

# Revolt on sex priest

Laurie Nowell

A LOCUM priest who was rejected by a congregation because of his history of sex with a child has been assisting at another parish.

Father Barry Robinson, who has admitted to a church inquiry to having sex with a 16-year-old youth, has been "helping out" at Our Lady Help of Christians in Eltham.

Locals are angry Father Robinson has been allowed into the parish, which has a school attached.

Last month, parishioners at Healesville revolted over plans to allow him to fill-in over Easter. "Some parents are uncomfortable with Robinson being in the parish and we have alerted the school's principal," one parishioner said.

She said Father Robinson had not been at the school, but parents still had concerns.

In 1999, Eltham priest Father Wilfred Baker was sentenced to four years' jail over 16 counts of indecent assault and one of gross indecency, involving eight boys aged 10 to 13, over a 20-year period.

A spokesman for the Mel-

bourne Archdiocese said: "Father Robinson occasionally stands in in parishes in circumstances where the resident priest may be unavailable due to other commitments, illness or vacation.

"Father Robinson does not otherwise hold any office or appointment within the Archdiocese. He has not been charged or found guilty of any criminal conduct."

In another development, the parents and a teacher of two of the children sexually abused by priests in Healesville have written to their diocesan leaders pointing out how the Catholic Church in Australia had ignored the Pope's instructions over child abuse.

Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, who said: "Anyone who is guilty of pedophilia cannot be a priest", the letter asks why two Healesville priests, fathers Daniel and Pavlou — both convicted of child sex offences — were still priests.

**Priest betrayed us, Page 98**

# Sex priest 'betrayal'

AURIE NOWELL

## VATICAN'S 50-YEAR COVER-UP

A PEDOPHILE clergyman has been sent to conduct an Easter mass in a church that has seen two priests convicted over child sexual abuse — one as recently as last year.

Parishioners at St Brigid's Parish in Healesville were outraged last month when plans for admitted child sex fiend Father Barry Robinson to carry out Easter services as a temporary replacement priest.

The visit came only 12 months after former Healesville priest Paul Pavlou was convicted of possessing child pornography and the indecent assault of a boy, 14, and given an 18-month suspended sentence.

In 2000, Father David Daniel also a one-time Healesville priest, was sentenced to six years' jail and classified as serious sexual offender over 16 counts of indecent assault, gross indecency, and indecent acts involving children.

THE Vatican has been ordering the cover up of sexual abuse in Australia and throughout the world for almost 50 years, according to a confidential church document obtained from a secret archive.

Victims groups have labelled the document "explosive" and "a guide to concealment".

A spokesman for the Melbourne-based Broken Rites victim support group said the document was an attempt to "protect the brand of the Catholic Church".

The Catholic Church issued the Latin document, en-

The Sunday Herald Sun has learned Father Robinson is one two Catholic priests found to have been the perpetrators of sexual abuse who have been appointed to a panel of supply, or fill-in, priests in Victoria.

The other is Father Graham Redfern, who is also a senior army chaplain. Both been found by the church to have abused young people under their pastoral care — yet they both are still able to conduct church services and deliver pastoral care.

Father Robinson has admitted having sex with a 16-year-old boy in Boston in the 1990s, according to US court documents. Father Redfern was found by a church investigator Peter O'Callaghan, QC, to have had sexually abused a vulnerable 18-year-old Dandenong boy who was grieving after his mother's death in the 1970s.

He had given the boy's mother the last rites and carried out her funeral service. Father Robinson was at the centre of fresh controversy last month when parishioners at St Brigid's planned a protest over his proposed visit to their Easter Vigil. An email campaign saw the new priest confronted over the visit and the event cancelled.

itled 'Crimine Solicitationes', in 1962 to all bishops, including Australia's then senior Catholic figures Cardinal Gilroy of Sydney and Melbourne's Archbishop Daniel Mannix. It bears the seal of Pope John XXIII and outlines a policy for dealing with abuse allegations in "strictest secrecy" and calls on victims to take an oath of secrecy when making a complaint to the church.

If threatens excommunication to those who speak out. A spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne declined to comment on the document.

Easter masses at the church were abandoned and locals forced to travel to Lilydale.

Parishioners said the attempt to bring Father Robinson to Healesville was "shocking" and "horrifying".

"It was incredibly shocking and disrespectful of parishioners and the whole community," a female church member said.

"Parishioners, many with children, were asked to welcome this man into their homes. It is beyond belief.

"The Archdiocese has a lot to answer for, for putting us through this after what happened with Father Pavlou.

"We have been betrayed again." A Melbourne Archdiocese spokesman said: "Father Robinson occasionally stands in in parishes in circumstances where the resident priest may be unavailable due to other commitments, illness or vacation. He does not otherwise hold any office or appointment within the Archdiocese. Father Robinson has not been charged or found guilty of any criminal conduct."

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