

Neuer Untersuchungsbericht: Dubliner Erzbischöfe vertuschten Kindesmissbrauch katholischer Priester

Der Erzbischof von Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, entschuldigte sich bei den Opfern. "Ich biete jedem einzelnen Überlebenden meine Entschuldigung, mein Bedauern und meine Scham an", sagte er, nachdem ein neuer Bericht, für dessen Zustandekommen er sämtliche Archive geöffnet hatte, Anschuldigungen gegen 46 Priester erhob, deren Missbrauch von Kindern durch vier irische Erzbischöfe gedeckt und vertuscht wurde. "Die Ergebnisse sind für uns alle schockierend."

Kindesmissbrauch an der Tagesordnung



Der am 25. November vorgelegte Untersuchungsbericht über die Praxis der Kindesmisshandlung durch katholische Priester der Erzdiözese Dublin ("Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin") umfasst den Zeitraum von 1975 bis 2004. Erst vor einem halben Jahr hatte der Ryan-Bericht über Kindesmissbrauch in Einrichtungen der katholischen Kirche in Irland erschütternde Tatbestände bestätigt.

Auch in der Erzdiözese Dublin, der größten des Landes, war offenbar die Misshandlung von Kindern an der Tagesordnung. Und dies war durchaus bekannt. Aber nicht weniger als vier Erzbischöfe hielten jahrzehntelang ihre schützende Hand über die priesterlichen Verbrechen. Zwischen 1975 und 2004 seien allen amtierenden Erzbischöfen Missbrauchsvorwürfe bekannt gewesen, erklärte die von der Regierung vor drei Jahren eingesetzte Untersuchungskommission unter dem Vorsitz der Juristin Yvonne Murphy.

Misshandlungen im Zeichen des Kreuzes

Der Erzdiözese sei es beim Umgang mit den Fällen vorrangig um Geheimhaltung gegangen und darum, einen Skandal zu verhindern und den Ruf der Kirche zu schützen. "Alle anderen Erwägungen, darunter das Wohl von Kindern und Gerechtigkeit für Opfer, wurden diesen Prioritäten untergeordnet." Wenn sich Kinder beklagten, hätten Kirchenvertreter die Taten oft geleugnet und vertuscht. "Verdächtigungen wurde nur selten nachgegangen", heißt es.

Keiner der Erzbischöfe – John Charles McQuaid, der 1973 starb, Dermot Ryan, der 1984 starb, Kevin McNamara, der 1987 starb, und der Ruhestandler Kardinal Desmond Connell – hätte Informationen über ihm bekannte straffällig gewordene Priester an die Polizei weitergegeben. Erst 1995 seien die ersten Beschwerden von der Kirche bei der Polizei gelandet.



Weder Knaben noch Mädchen waren sicher, Hunderte von ihnen wurden zu Opfern sexueller Belästigung im Beichtstuhl, Opfer von Misshandlungen unter Verwendung des Kruzifixes und erzwungenen sexuellen Handlungen unter Missbrauch des priesterlichen Vertrauensverhältnisses. Ein Priester räumt dem Bericht zufolge ein, allein mehr als 100 Kinder missbraucht zu haben. Ein anderer gestand, sich über 25 Jahre hinweg jede zweite Woche an Minderjährigen vergangen zu haben. Nach polizeilichen Angaben sind derzeit 36 Strafverfahren gegen Priester anhängig. Viele sind aber längst gestorben, ohne dass sie sich je vor Gericht zu verantworten gehabt hätten.

'Wut und Ekel'

Aber nicht nur die Kirchenleitung blieb lange passiv, auch der Staat schaute weg. Der große Einfluss der katholischen Kirche auf der Insel habe verhindert, so der Untersuchungsbericht, dass der Missbrauch ans Tageslicht gekommen sei. Staatliche Behörden und vor allem die Polizei hätten eine zu vertraute Beziehung zur Kirche gehabt. Verantwortliche bei der Polizei hätten Priester als außerhalb ihres Bereichs gesehen, und Polizisten hätten Beschwerden eher an die Kirche, als an ihre Dienststelle weiter geleitet.

Der Report sei eine "schwierige und verstörende" Lektüre, so Police Commissioner Fachtá Murphy, der sich für das Versagen der irischen Polizei beim Schutz der Kinder vor dem Missbrauch des Klerus entschuldigte.

Er habe die Enthüllungen mit einem "wachsenden Gefühl des Ekels und der Wut" gelesen, sagte Justizminister Dermot Ahern bei der Vorstellung des Berichts: "Die Erzdiözese hat sich absolut abstoßend verhalten. Sie hat sich nur um ihre eigenen Interessen gekümmert, nie um die Opfer.". Die irische Regierung reagierte mit einer sofortigen Entschuldigung. Ungeachtet der historischen und gesellschaftlichen Gründe, entschuldige sie sich für das

Versagen staatlicher Stellen, Kinder in der Obhut der Kirche zu schützen, erklärte die Regierung. So etwas dürfe nie wieder passieren. "Zu lange haben wir alle die Kirche als eine göttliche Institution gesehen", meinte die *Irish Times* in einem Kommentar.

Kirche will Entschädigung zahlen

Die Erzdiözese Dublin will nun 20 Mio. Entschädigung an Opfer und Hinterbliebene zahlen. Noch tiefer in die Tasche greifen die umstrittenen Christian Brothers: Die im Ryan-Bericht schwer angegriffene Bruderschaft hat ihren Opfern 161 Mio. Euro angeboten. Die Christlichen Brüder haben auch vor, Grundbesitz an Schulen abzutreten. Zugleich räumten sie in einer Stellungnahme ein: "Nichts, was wir sagen oder tun, kann ungeschehen machen, was geschehen ist."

Amnesty international forderte die Regierung und das Parlament auf, die Rechte der Kinder in der Verfassung festzuschreiben. Es sei Zeit für ein Referendum, das den Weg für Gesetzesinitiativen ebnen könne. Dieser Report schockiere, so Amnesty-Direktor Colm O'Gorman, trotz all der Enthüllungen, die ihm vorhergegangen seien. "Wenn der Staat bei der Verteidigung der Rechte der Kinder versagt und die Verantwortung für ihre Pflege abtritt", fügte er hinzu, "dann sind all zu oft Missbrauch und Ausbeutung das Ergebnis."

Der gesamte Report – keine erbauliche, auf Advent einstimmende Lektüre – ist im Web zugänglich:
www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PB09000504

Eberhart Bort

Die Irish Times begann am 28.11.2009 in den unten aufgeführten Artikeln über das Thema zu berichten.

Alles in dieser Ausgabe vom 28.11.2009 (und nachfolgende):

- 0** * All dioceses should be looked at - campaigner
- 1** * Pressure mounts on bishops named in abuse report to resign | 28/11/2009
- 2** * Archdiocese financially helping many of report's abusive priests
- 3** * Bishops should resign, says Kenny
- 4** * 'Church has lost all moral authority'
- 5** * 'We were baring our souls to them in confession. I am very angry about it'
- 6** * Report should not be extended - bishop
- 7** * 'Some want revenge, others want counselling, but most just want to tell their stories'
- 8** 2.12.: Archbishop Martin not satisfied with response of some bishops

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

0 All dioceses should be looked at - campaigner

MARIE O'HALLORAN

INVESTIGATION: THE REMIT of the Commission of Investigation into the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin should now be extended to every other diocese in the country, a victim of abuse says.

Marie Collins, who campaigned for the investigation into the Dublin archdiocese, also called for the State's guidelines on child protection to be made mandatory.

Highlighting the need for widening the investigation, Ms Collins said: "We know that the policy at leadership level was to cover up, and there is no reason to believe it was any different in the 24 other dioceses."

She said Dublin and Ferns had been investigated and victims in remaining dioceses "deserve justice and for their dioceses to be investigated. If there are men in leadership positions with the same attitude as in Dublin, then they shouldn't be there."

Ms Collins warned that the State “must properly investigate each diocese. The HSE audit is just a questionnaire. It can’t be called an audit.” The dioceses would fill in the questionnaire, but she questioned what validity those responses could be given, in the wake of what had happened in Dublin and Ferns.

Ms Collins said the guidelines on child protection had been around a long time, but should be made mandatory. Doing so “gives them the force of law for implementation. Currently, they’re there but they can be ignored.”

A youth organisation has also called for legislative implementation of recommendations on “soft information”. Youth Work Ireland has warned that many people who have abused but have not been convicted could still work with children because of the failure to introduce recommended legislation.

Michael McLoughlin of Youth Work Ireland said the legislation was at the bottom of the Government’s legislative agenda.

Soft information refers to cases which involve substantive allegations, but fall short of a conviction. It could include an individual having been dismissed from a job for abuse but not charged, or someone acquitted but about whom there are major concerns.

Mr McLoughlin said it was a “difficult area”, but the legislation existed in other countries including Britain. “The Pre-Employment Consultancy Service (PECS) also operates in Northern Ireland, which makes such legislation all the more important here.”

There were safeguards and the area was strictly regulated. Individuals would be on a list available to a restricted number of parties.

Failure to introduce this legislation was a “critical weakness in the current child protection regime overseen by the State”, Mr McLoughlin said.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259620411.html?digest=1>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

1 Pressure mounts on bishops named in abuse report to resign

PATSY McGARRY and HARRY McGEE

PRESSURE ON the five bishops who still hold office and whose handling of clerical child sex abuse was addressed by the Dublin diocesan report increased throughout yesterday.

Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny said all bishops implicated in the report should resign immediately. He said those who were in positions of authority in Dublin archdiocese, and who knew what was going on, should no longer continue in such positions.

“This is another appalling litany of shame. Apologies here are not good enough,” he said.

Former Labour Party leader Pat Rabbitte said that any bishop “directly implicated” in the Dublin report “should have no role as a school patron”.

Meanwhile, Garda Commissioner Fachtina Murphy has ordered Assistant Commissioner John O’Mahoney to commence an investigation into the findings of the report.

The relevant bishops are the Bishop of Limerick, Donal Murray, whose handling of a particular allegation was described as “inexcusable” in the report; Bishop Jim Moriarty of Kildare Leighlin diocese; Bishop Martin Drennan of Galway diocese; and the two Dublin auxiliary bishops, Bishop Ray Field and Bishop Éamonn Walsh.

Speaking at foundation day ceremonies at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital in Crumlin yesterday, the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, said the story of how the sexual abuse of children was managed in the archdiocese, as shown in the report, “was inexcusable”.

He noted that “regrettably this hospital was also the scene of abuse by at least two chaplains, who exploited their role of representing the care of Jesus for the children at their most vulnerable. Information about that abuse was inexcusably not shared with the hospital authorities, even though the archbishop of the time was also the chairman of the board.”

He pointed out that the Dublin report “drew attention to the need “to clarify exactly what is the role of the HSE in relation to non-familial abusers”.

Yet, he continued, “in the official Government statement yesterday [Thursday] the only reply to such a vital question, some four years after the Ferns report, was to say that it requires ‘further consultation’.”

Responding to the Dublin diocesan report, the Archbishop of Tuam Michael Neary said that “everyone is deeply disgusted and disillusioned by the awfulness of the abuse, the vulnerability of the victims and the betrayal of the sacred trust placed in those who carried out this abuse”.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/frontpage/2009/1128/1224259622606.html?via=rel>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

2 Archdiocese financially helping many of report's abusive priests

CARL O'BRIEN Chief Reporter

Of the 46 priests investigated, some remain within their orders under strict conditions, some have left Ireland and others have disappeared.

OF THE 46 priests investigated by the commission, some are awaiting trial, others are members of the laity and at least one has absconded. The commissions report shows that: Fourteen are dead; Twenty of the priests are out of ministry; 11 of these are financially supported by the archdiocese and living under restrictions; Nine are laicised; Four are living within their religious orders under restrictions; Two are living within their orders without restrictions; One priest belongs to a UK diocese and his whereabouts are unknown.

Fr X*

Now laicised, he is based in California. He is subject to at least 21 complaints regarding child sex abuse in Ireland. Most refer to when he served as a priest in the Pro-Cathedral during the 1970s and Clogher Road parish in Crumlin in the early 1980s.

He had spent much of the intervening period in the US, attending therapeutic courses and occasionally ministering in New Mexico, Santa Rosa or Sacramento. Following growing concern over his abusive tendencies, he was laicised in 1988. He has returned to Ireland for visits on a number of occasions, the most recent of which was in 1998.

Fr Edmondus*

Now 78 years old, he remains a priest but is prohibited from exercising ministry and is not allowed to wear clerical garb. He lives in Dublin.

He committed a number of sexual assaults on young patients while chaplain to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children between the late 1950s and early 1960s. He also assaulted a nine year old while based in Wicklow.

Fr Ivan Payne

He has been laicised and is understood to live outside Ireland, possibly in the UK. A convicted serial child sex abuser, the commission is aware of a total of 31 people who have made allegations of sexual abuse against him. He was convicted of indecent assault in respect of 10 victims and has served a prison sentence. After his release from prison, he moved to the UK in 2003.

Fr Patrick Maguire

He remains a member of the Society of St Columban and lives in secure accommodation under strict conditions. He is not allowed to leave the house unaccompanied or speak to anyone under the age of 20.

A serial child sex abuser, he admitted at one point that he abused about 100 victims over a period of 20 years. He has served prison sentences in the UK and Ireland for abuse. He was suspended from the clerical state in 2000.

Fr Ionannes*

Now 81 years of age, he has pleaded guilty to a number of charges of sexual assault and is awaiting sentencing. He has not been in ministry since 1993.

The commission is aware of three complaints of child sexual abuse and one of physical abuse between the 1960s and 1980s. He has admitted to sexually abusing three others, but it is likely there are more victims.

Fr Harry Moore

He was convicted of two counts of buggery and indecent assault while a curate in the Bayside area of Dublin. He received a 10-year suspended sentence - on the grounds of poor health, old age and on condition that he continues to attend the Granada Institute. He has retired as a priest and has agreed not to "exercise any public sacramental ministry within churches and oratories".

Fr John Kinsella

He disappeared on release from prison in 2001 after serving just over two years in prison for sexual assault. He did not contact his own bishop and his diocese in the UK said they had no address for him. He is on the sex offenders' register in Ireland.

Fr William Carney

One of the most serious sexual abusers, he left Ireland in the 1990s and was known to be living in Scotland. His current whereabouts are unknown. He was suspended from ministry in the early 1990s and was laicised in 1992. He worked as a taxi driver for a time in Ireland and, by coincidence, one of his alleged victims inadvertently got into his cab.

Fr Thomas Naughton

Today, he lives under the strict supervision of the Kiltegan Fathers in the Dublin archdiocese. More than 20 named people have made complaints against him and number of civil claims have been settled with complainants.

Fr Francis McCarthy

Now laicised, he received a suspended sentence in 1997 for sexually assaulting a young boy from an orphanage and another from Dunlavin. After his sentence, he sought permission to resume saying Mass. After a number of administrative jobs with the archdiocese, he became laicised in 2004.

* Pseudonyms used by the commission of investigation for legal reasons

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259619939.html?via=rel>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

3 Bishops should resign, says Kenny

HARRY McGEE and DEAGLÁN de BRÉADÚN

POLITICAL REACTION: FINE GAEL leader Enda Kenny has said that all bishops implicated in the Dublin diocesan report should resign immediately.

Mr Kenny said those who were in positions of authority in Dublin archdiocese, and knew what was going on, should no longer continue in such positions. "This is another appalling litany of shame. Apologies here are not good enough," he said. "This is a case where men protected guilty men. This is where those people in authority and leadership knew what was going on," Mr Kenny added.

The call for resignations came as the Labour Party said that any of the bishops implicated in the report should no longer be involved in education (bishops assume responsibility for the Catholic faith schools in their dioceses).

Mr Kenny, who was speaking at a Fine Gael event in Dublin yesterday afternoon, would not be drawn into naming any specific bishops, serving or retired. When asked about his views on the status of Cardinal Desmond Connell, he responded in a general way without naming Dr Connell or any other bishop.

A spokesman for Mr Kenny later said: "Enda Kenny was referring to those bishops who were knowingly involved in moving around paedophile priests and it is these bishops that should resign immediately."

While not calling for any specific resignations, he had expressed concern that the cover-up of abuse had continued into the 1990s, the spokesman said. "From the point of view of personal leadership and integrity . . . those who were in those positions, and who are still in position, should not continue in those positions," he added.

Former Labour Party leader Pat Rabbitte said that the question of whether bishops implicated in the Murphy report should resign or not was a matter for the Catholic Church.

However, he said that they should no longer have any role in education. "Whether a bishop should remain as a patron of a school or otherwise continue in the management or supervision of education or health provision for children is a matter for the State," Mr Rabbitte said.

"Therefore, where a bishop has been directly implicated in the Murphy report, he should have no role as a school patron," he added.

Asked if some members of the clergy who were criticised in the Murphy report should consider resigning from their positions, Minister for the Environment John Gormley said: "Those are matters for the members of the clergy; and I try not to involve myself in clerical matters but certainly there are questions to be answered and it is a matter for those individuals.

"They have to examine their consciences, if I can use that phrase, but the revelations are truly shocking and in light of those revelations they have to look at the moral issues."

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259619987.html>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

4 'Church has lost all moral authority'

GEORGE JACKSON

PRIEST'S VIEW: A PROMINENT priest in the diocese of Derry has said the Catholic Church in Ireland no longer had any standing, credibility or moral authority following the disclosures in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Fr Michael Canny, spokesman for the Derry Diocese, said he would probably spend the rest of his life as a priest trying to rebuild trust and confidence in the Catholic Church as a result of the inquiry's finding that the church routinely covered up clerical sex abuse of children.

Describing the abuse as depraved and incomprehensible, he said the reputation of the Catholic Church was "in tatters", and said people were rightly angry.

"There is no good in saying other than the truth. The church at this state has no credibility, no standing and no moral authority. The issue is now one of trust, and that is why it will take the rest of my lifetime as a priest to build up that trust again, because the trust and confidence in the church has been broken on a fundamental level.

"I must admit I am angry at the way the abuse was handled. I feel betrayed and let down to a terrible extreme," he continued.

Bishop Seamus Hegarty of Derry said allegations of child sex abuse have been made against 17 priests in his diocese, but no proceedings were pending against them. He said all the allegations have been reported to the relevant authorities on both sides of the Border.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259619955.html>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

5 'We were baring our souls to them in confession. I am very angry about it'

FIONA GARTLAND

People attending Mass yesterday expressed fury at the commission's findings. PRAYERS WERE said for the victims of child sexual abuse at the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin yesterday. Priests asked Mass-goers to pray for God's blessing for all those who were hurt by priests of the diocese and especially those whose wounds were re-opened by the report of the Commission of Investigation into the Archdiocese of Dublin. A large congregation attended lunchtime Mass at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on Marlborough Street, one of a number of services at which prayers for victims were said.

One of the priests who was identified in the report but, for legal reasons, couldn't be named had been based at the Pro-Cathedral in the 1970s.

Outside parishioners spoke of their disappointment, sadness and anger. Mass-goer Vincent Tierney said he was stunned by what had happened. "I can't put it into words. There is good and bad in all of society; we are all sinners, but those men were professionals, they had seven years' training in college. If they showed any slight degree of anything they should have been taken out of it. I can't understand how they got that far."

Phil Rodgers said she felt very sad when she heard the news. "Of course we are all human. But I think now people will be more aware of what's happening with the children."

There was also some sympathy for ordinary priests. "I feel very sorry for all the wonderful priests. It's hard to believe it could have happened."

Joseph Clarke, who was himself abused as a child though not by a priest, said if the report had not come out the abuse would have continued. "It damaged me inside and mentally, I turned to drugs and drink because of it. I was in and out of prison. We have to find a way to forgive. We have to forgive, but we never forget."

George Crowther said he had known one of the abusers when he worked in the East Wall area of Dublin. "He was a lovely man, very quiet. I couldn't believe it when I heard what he'd done. It was a dreadful business." Mr Crowther said he blamed the four archbishops criticised by the report, as well as former auxiliary bishop James Kavanagh.

Some children of Donnycarney parish, on Dublin's north side, were victims of abuser Fr Thomas Naughton and a second abuser who has not yet been named.

Mass there was quiet yesterday morning, with the congregation chiefly made up of retired people. Though willing to talk, they were reluctant to be identified.

One woman, who was 54 years in the parish, said it was hard to believe the priests did what they did and then said Mass. "We were baring our souls to them in confession. I'm angry about it and disappointed too. We put them on a pedestal, the priests, they had the grace. If it was a layman I don't think I'd be so angry."

A man said he felt anger and disgust when he heard the news, "not only at the priests". "Bishop Murray down in Limerick is still in denial, that's the message I'm getting," he said.

A woman in her 70s was angry about the control the church had over married life. "When I think of when you were newly married and they told you about the safe period, you were terrified. It affected your happiness and your marriage when you were young. And all the time that was happening behind the scenes. It would make you sick."

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259619969.html>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

6 Report should not be extended - bishop

JASON MICHAEL

INQUIRY: AUXILIARY BISHOP of Dublin Eamonn Walsh has said he does not believe the Dublin diocesan inquiry into child abuse should be extended to the rest of the State.

Bishop Walsh said it was his view the Dublin inquiry was a sample, showing the same pattern as in the previous Ferns inquiry.

"I would much prefer that we implemented the recommendations and put in place civil and legislative structures to live up to what we have found. But we could spend the next 15 years going around the country when we'd be far better using our time, energy and money in consolidating our church-protection services, our school-protection services and all of the legislation that will enable it." Speaking on RTÉ Radio's Morning Ireland, Bishop Walsh said the culture of "don't ask, don't tell" and fear of scandal having primacy over the rights of children within the Catholic Church was "dead and gone". He said one of the biggest faults of the church structure was there was not proper communication. "Everybody was in their own little cocoon, and if they had some information . . . they kept it to themselves."

He denied senior clergy involved in the abuse cover-up would be left in place. "Anyone . . . found not up to the job of protecting children, then that person should go, and it's up to each individual to examine their conscience and reflect very clearly, and discuss it with their own people. Because each diocese is a unit, and if the people feel their bishop or senior person is not able to protect children properly, then that person should not be in the job."

He said it was "most regrettable" the Vatican did not respond to requests for documentation relating to the handling to child abuse allegations. "I wouldn't attempt to defend it, it's from another era. It's from the diplomatic corps era." When it was pointed out this lack of response took place in 2006 and 2007, the bishop said the Vatican "mentality" had changed.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259619948.html>

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 28, 2009

7 **'Some want revenge, others want counselling, but most just want to tell their stories'**

JAMIE SMYTH

Helpline counsellors were up to 10 times busier than usual yesterday in the wake of the report's publication

GUILT, ANGER, frustration, mistrust and desperation were just a few of the emotions that helpline counsellors encountered as they responded to a flood of calls from victims of sex abuse.

At the One in Four victim support group office in Dublin, receptionist Caitriona Behan said the charity had handled about 200 calls on its helpline following publication of the commission's report. "Many of the people calling are really angry and asking how this could have happened. Some want revenge, others want counselling, but most want to tell their stories, often for the first time," she said.

One caller said her brother had phoned her from Britain late on Thursday to tell her for the first time that he had been abused by a priest in his childhood. Some callers rang wanting to know if the priest that had abused them was alive or dead. There were also calls from the public wanting to know if they could help.

"One man rang from his car on the way to work this morning wanting to know how to volunteer or if there was anything he could do to help," said Ms Behan. "Some people are very sad when they phone in to the helpline and there can be long pauses, while others can be hysterical," said Ms Behan, who directs the calls to psychotherapists or advocacy specialists depending on the needs of the caller.

One in Four is one of several organisations providing a helpline service for victims of sex abuse following publication of the report on the Catholic archdiocese of Dublin. It has trained counsellors manning the phones to offer support for victims of abuse. But it also employs specialists to provide advice on child protection and to help victims report sex abuse to the Garda and pursue civil cases.

"A lot of callers that have taken legal proceedings are telling us about their feelings of mistrust following publication of this report. They are worried things haven't been impartial," said Julie Brown, advocacy officer at One in Four.

Many callers hold unrealistic expectations that the report can bring a sudden conclusion to their own legal proceedings.

"People feel they're vindicated now and wonder why they still have to fight cases," said Ms Brown, who expects some first-time callers to make complaints. One in Four can arrange for the Garda to take statements at its offices in Dublin to relieve some of the stress for victims of sex abuse.

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre helpline had received 250 calls to its helpline by 5.30pm yesterday.

"It is absolutely phenomenal as we normally get on average about 25 calls per day. Most of these are first-time callers, many with harrowing experiences," said Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, chief executive of the Dublin Rape Crisis centre. She said most of the callers to the helpline were young men and many felt guilty because they did not report the abuse, which could have allowed perpetrators to continue abusing.

"This type of crime often creates feelings of guilt in the victim, which are, of course, completely ridiculous," said Ms O'Malley-Dunlop.

She said some of the helpline calls were made by parents who were distraught because they had not believed their children when they reported abuse to them.

The HSE National Counselling Service and Faoiseamh, a counselling service funded by the Conference of Religious in Ireland and a number of Catholic dioceses, also reported a deluge of calls.

"We have seen a threefold increase in the number of calls since Monday when the first newspaper reports about the report were printed," says Michael Lyons, general manager of Faoiseamh. "The vast majority of calls are from people that have never spoken about their experience of abuse before."

Most of the helplines will operate around-the-clock services throughout the weekend, said

One in Four executive director Maeve Lewis. "It is important people know that services like this exist and when they get the right support they can live happy lives. There is hope for these people."

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1128/1224259620382.html>

The Irish Times - Wednesday, December 2, 2009

8 Archbishop Martin not satisfied with response of some bishops

PATSY McGARRY and HARRY McGEE

THE ARCHBISHOP of Dublin Diarmuid Martin said last night he was writing to the Bishop of Limerick Donal Murray and all other auxiliary bishops who served in Dublin and who are named in the Dublin diocesan report.

Dr Martin said he was “not satisfied” with some of their responses so far. He pointed out that those bishops named in the report, but no longer serving in the Dublin archdiocese, could not tailor their responses to people in their current dioceses. What they did and did not do failed people in Dublin and they owe them a response, he said.

He hoped “that they will clarify their positions and respond appropriately.” The archbishop was speaking on RTÉ One’s Prime Time programme last night.

Earlier yesterday, responding to a question from The Irish Times as to whether they believed Bishop Murray should resign, Ireland’s three other Catholic Archbishops said he “has asked for the guidance of his priests and people as to whether his continuance as bishop would be a help or a hindrance to the diocese and he has stated that he will respond accordingly”.

The Catholic primate and Archbishop of Armagh Cardinal Séan Brady, the Archbishop of Cashel Dermot Clifford and the Archbishop of Tuam Michael Neary continued in their joint response that “it is important therefore that he [Bishop Murray] be given time and space for this consultation process”.

Archbishop Martin said he was not the leader of the Church in Ireland. “Only two bishops lifted the phone [to him in recent days] and asked ‘are you ok?’,” he said.

There was “a need for strong leadership, Cardinal Brady and I are agreed on that,” he said. “I want answers that can stand up. This we have to see and I will have no difficulty in showing the answers I get.”

“If I am unhappy with answers . . . I don’t want to be sitting at meetings with people who have not responded to a very serious situation. . . Everyone should stand up and take responsibility for what they did,” he said.

In the Dáil yesterday, during a debate on the Dublin report, Taoiseach Brian Cowen described the failure of Church authorities to put children first and act decisively against priests who sexually abused children as “immoral, shameful and scandalous”.

But, under questioning from Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny, he said it was a matter for the Church authorities and not for the State to deal with bishops implicated in the report.

The Taoiseach also defended the Vatican’s dealings with the Dublin Commission. He contended that the Holy See had acted in good faith by insisting that, as the Commission was a body set up by Government, all communications to the Vatican State should have been routed through diplomatic channels in accordance with international law and customs. “It is not unreasonable to assume the Holy See was open to responding to a further approach through formal diplomatic channels,” he said.

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