

Victoria Parliament Enquiry church sex abuse

My name is Sean Edmund Holohan. I am a victim of sexual abuse for 5 years at the hands of Fr Kevin O'Donnell!

In the parish of Hastings Victoria where I attended St Marys primary school in 1970, I was 10 yrs old, is where I first encountered O'Donnell. My family were practicing Catholics and we attended church regularly which is where the abuse first started once I became an altar boy.

O'Donnell got very friendly with my parents and they were only too happy to encourage me to "help out" with the jobs around the presbytery which is when he would sodomise and humiliate me by forcing his penis into me and then paying me for the "great job" I had done. This was my first ever sexual experience!

When he would kiss me I remember feeling my whole body stiffen up and I would get a sick feeling in my body. To this day I struggle to enjoy kissing my wife.

He would often hug me and I would feel his penis rubbing against me and he would become erect or hold my hand when he would pick me up for "work" and then put my hand in his lap and rub it up and down his penis. I cringe when anyone hugs me from the front!

One incident I remember.. when I was 15, O'Donnell picked me up from Dandenong train station on my way back from boarding school he started to rub my leg and then my penis then he grabbed my hand to put in his lap and that's when I opened the car door & tried to jump out of the car near Lyndhurst train station on the Dandenong/Hastings road. O'Donnell grabbed me and pulled me back in the car then pulled over. He verbally abused me then took me round the back of the HQ Holden, opened the boot & showed me his 3 guns, closed the boot and said "Don't say a word" I never did!

would pick me up to do work at his residence which resulted in him sexually abusing me in his house. He would also get me as an altar boy before Mass and force himself into me in the sacristy before church services. On other occasions picking me up from Dandenong Station from Boarding school and abusing me near Lyndhurst station. These abuses went on for 5 years and basically lost count on how many times it happened.

In 1994 another victim phoned me who was abused by O'Donnell at the same time, we then decided to go to the Police and do a statement, at

this stage I only believed me and other person were abused by him. By the time it got to court I found out his first victim was from 1948 and had continued all his priestly life. The perpetrator got 6 years in jail. Personally not nearly enough, should have died in jail. When he did die he had a priest funeral to my surprise because I thought he was stripped of his priesthood, so much the Melbourne diocese was concerned about his victims.

After the court case we decided to take the church to civil court for compensation of the abuse. Basically there was no organization to sue as there is no such organization called the Catholic church [REDACTED]

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After spending \$12,000 on solicitors and getting nowhere, the church decided to have its own inhouse panel and counseling support. The reason I think was too many civil claims were going to court and had to counteract these allegations and make them look like a caring organization.

I had 2 counselling sessions just to make sure I was a victim. Went to this panel which was horrible and decided I was worth \$27,000 for all the abuse I went through, what a joke. This was a kangaroo court with out no reproach whatsoever. The monies I got paid for the solicitors who I owed monies and travel to and from Perth for court cases in Melbourne. What I went through has never left me and feel very hard done by their system.

Pastoral care what a joke. No support interstate, no support for counseling although I was told go see the local priest for religious lessons, yeah right since I do not step inside a church ever that was great counselling

This horror has never gone away and the effects on family life due to this abuse has never been fair on my partner. I have sexual issues. Hugging and closeness and kissing I absolutely hate. I wish it never happened to me but I have to live with it over my head every day till I die.

Thankyou for the opportunity to be able to help the enquiry. I would like to speak publically at commission as it is much easier to put words than write about it.

Best Regards

Sean Holohan
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