

'TICKET TO HELL' FOR CHILD-ABUSERS

The Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne has been asked to excommunicate the disgraced Cardinal George Pell after his conviction for sex abuse of children, and to ensure that all such crimes are declared mortal sins by the church and "a guaranteed ticket to Hell".

Many senior clergy have been exposed in recent years for such abuse. Religious schools abound in Sydney also.

"The rape of children by a most senior cleric demands the ultimate penalty, especially when it has been a covert practice within Catholic schools for generations world-wide," the writer urged him in a letter.

"Sexual abuse of children should be declared a mortal sin for Catholics, and a guaranteed ticket to Hell," Melbourne's Cardinal Peter Comensoli was told.

"The punishment must reflect the lifelong damage to victims of the crime."

The letter received yesterday by Archbishop Peter Comensoli questioned the sincerity and inaction by the Vatican on this festering sore for centuries within the church. It was from a "baptised Catholic who was raised and educated within the faith."

The Melbourne Archdiocese is known for its historical resistance to change on this issue.

"The strongest message must be sent to everyone with power over children, that institutional rape is not tolerated anymore," the writer said.

"The recent bishops' conference at the Vatican seemed desperate damage-control, sadly lacking in moral leadership."

LOOPHOLES ABOUND

Pope Francis has ignored the severest religious sanction available -- excommunication -- drawing world-wide condemnation for lip-service to a long history of child rape, widely rumoured among lay Catholics but with little action at the Vatican.

Pell has appealed his conviction. Aged 77, he could delay with lengthy legal appeals until he died of natural causes -- a simple but costly way to escape punishment from secular law.

But to the church, any unabsolved mortal sins would guarantee him a place in Hell.

It also raises an awkward dilemma for confessors who give absolution to other priests who offend repeatedly -- presuming that they confessed such a mortal sin. Secrecy claimed for the confessional assures that legal prosecution is impossible.

A mortal (or grave) sin is the worst offence against God in Catholicism, and the sinner is doomed to "eternal suffering in hell", according to church teaching. However, priests who confess can be absolved repeatedly in secrecy. The validity of any absolution is questionable if the mortal sin was a persisting offence, since true contrition is required.

It is another mortal sin to receive Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin, by church doctrine. Priests conduct mass each week, during which they take Holy Communion.

It is not clear who is funding the expensive series of legal defences for the cardinal who rose high enough in the Vatican hierarchy to be seen as a potential pope. - 27 February 2019

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"The teaching of the church affirms (that) ... Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, 'eternal fire.'"

https://www.catholicerald.com/faith/your_faith/pope_francis_and_hell/confirmation_sponsor/

It is a mortal sin to take Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin. --

<https://forums.catholic.com/t/taking-communion-while-in-a-state-of-mortal-sin/58157>