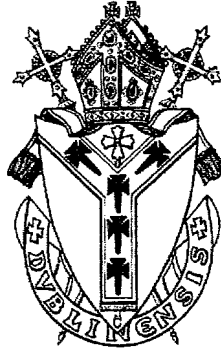


Church of Ireland  
United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough



*The Most Reverend Dr. John R W Neill*  
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Thursday, 20 January 2005

**CONFIDENTIAL**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Co Dublin.

Dear [REDACTED]

Now that the recent Court case has taken place and the matter is no longer *sub judice* I write to you to express once again my great sorrow for what you have been through. When we met last year, I did begin our meeting by delivering a statement which I actually read word for word but could not hand to you in writing as the matter was still very much in process, even though not at that stage from a legal point of view. I repeat it here:

"As Archbishop, I extend to [REDACTED] my sincere apology that harm has come to him through a Church in this diocese and caused by a priest who has admitted his misbehaviour. I have to say that as Archbishop, neither my senior staff nor I were ever made aware that there was any risk whatever attached to the ministry of that priest. However I admit that misconduct took place and this is a matter for very serious consideration. On learning of these facts, I acted immediately – first removing him from all formal ministry – a removal which I would have had to pursue actively, had he not immediately stepped back voluntarily. Within days, he was removed from all positions of leadership *de facto*, though the eventual resolution of this will take longer and will involve the consent of the office holder. He is fully co-operative with all these procedures. Meanwhile I am concerned for [REDACTED], for C.O.R.E. and its ministry and witness, and for Willi and his family. To [REDACTED] I repeat my apology and state that the cost of any counselling involved will be paid for by the diocese."

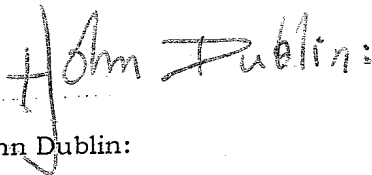
I stand over that statement and repeat now as Archdeacon Pierpoint has repeated that we will stand over counselling expenses. I have been deeply concerned for all involved in these very tragic events and understand any sense of betrayal that you may feel. It is obviously of great sadness to me that the trust placed in a priest should be abused and that is why as Archbishop I have to enforce such a strong discipline.

After our meeting I made the assumption that [REDACTED] was your pastor as he accompanied you on that day. I would have provided a Church of Ireland priest to care for you if he had not been there, but would have regarded it as discourteous to you all to suggest that you required anybody else. I appointed a priest to minister in CORE. I appointed another priest to minister to Willi. As Archbishop, I cannot provide the first line of pastoral care in these cases, and indeed it is not right for the same person to be dealing with the separate parties and possibly advising them. To a certain extent, I am limited too in my ministry to the priest once the disciplinary process kicks in, and that is why I always ask somebody else to deal with that, but not to report to me. I met you in March, and by April, there was already information (still in my files) reaching me about legal moves, and though this may well have had nothing to do with you at that early stage, it did make it improper for me to contact you again, lest I was seen to be influencing you in order to protect either Willi or the Church of Ireland. There had therefore to be no communication from me to you until the matter was legally over. In hindsight, I should have made clear to you that I could not keep you informed in detail as matters developed, and I would certainly bear this in mind in any such case in future, as the last thing that I wanted was for you to feel as it were "cut off". My dealings with each party, you, Willi, and CORE, was treated privately and I do not ever report on one to the other.

I can assure you that I have made the Bishop who is caring for Willi fully aware of his situation and the information that I have. I am grateful that he is being helped to recover, but I have not and will not give him clearance as being in good standing. That means that he cannot be formally transferred from this diocese. I would however point out that the Anglican Communion is a fellowship of Churches with full mutual recognition, but a certain limit in accountability, as you will be aware in cases such as the ordination in New Hampshire of a bishop living in a gay relationship. I did not send Willi to America. He went, but was not transferred and when asked for clearance for Willi, I had to refuse it. When a priest in good standing leaves the diocese for a job elsewhere, he requires my approval and that of three clergy who are actually Rectors of parishes. This document will not be issued. I think you should understand this.

My door is open to you and you can make an appointment by phoning or emailing me. However I am delighted that you have met with Archdeacon David Pierpoint and if you feel that contact with David is sufficient, I am very happy. He is obviously the person in whom I have placed my confidence, as he is now my senior clergyman.

Yours sincerely.



+John Dublin: