

**SPECIAL INVESTIGATION**

## BISHOP CASEY WAS A 'SEXUAL PREDATOR'

A devastating judgment from former head of the Church's safeguarding body

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



# BIDEN OUT... KAMALA IN?

■ **US president quits race and endorses his divisive deputy**

■ **The Clintons back Harris but Obama fails to give his support**

■ **Senior Republicans demand Biden leaves White House NOW**

**DEMOCRATS** were last night rushing to crown Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's successor after he dramatically ended his re-election campaign.

Bill and Hillary Clinton led the calls for the US vice president to become the Democratic presidential candidate following Mr Biden's much-anticipated announcement.

Top Democrats circulated a letter saying Ms Harris was the 'strongest candidate' as the Clintons urged

From **Daniel Bates** in New York

the party to 'fight with everything we've got to elect her'.

Earlier, Mr Biden said it was 'in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down' and not take on Donald Trump in November.

Mr Biden, 81, the oldest US president in history, endorsed Ms Harris as his replacement and called on his party to 'come together and beat Trump'.

Barack Obama said Mr Biden was a 'patriot of the highest order', but he stopped short of backing Ms Harris. The former president said only that he

**Turn to Page 2**



Standing down: US president Joe Biden with Kamala Harris

# HE HAD NO FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT



by Anne Sheridan

DISGRACED Bishop Eamonn Casey was a 'sexual predator' and an 'offender,' the former head of the Church's child safeguarding board has said.

In a major documentary in association with the Irish Mail on Sunday to be aired tonight on RTE One, it will also be revealed that Dr Casey was accused of sexually abusing a child during his time as Bishop of Galway in the 1980s.

For the first time, complaints received by the Church also show that he allegedly had sexual relationships with a number of adult women in the 1960s – a decade before he fathered a son, Peter, with his distant American cousin Annie Murphy in 1974.

The Galway Diocese has said that these relationships with adult women, which were reported

**'The report was entirely credible'**

to them in 2011 and date back to the 1960s, were relationships where Bishop Casey 'abused their trust'. He was also accused of making an unwanted sexual advance to another woman in Limerick, which was rejected, Church records show.

By the time of his death in 2017 members of the Catholic Church knew of all eight allegations against children and women – but nonetheless a decision was taken by the Galway Diocese to inter him in the Bishops' Crypt within Galway Cathedral. The Galway Diocese has also confirmed they had more allegations on him in their files than it previously disclosed. It told the Irish Mail on Sunday in 2019 it had one allegation on file. But it later admitted it had five allegations of child sexual abuse on file.

The five allegations of child sexual abuse were reported in every Irish diocese he served – Limerick, Kerry and Galway – and took place from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Among those five complaints is one by Bishop Casey's niece Patricia Donovan, from Limerick, who claims that she was raped and sexually assaulted by him from the age of five in 1967 for more than a decade. She reported her claims in 2005 but Bishop Casey was never charged or convicted for any sexual offence.

The Irish Mail on Sunday revealed yesterday that the Vatican banned Bishop Casey from public ministry for life in 2007 after it received a number of allegations against him. The ban on his ministry was placed on him before 2006, the Vatican said, and it was re-iterated in 2007. It remained in place until the day he died on March 13, 2017, but it was

## Investigation into allegations of abuse by Bishop Casey to be aired on RTE tonight



Victim: Patricia Donovan, right, and Bishop Casey in 1974, left

**I WAS ABUSED BY MY UNCLE BISHOP CASEY**  
Niece says she was raped as a child. MoS investigation reveals that allegations by two more women have been settled. **EXCLUSIVE**



**BISHOP CASEY ACCUSED BY FOUR WOMEN**

Exclusive: MoS investigation into Bishop Casey allegations

never communicated to the public during his lifetime.

Ian Elliott, the former head of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Irish Catholic Church, who has direct knowledge of Ms Donovan's complaint, told tonight's programme: 'I found the report, the story that Patricia had shared, to be entirely credible. I felt that she was relating to me

**'He had no fear of being caught'**

what she had experienced and that made me even more determined to ensure that the restrictions [on his ministry] were adhered to.'

Asked for his view now of Bishop Casey, he said: 'That he was an offender, a sexual predator.'

He added: 'The fact of the matter is that individuals have come forward and spoken about numerous sexual activities, some consensual, others not. Many involved very young people.

'That is wrong and there is no

justification for that and it should have been stopped. Those that have been distressed and hurt should be helped and supported by the Church. That is a major priority.'

The Limerick Diocese, which paid over €100,000 in a settlement to one of Bishop Casey's accusers who took a case in the High Court in 2016 for damages for alleged sexual abuse, issued a statement on behalf of the current Bishop, Dr Brendan Leahy. Bishop Leahy, who has access to all documents relating to complaints made in his diocese, said: 'I express deep sorrow and regret to anyone who has been wounded by clerical abuse, including the people referred to in this documentary. They deserve our respect, belief and support. Without commenting on any specific allegation, I have no reason to disbelieve any of the allegations made.'

The MoS also revealed yesterday that the very first known complaint of abuse made against Bishop Casey in 2001 went missing after it was received by its

## Bishop asks victims to come forward

By Anne Sheridan

THE Bishop of Limerick has urged any clerical child sexual abuse survivors to come forward, as a major new documentary on disgraced Bishop Eamonn Casey airs tonight.

The programme, Bishop Casey's Buried Secrets, which followed a lengthy investigation by both RTE and the Irish Mail on Sunday, revealed that five allegations of child sexual abuse were made against him over four decades.

In addition, he had multiple sexual relations with adult women, which the Galway Diocese described as an 'abuse of trust'.

In a statement to RTE, the Bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, said: 'Sexual abuse by any person is a heinous act.'

'On behalf of the Diocese of Limerick, I express deep sorrow and regret to anyone who has been wounded by clerical abuse, including the people referred to in this documentary.'

'I am also deeply troubled and perplexed by the thought ministers of the Church who were meant to be symbols of love, care

and compassion, abused. It is hard to understand how they reconciled their shepherding ministry with horrible abusive behaviour. It is disturbing to realise that compounding that abuse were the systemic failures that meant they got away with it.'

Bishop Leahy, who has seen all allegations made against Bishop Casey within his own diocese, also met one of the women who alleged child sexual abuse.

This woman proceeded with a High Court case for personal injuries against Bishop Casey and the Diocese of Limerick in 2016, and received a settlement of more than €100,000 in 2017.

The woman, who is entitled to anonymity, also signed a confidentiality clause. Limerick Diocese said they did not impose that clause and nor is it their policy to impose such agreements.

Asked specifically by RTE about the women who made allegations against Bishop Casey, Bishop Leahy said: 'Without commenting

on any specific allegation, I have no reason to disbelieve any of the allegations made. I know from my experience of having met people who have been abused, how difficult it is for people to come forward, so they deserve our respect, belief and support.'

'Generally, every time I meet a person who has been abused or hear or read about such cases, there are a range of emotions I am struck by and that stay with me. Immediately, it's the pain and the betrayal of their trust that is so evident and desperately sad. I am also struck by the fact that they have had to live with this for, in many cases, most of their lives.'

'I would also ask anyone who has been abused to come forward, first and foremost, to the statutory authorities and, if desired, to the diocese. I am willing to meet any person at any time.'

The Galway Diocese said that the Bishop encourages any person who is affected by the material about Bishop Casey in the programme to come forward to the statutory authorities.

AFTER exhaustive efforts by both the Irish Mail on Sunday and RTE in seeking accurate information from dioceses in Ireland and the UK about the allegations held on their files against Bishop Eamonn Casey, some dioceses initially weren't very forthcoming with information, writes ANNE SHERIDAN.

FOR years, the Galway Diocese insisted they had only one allegation on their files against Bishop Casey.

Two years after their first statement, they said they had, in fact, five allegations of child sexual abuse on file – as well as other complaints made by adult women who had relationships with Bishop Casey.

The Kerry Diocese also initially refused to disclose any information about any complaint made against Bishop Casey when asked by the Irish Mail on Sunday in March 2019.

Days later, after the MoS revealed in 2019 that complaints were made in Limerick and Galway against him for alleged abuse, the Kerry Diocese admitted that they had one complaint on file, which they said they recorded as a 'historical safeguarding concern'.

However, on Galway's files they recorded the complaint made in Kerry as one of child sexual abuse.

In the UK, the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Diocese of Westminster have refused to confirm or deny if they received any allegations about Dr Casey relating to his time working in London in the 1960s.

Here are some of the accounts of complaints made against Bishop Casey given by both the Galway Diocese and the Kerry Diocese:

### GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

'The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora is aware of one allegation of child sexual abuse against Bishop Eamonn Casey. This allegation was reported to An Garda Síochána [sic]. No prosecution was undertaken. The diocese understands that, at the time of his death in March 2017, there were no outstanding criminal investigations about or outstanding charges against Bishop Casey.'

### GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE MAY 2020

'The diocese is aware of one allegation against Bishop Casey. This was promptly reported to An Garda Síochána. The diocese advised you of this fact in March 2019.'

# How the Church flip-flopped on what it knew about Casey

### GALWAY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE FEBRUARY 2021

'Bishop [Brendan] Kelly\* has reviewed all of the information that is available in Galway diocesan records to learn of what was known at the time of Bishop Eamonn Casey's death and what has come to light since.'

'It is important to note that Bishop Kelly did not become Bishop of Galway until February 2018. Between 2008 and 2018 Bishop Kelly served as Bishop of Achonry and, therefore, was neither part of the Diocese of Galway nor informed as to the contents of its records, at the time of Bishop Casey's death.'

'At the time of his death, the diocesan records indicate awareness on the part of the Diocese of Galway of five people who had complained of childhood sexual abuse against Bishop Casey. 'Two of these complainants had directly contacted the Diocese of Galway, one as their place of first notification, the other as disclosure of a complaint which had been made earlier to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (England) and to the Diocese of Limerick. The former was notified by the Diocese of Galway to the State authorities,

the latter had already been investigated by the gardai. Of the other three complainants of childhood sexual abuse, it is apparent that one person made a complaint to the Diocese of Kerry. That complaint was notified to the gardai and the HSE by the Diocese of Kerry in February 2006. 'Two people complained to the Diocese of Limerick, whose Child Safeguarding Office reported both complaints to the gardai and HSE. 'In addition, the Galway diocesan records indicate that two people came forward with complaints that, whilst they were adults, Bishop Casey had abused their trust and that such abuse involved sexual acts. These complaints were also notified to the Gardai and HSE. 'At various times, following Bishop Casey's return to Ireland, communications took place between the HSE and the Diocese of Galway in the context of the HSE's then statutory function for safeguarding children. Bishop Kelly is not entitled to know what information sharing about complaints occurred between State authorities.'

\* Then-Bishop Brendan Kelly, who delivered the homily at Bishop Casey's funeral Mass in

Galway in March 2017, stepped down as Bishop of Galway in June 2021 and, since this statement, he has been succeeded by Bishop Michael Duignan.

### KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

'As you state in your email this is a sensitive subject and you understand the confidential nature of the matter you have raised. For this reason the Diocese of Kerry does not discuss or disclose individual cases of abuse reported to them. 'All allegations of abuse reported to the diocese are forwarded to the gardai and Tusla who are the bodies authorised to investigate such reports.'

### KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO THE IRISH MAIL ON SUNDAY MARCH 2019

'Given that information relating to Bishop Casey is now in the public domain, we can confirm that one historical concern regarding Bishop Casey was received by the diocese. This information was forwarded to the gardai and the HSE and the person concerned was offered support by the diocese.'

### KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT TO RTE APRIL 2020

'In 2005 a person reported a historical safeguarding concern against Bishop Casey which related to the time when he was Bishop of Kerry. The diocese met with the person involved. The concern was reported to the gardai and HSE. The diocese also informed the Bishop of Galway, as Bishop Casey was incardinated to the Galway Diocese. Counselling support was also offered but was not availed of at the time. 'As the concern did not meet the threshold for child sexual abuse we have used the term "concern" rather than "allegation". The Diocese of Kerry have not made any settlements in respect of any matter relating to Bishop Casey.'

### KERRY DIOCESE STATEMENT MAY 2020

'The individual was a minor. ■ Reported by the individual concerned, many years later as an adult. ■ The matter was reported to the HSE and gardai. It was the role of the authorities to carry out any investigation. No response from the authorities is recorded on the file. ■ No relationship, a single incident. ■ Counselling was offered at the time but was deemed not required by the individual. The diocese has had no contact with the person since.'

TURN TO PAGE 8