

/...cont.

Yes, the sacrificial Altar boys, cruelly raped by Jones (Jones never picked the big, strong, adolescent men – boys, the ones who would be capable of fighting him off) then serially brutalized by Church authorities over the decades.

What did our State Governors do, if anything to call the Premiers, Archbishops and Cardinals to task?

Did any State and Federal leaders raise the issue with the Catholic Bishops Conference of Australia, now chaired by the Archbishop of Melbourne?

Or with the Papal legate, Archbishop Lazzarotto in Canberra?

Or with the Prime Minister?

As you should know, Archbishop Lazzarotto was moved from Dublin several years ago following the child sex abuse scandal in Ireland. Apparently he was threatened there with legal action but adopted to invoke diplomatic immunity.

He then moved to Australia.

I trust that he will not attempt to invoke diplomatic immunity here.

Now he has suddenly been redeployed to Israel.

He must not be allowed to evade the Inquiry to avoid accountability.

Australia must exercise its right to refuse him diplomatic immunity.

Australia must seek Ireland's assistance to pursue him.

It is interesting to consider that the diplomatic immunity he apparently claimed is available as a result of the Lateran treaty of 1929, a political deal between Church and State where the Catholic Church was granted sovereignty by the Fascist Mussolini.

Isn't it ironic that a Papal representative should rely on a deal between a Fascist dictator and the Church?

Have the Coroners or Attorney Generals pursued the issue of suicides related to clerical abuse?

Why were all these so called protectors of the children so lenient on the churches?

Community leaders, our leaders, should have acted decades ago.

/...cont.

PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES - and anti-social behaviour

Prominent Church officials, politicians and leading professionals alike, especially those at the pinnacle of academia, all have to deal with the personal battle between narcissism and altruism, the former dangerously fostered by the elitism of their respective councils, caucuses and various academies and associations.

These people in high places can regrettably readily maintain the disturbing habit of respectively confiding only in their caucus, their God or their academies rather than balancing that dialogue and interaction with "level playing field" dialogue with the common man woman and child.

Many public figures fail in this never ending battle between narcissism and altruism.

The consequences can be and often are disastrous, both for the individual public figure and for the society they are meant to be serving.

The Church's behavior over centuries gives all the appearances of a carefully planned and coordinated system of child abuse and its management, in secret, by officials at the highest levels of the Catholic Church.

The Cardinal himself must be called before the Commission for interrogation.

In Australia the Cardinal should have defrocked the Archbishops who allowed serial rapists to cultivate their craft and fostered their crimes.

The Cardinal himself should have been defrocked by the Papacy. He knew all along. He was implicitly involved in the Ridsdale affair for years.

Bring Kennett, Bracks, Brumby, Howard, Brown, Abbott and Rudd, all God fearing men, before the Commission to respond to the valid questions we all harbor about the protections from the law they allowed the Church over the last 15 years when all these matters were in the public arena.

Yes all these God fearing men, all in great fear of, all bowing to the most ruthless, the most secure politician in the nation, George Pell.

Yes, Cardinal Pell not even accountable to the nation, to the law, to the people.

Little wonder the nation is often so bereft of moral leadership.

"Religious tolerance "does not give clerics the freedom to rape children.

It does not give the rapists' leaders the right to harbor criminals and let them rape children over and over again.

/...cont.

We are supposed to have religious freedom in Australia.

We don't.

We are supposed to be able to practise our religion safely.

We can't.

The extremists in control of the Catholic Church have made it impossible.

Representatives of the Catholic Bishops Congress and Archbishops of all the major cities of Australia must all be brought to appear, without any favor or concession from a Royal Commission.

They must be questioned why concealment and re-deployment were consistently practised.

What were the underlying reasons for this?

What has led vastly experienced and motivated leaders of the Church, who presumably entered religious life to serve the people, to preach love, compassion, understanding and Godliness, to so neglect their responsibilities to the children made by their God?

Have they been forever trapped and twisted by an unachievable vow of lifelong chastity and a similarly unachievable pursuit of perfection, and by a rigid belief of their infallibility, a blind allegiance to the Vatican and the absolute supremacy of men over women and children?

The Inquiry must consider the nexus between the stifling and suppression of the natural development and maturation of sexuality under enforced and rigid celibacy, and child sexual abuse by the clergy.

Even the late and former Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Frank Little acknowledged this when talking about clerical abuse of children. He stated that the priests should have an outlet.

What sort of outlet was this?

An outlet where they were permitted to serially rape children under the eye of the Bishop and Archbishop.

An outlet where if they were caught, they were merely moved to another parish, another school, to abuse again.

He failed to appropriately respond to the abuse, rather, forgiving the perpetrator (as priests do) and keeping them in clerical work, ready, able and bound to sin again.

He failed abjectly to protect the children.

He failed to recognize that his own inaction destroyed the trust of common man in the Church.

/...cont.

It was as if for Archbishop Little, "sexually deprived" celibate men should be granted predatory privileges over innocent defenseless children.

Archbishop Little seemed to regard the raping of a child as a tolerable aberration in a sexually deprived cleric

The Inquiry must look at the narcissistic behavior of the Catholic hierarchy.

Senior church officials are intoxicated I believe with their God given power. They believe in infallibility and are answerable to no one on Earth, the ultimate tyranny.

"Emasculated" men with no loving partner to ground them, no one to challenge them, no one to cajole them and inspire them, no child or grandchild of their own to sit on their knee, to call them a "pooh pooh" head, to bring them back to reality, to soften their hearts.

They have no child to love with sheer and pure joy and to receive that love back in spadefuls: they have never raised a child, never lost a child.

Their egos are fanned relentlessly by pseudo-religious pomp, ceremony, and regalia, the perfect outlets for unbridled narcissism.

The grandiosity, further manifest as cruel insensitivity and lack of appreciation for the raped, subjugated children.

Monsignor Penn Jones, perfumed and with the charisma and sexual prowess of a Rasputin, ensconced, indeed revered at the Cathedral of Melbourne, was left free to gratify his desires on defenseless mesmerized altar boys, my school mates.

All this under the Archbishop's nose, in the Archbishop's house, St Patrick's.

The Archbishops similarly narcissistic and charismatic and thus able to identify with Jones's aura, awestruck by it, thus the plaque at the Cathedral in his honor.

The plaque now, thankfully, taken down as a result of the efforts of the victims and their families.

Former renowned Christian Brothers educator and Principal at Parade College East Melbourne and later at St Kevin's College Toorak, Brother Frank McCarthy warned some boys in the 1960's to steer clear of Monsignor Penn Jones, the serial perpetrator of child abuse.

Sadly, Brother McCarthy did not warn all the boys, so most were left ignorant.

A number of the ignorant were raped by the monsignor, a leading and charismatic official at St Patrick's Cathedral, the leader of the altar boys, and school chaplain at Parade and a close friend, colleague and co-habitant with successive Archbishops of Melbourne.

/...cont.

The Archbishops knew.

The Christian Brothers knew.

Why didn't they act?

Most of us knew nothing of Monsignor Penn Jones' behavior for nearly 50 years.

Our school mates had been raped, but suffered in silence, some of them to their early deaths.

Many still seek answers, seek justice.

Now we all do.

An increasingly depressed Catholic community weighed down from above by the Church's elite that has lorded over them, the hierarchy to which they have diligently given so much selfless service, that community must now become actively involved in every possible way and at every possible level to ensure that the Church's shame is addressed.

Each and every Catholic, each and every citizen must not rest until justice is done, until Church leaders settle their account with society.

Some nuns regarded Jones as a saint.

Many nuns are not innocent in this whole affair.

I witnessed their behavior towards small boys, the thinly veiled sexual abuse and vilification of boys in schools run by Dominican nuns, who viciously belted boys on their bottoms as they bent over in submission in front of the whole class of boys and girls, of grade 3 and 4.

These were not delinquent but good boys, brutally punished with malicious pleasure for having learning difficulties.

Many obedient, innocent and unsuspecting pre-pubertal boys were called into a life of celibacy by domineering, pushy priests and overzealous parents.

In many communities, to have a son a priest was a great honor for the family.

The boys themselves were often not given a say.

They had been taught so much about chastity but they had no idea what celibacy meant; the word was not even in their vocabulary, far less a way of life that attracted them.

Lambs to the slaughter.

The Christian Brothers and the Nuns avoided teaching us any human biology.

/...cont.

Social sciences were not taught, the term didn't exist.

We were taught nothing about relationships, a word I cannot remember being used in childhood.

Sex was a taboo subject.

Probably for the priests, nuns and brothers too.

But sex is instinctive, primordial, and irrepressible.

Did the clerics only have their "dream time" as a natural outlet?

We knew they were unhappy.

Many were disturbed, angry and brutal people, able and keen to inflict serious pain on children for minor, often nonexistent misdemeanors, or for obvious learning difficulties only made much worse by the ever present threat of physical punishment in a hostile, unhealthy environment.

Later on the character flaws and maladjustment of Catholic clerics and officials rendered them impervious to the suffering of the children and impotent to decisively intervene in the very human tragedies of the victims and their families.

The consistent behavior of the Church leaders in this regard became overtly sociopathic and, ultimately, criminal on a "grand" scale, so grand a scale the crimes now constitute crimes against humanity.

These clerics in high office left whole generations of catholic children at risk - - a crime of negligence of monumental proportions - - by so many cowardly blinkered men in tainted robes, men who chose celibacy, not out of altruism as they should, but to avoid the lifelong challenges of parenthood - - and then to exploit the children.

Many of these clerics retreated to God- knows-where from fully developed masculinity, rejecting so many of the admirable aspects of the kaleidoscope of masculine behavior, while grotesquely expressing others.

A proportion of these were initially "sensitive males".

For generations the sensitive, intelligent boy, adolescent or young man was ostracized in Western society, moreso in countries like Australia and Ireland where blokeyness and machoism were fostered.

This is still so but to a lesser extent.

The result was that sensitive boys were often readily attracted to the priesthood, particularly when their experience and understanding of the sexuality and role of a well rounded adult male were limited or non-existent. /...cont.

Such boys were often called sissies and thus encouraged to feel somehow less than male. The growth of self esteem and the attainment of gender, sexual and social maturity were often blunted and delayed under these circumstances, leaving a gap in development where alternative ways of male life might be attractive.

Some attracted to the priesthood may well have been homosexual.

For them, religious life may have been a "safe" place to settle, particularly with so much open prejudice and lack of respect towards homosexuals outside in the community and, paradoxically, inside the Church...paradoxically "safe" that is, especially if they remained in the closet!

Sadly that very safety left them without a partner in life, a not so safe place to be, a bereft lonely place, if celibacy and solitude did not genuinely sit well with them.

They were trapped in an unhappy marriage---with the Church, no less.

The Church has been incapable of addressing these matters, matters which urgently warrant serious research by academia at many levels.

That research would have been done by now

--if only the Church had been open, honest and humble enough to seek help from the laity and from outside

--if only State authorities had moved earlier

--if only the secret sweetheart deals between the Church and the State had not been done

--if only the Church had not hidden like a coward behind its sovereignty.

It is conceivable research may show that strict lifelong religious celibacy is a more destructive practice than female circumcision.

THE LAITY.

Sadly many "good" men and "good" women in the trusting but obsequious congregations remained under the spell of the men in clerical garb, particularly those at the Archbishop's office.

They failed as citizens, as Christians, to call the Archbishops to task, to challenge their parish priests.

It was just so easy, too easy, to do nothing.

Many others in the congregations, God-fearing, feared retribution should they protest in any way.

Many others deserted the Sunday masses in droves out of disillusionment, turning away from the Church in protest, but not from Christ. /...cont.

They left behind the clergy, many of whom mistakenly, ignorantly and stupidly interpreted lack of attendance as ungodliness – or were these clergy just kidding themselves, hiding their own failure to intervene on the rampant child abuse, hiding from Christ, yet morally crushed in the cold clumsy embrace of the Cardinal?
And still other lay people and priests are battling from within the ranks for a way out of this terrible crisis of faith.

I believe the way ahead for a just humane society must be to institute a Royal Commission, a Royal Commission called by the Prime Minister and the Premiers of all Australian states.

This is an issue important to Australians.

As a nation, we must all rise above this tragedy.

The Archbishops' drawers must be emptied and all the records delivered to the Royal Commission.

All the records kept by QC O'Callaghan, Cardinal Pell's "Independent" Commissioner, must be handed over to the Royal Commission without delay for safe keeping.

The Independent Commissioner, the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Archbishops of all the archdiocese must stand down and relinquish their duties immediately.

The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Lazzarotto must endorse and ensure that all these measures are executed, and so must the Vatican.

If not, the Australian Government must require that the Nuncio return to Rome for failing to execute his responsibilities to Catholics in Australia, indeed to all Australians.

The Nuncio must not be allowed to wash his hands and in turn those of his Sovereign leader in Rome, of the tragedies inflicted on thousands of Australians.

The sovereignty of the Vatican must be challenged in the international court in The Hague over its appalling record on child abuse, its gross breaches of human rights on many fronts, including its centuries long mistreatment of women and children.

It behoves the Australian Government to be actively involved in this process

Any failure of the government of Australia to intervene would be deplorable in the eyes of all Australians.

The Vatican has been deeply involved in leading the cover up and denial of child abuse around the globe, and in providing a safe haven for the rapists of children to flourish in their crimes against humanity.

What sort of sovereign nation is the Vatican?

/...cont.

It has become renowned for dishonest leadership with no integrity and no accountability, *typical of a tyranny.*

No moral standards exist for the elite in the Vatican and for their elite disciples around the world, while in the meantime the Vatican demands blind allegiance from the laity.

What sort of sovereign nation allows its representatives around the world to turn a blind eye to the pandemic of raping of children, committed by its own agents, its own disciples?

The nation status of the Church was described in 1849 by young Italian priest Abbe Arduini as "political imposture, a religious immorality."

The Church's power over the people diminished in the last third of the nineteenth century.

Tragically though, through unholy alliances with first the fascist Mussolini and then the Nazi Hitler, the Church regained a powerful state of secular nationhood which it continues to exploit and abuse.

Child abuse and the subjugation of women and racism, (for example against the Jews,) are major manifestations of this destructive power.

The Australian Government must show genuine and relentless leadership in dealing at an international level with the recalcitrant Vatican, a sovereign nation.

The international community of nations must review the status of the Lateran Treaty of 1929, Pope Pius XI's deal with the Devil, the Fascist Dictator Mussolini.

The Vatican's status must be revised to guarantee that it will comply with international standards on human rights and the equality of men, women and children.

The Vatican must show genuine leadership and openness by engaging willingly in the complete and independent overhaul of its mistreatment of women and children- - the only way the Catholic Church can start to regain credibility.

International sanctions against the Vatican must be placed high on the agenda, unless the Vatican takes urgent steps to unreservedly co-operate in facing justice and embracing human rights for all.

I believe it is time for the Prime Minister to intervene on this matter of child abuse by the clergy and the associated cover up by the Catholic Church.

Further delays will inevitably lead to more suicides in the late survivors and their families.

I ask again, why did our leaders, our authorities, our “protectors” of our nation’s children do nothing?

/...cont.

What set of moral values do they possess?

What sort of national identity do they burden us with?

How can we profess to be proud Australians with this hanging over our heads?

The victims and the secondary victims need decisive action now.

It says a lot in this day and age that we hold many secular leaders in higher esteem than we do any of the leaders in the Catholic Church.

Personally I hold in far higher esteem the victims who have had to battle against brutal power crazed clerics and the unforgivable apathy of national and state leaders.

I am deeply saddened by the suffering they have endured, with so many dying in torment.

I deeply regret that we as a society, as a nation, have failed them for so long.

They now provide endless inspiration to us all, if only we will embrace them.

Further I remain deeply moved and feel privileged to support them in achieving a just resolution, a resolution which must include major reform in the Church and in the Church’s relationships with secular leaders of our nation.

Despite the appalling way the Church abused them, and society tried to ignore them, the victims and their families have acted with extraordinary dignity and integrity.

Christ would be proud of them.

Recently, our parish priest lamented during his sermon about the state of the Church, stating his primary school teachers had been asking him what they should tell the children about this awful behavior of his colleagues. He struggles with how to proceed on the matter, how to give the teachers leadership and answers.

We have then lay teachers, themselves mothers and fathers of catholic children, failing to tell the children they now teach of the raping of these children’s predecessors, maybe even the parents of these children, in the hands of the clerics who pay them.

Corrupt? or Christian?

The system wide neglect and abuse of children by cold calculating deception; by concealing information critical to every child’s day to day safety in the classroom, in the schools and in the sacristies. To this very day still concealed by lay teachers (not just by the teaching nuns and brothers) yes by lay catholic teachers.

It has been going on for generations, hiding the truth from the children.

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It was with mixed feelings yesterday as I watched at Sunday Mass the new first communicants, innocent and untouched, receiving the Sacrament that recognizes that they have reached the age of reason, at least according to Church teaching.

We must ensure that this generation of Catholics be given the truth about the Church's practices, all of those practices.

It behoves the Inquiry to ensure the intemperate truth is exposed, and it is available to children of all ages.

Children can handle the truth, given the chance.

There is no doubt that their safety depends on it.

For God's sake the answer is simple; stop deceiving the children!

Just give the children the truth - - - for a change.

All this, condoned by government, by the government paid and elected by us all.

We are no longer a British / Irish and Protestant / Catholic society.

We are multicultural.

We are multi colored.

We take so much pride, too much pride in what we achieve on the world stage, but as a nation, not enough in what we are.

The Catholic schools are heavily subsidized by ALL the people.

Hundreds, thousands of millions of State and Federal funding, the peoples' money.

The governments and the oppositions, the politicians did nothing to intervene on child abuse until the Baillieu Government acted.

Bracks, Brumby, Howard, Rudd, Abbott, all cringed at the compelling opportunity to confront the Cardinal, in what can only be described as cowardly obsequiousness.

Generations of Catholic children deserted by the leaders of the nation, and are left to suffer the consequences.

The inquiry must ensure that the children are given the truth.

Yes, the truth is always intemperate when the guilty, the lazy, the incompetent, the corrupt, the compromised and the cowardly are confronted with it.

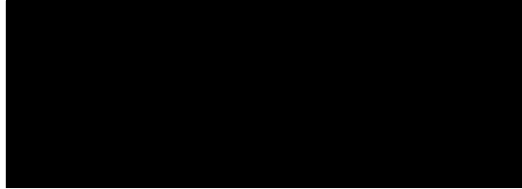
"Tunc Justus ut palma florescit." – Carbone, of the Eureka Stockade

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Justice prevails, as the truth, like the seed of the palm tree, flourishes.

An appendix of recommendations is attached.

Yours faithfully,



DR PETER LAZZARI

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following are my recommendations:

1. That the Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Dennis Hart and Australia's only Cardinal, Cardinal George Pell be required to stand down from their positions prior to the commencement of the Inquiry.
2. That all Church files relating to child abuse and its cover up be handed to the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Inquiry, for safe keeping.
3. That the Independent Commissioner of the Melbourne Response stand down immediately.
4. That three advocates for the victims be added to the Panel of Inquiry.
5. That the Church immediately withdraws any threat of action against victims and their families, and that the Church wave its veto on the right of those who have received compensation to present before the Inquiry.
6. That Cardinal Pell, Archbishop Hart and current and previous officials of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Head of the Christian Brothers make themselves available to the Inquiry, by issuing a public statement to that effect.
7. That the Victorian Government through the course of the Inquiry seek Federal support and action to withdraw the diplomatic privileges exploited by the Vatican and its successive Papal Nuncios in Australia on matters of child abuse and its cover up.
8. That the Victorian Government through the course of the Inquiry seek Federal and International support and action to review the Sovereign status of the Vatican.
9. That the negative outcomes resulting from State Aid be investigated, particularly in reference to all deals, contracts and agreements made between the Church and elected representatives of the State and of political parties.
10. That the church be required to enter into an agreement that the reporting of child abuse by clerics be mandatory.

11. That those clerics found guilty of child abuse be prohibited from involvement with children in any role under the guise of their religious organisation or any other role in society.
12. That the Church be required to defrock all clerics found guilty of child abuse, and defrock all Church officials involved in the mismanagement of that child abuse.
13. That the Inquiry seek representation with the Prime Minister to seek the establishment of a Royal Commission on clerical child abuse in Australia.

Yours faithfully,



DR PETER LAZZARI