

New South Wales Police

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v2.5

STATEMENT in the matter of:
 Father Vincent RYAN

Place: Newcastle
 Police Station
 Date : 4 October 1995

Name: REDACTED
 Address: REDACTED Tel. No.: REDACTED
 Occupation: REDACTED STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 31 years of age.

REDACTED

4. I am one of REDA children and my parents are REDACTED REDACTED I have lived in the Newcastle area for most of my life, REDACTED. I went to St Josephs Catholic Primary School at Merewether/The Junction from Kindergarten to year six. I then attended Marist Brothers Catholic High School for part of year seven before we moved to REDACTED

5. I started in Kindergarten in 1969, and then I went to 1st class in 1970, then second class in 1971. REDACTED

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REDACTED I remember her because she was a great teacher, and she was an elder lady. In 1973 I went into third class and then 1974 I was in fourth class before going into fifth class in 1975. I remember fifth class well my teacher was Mr HALLINAN and he was also our basketball coach. I was friends with Gerard McDONALD, Scott HALLETT, REDACTED was my REDACTED. We were a close school and everybody were friends.

6. In Fifth class I also became an altar boy for St Josephs Catholic Church Merewether/The Junction. I was an altar boy with Gerard McDONALD, Scott HALLETT, REDACTED REDACTED I remember there were a number of others as well. We used to do altar boy practice after school about twice a week. Our instructing Priest was Father Vincent RYAN. Father RYAN was the assisting Priest to Monsignor COTTER at St Josephs. Sister Margaret Anne was the Principal of the school. The school and church are situated on the same block and are sort of joined.

7. I remember we used to go to practice in the church and then we would go back into the Sacristy which is also known as the Vestry. I remember that this room was divided in two and had two doors that could be shut. This is a room which is attached to the church and is where the Priest gets dressed with the altar boys and the robes are kept along with the altar wine and bread. Practice used to be in the afternoon after school.

8. I have come to the Police to report Father Vincent RYAN for molesting me as an altar boy.

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9. I remember that at altar boy practice after we would finish practice Father RYAN would get us to go into the Sacristy. I remember that not all the altar boys would stay. Father RYAN then began to touch us around our private parts and he would then show us his private parts. Each practice he would show us a little more and I remember he would chase us around the Vestry. He would try to grab us and then fondle us and have us fondle him. Each time he did this less boys would stay after practice. I remember there was oral sex where Father RYAN would suck on our penises but I cannot remember details about when this happened.

10. I remember on one of these days after altar boy practice I remember there was Gerard McDONALD, Scott HALLETT, REDACTED REDACTED and myself. I remember Father RYAN got us into the Sacristy in the kitchen area. I remember Father RYAN locked us in the Vestry so we couldn't run away. I remember he got us to line up in front of him. We were standing about a couple of feet in front of him and he was standing up leaning up against some cupboards in the room.

11. He was talking to us and then began to give us instructions on how to masturbate. I then saw him undo his fly and belt of his trousers. He was wearing black trousers, black belt and black shoes. He then pulled his penis out of his trousers and I saw that it wasn't erect. He got us to come forward and touch his penis. He then started to masturbate his penis in front of us and I saw it become erect. He had one hand around his penis and was moving his hand back and forth along his penis. I remember at one stage he spat saliva into his hand and then recommenced to masturbate. He was giving us instructions and talking to us while he was doing this. I cannot remember his

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exact words. He got us to come forward and touch his penis again. After a couple of minutes I saw white stuff come from the end of his penis. (I NOW KNOW THAT HE EJACULATED). I think he ejaculated on the floor and he wiped himself and then wiped it up off the floor.

12. Father RYAN then asked us to pull our pants down and do what he was doing. I remember I was standing next to REDACTED REDACTED I can't remember where the other boys were standing. I remember pulling my pants down around my ankles. I think I was wearing shorts. I saw the other boys take down their pants as well. I remember not having my shirt on either at this stage so I was basically naked. I remember feeling scared and like shy, and I remember I didn't have an erection. I then began to masturbate myself like Father RYAN had showed us. By this I put my hand around my penis and began to move it back and forth. I remember spitting on my hand like he did at one stage. I can't remember if I got an erection at that stage.

13. Father RYAN wa talking to us while we were masturbating like 'coaching' us telling us how to do it. I think Father RYAN still had his penis out of his pants at the time. I did this for a couple of minutes. The next thing that I remember is got us to partner one another. I cannot remember his exact words. I remember I turned and was partnered with REDACTED and I remember Gerard McDONALD being partnered with Scott HALLETT.

14. Father RYAN then spoke to us, I cannot remember at that stage whether he just talked us through what to do next or whether he showed us with one of the other boys. But I remember him telling us to partner up and try to put our penis into our partners bum. We all did the same thing together. I remember

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seeing Scott HALLETT bent over with Gerard trying to put his penis into Scott bum. I think I went first trying to penetrate REDACTED. He was bent over and I remember I didn't have an erection because I was nervous. I remember REDACTED lent forward and I positioned myself directly behind him. His back was facing me and then I remember him parting his bum cheeks and I moved in closer and put my penis into his bum. I didn't penetrate his anus as my penis was soft but I was pushed right up against it. I motioned my hips back and forward with my penis in REDACTED bum region. This happened for a couple of minutes while Father RYAN kept on talking to us and coaching us.

15. I think Father RYAN was partnered with someone I think it was REDACTED but cannot be sure. I remember then that we swapped and changed positions because Father RYAN told us to. I remember turning around leaning bending over and parting my bum cheeks. I then felt something press against by bum cheeks, but didn't feel anything go into my anus. The thing I felt was soft and fleshy. I then felt it moving back and forth against my bum. This went on for a couple of minutes.

16. I remember during this time when Scott was behind Gerard trying to put his penis into Gerards bum. I remember Scott pulled back and then the next thing I remember was seeing poo on the end of Scott penis. I remember laughing and someone called out, "POO KNOB POO KNOB." Everyone started laughing. I remember Father RYAN then tried to put his penis into one of the boys bum I think it was Gerard.

17. The next thing I remember is wanting to go home and running out of the Vestry. I remember deciding never to go back to altar boy practice. I remember that we often drank the altar

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wine and ate the bread he would give it to us as I thought of some kind of reward. I remember Father RYAN saying to us, "Keep it between ourselves its just between us."

18. I cannot remember much else about that time just the key things I have stated have stuck in my mind over the last twenty years. I haven't spoke to anyone up to making this statement to jog my memory of the event that took place.

19. I haven't got much memory as to how it all stopped I can't remember talking to my mother about it but I know that I did. We moved around alot after I started High School and I tried to put it out of my mind. All I can remember is that I went with Mum to Mrs McDONALDs house and I went out the back and played with Gerard. I remember being called in by Mrs McDONALD and telling them what Father RYAN had done to us and remember being very scared. I think that either Gerard or myself started to cry. I can't remember ever seeing Father RYAN again after that, and then I just tried to forget about it.

20. One thing I do remember was early on in year seven at Marist Brothers High School at Hamilton there was a rivalry between St Josephs Primary and Merewether Primary school. I cannot remember how it happened but some of the boys found out about what happened to us with Father RYAN and they began to call us poofers, poofers during lunch time.

21. As a result of what Father RYAN did to me, as I reached my teen years I was playing hide and seek with my younger brother

REDACTED I remember being in the shower at REDACTED

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22. I also remember growing up that I used to masturbate a lot and I experimented by putting objects into my anus as well. I have felt very ashamed of myself living with guilt for the last twenty years. It is something that I will never forget and have had trouble living with I have had nightmares about it and it is constantly been on my mind for twenty years. It has really churned my guts and I have felt absolute disgust with myself and Father RYAN.

23. I occasionally have homosexual thoughts about having sex with men and then it alls come back and I think I couldn't do that. I have had to live with this for twenty years. I hope he gets what he deserves and I am making this statement to the Police to stop something like this happening to my own son. I am very protective of him and I don't want him to be at risk growing up in the Catholic Church.

Witness:

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