

REDACTED

States -

My name is REDACTED and I am 12 years old. My actual date of birth is REDACTED 84. I live with my family at an address known to the police. I live at home with mum, dad, three sisters and one brother. I am the youngest of my family.

I go to Holy Family Primary School, in Doveton, and I am in Grade 6. I am

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At Holy Family School they train the Grade 6's to become Altar Boys. Just like my older brother REDACTED I became an Altar Boy, and regularly attended school masses. (I did not perform Altar Boy duties on the weekend).

One day, I think it was the 10.10.96, (I remember that, as it was the first Tuesday back from third term school holidays), I was picked with some other boys from my class to perform altar boy duties for a special mass. I can't remember the exact time, but it was before lunch.

I was chosen to hold the water and wine, the other kids came up for communion. I was standing at the altar waiting for communion to finish, as I was responsible for pouring the water into the chalice for the priest to drink. I then poured water in Father Peter's chalice and he drank it. I then went back to my seat at the front row of the rows of seats. On my way back to the seat I caught the eye of one of the boys in my class, he was pulling a face. (The boy was REDACTED he is a Vietnamese boy in Grade 6). I giggled (a little out loud) then I sat down next to REDACTED another boy in Grade 6. He saw me smile so he giggled as well.

When the mass was finishing us altar boys had to follow the priest out to the back of the church in a little room.

In this room we change out of our robes. Whilst in here, Father Peter called REDACTED and I over to him. Father Peter then raised his voice and said, "What were you two doing at the altar?" "When I was younger this is what would have happened to me." Father Peter then using his two hands smacked REDACTED across the head, connecting on the sides of his head over the ears. He then did exactly the same to me. I felt the pain and said, "ooh" but I was scared of Father Peter so I didn't cry. He then told us to go.

As REDACTED and I walked off back to class, REDACTED began to cry. A teacher, Mrs. CHANDLEY asked us what was wrong but we didn't tell her. I suffered a headache all day and it didn't go until I woke the next day. I didn't tell anyone because I was afraid of getting in more trouble.

The next week, Miss GAIR, asked the whole class to do altar duties. No-one put their hand up, so she asked a few people. She asked me and I just said, "No."

Then a boy in the class screamed out, "Because Father hit him" (meaning me). Miss GAIR then asked me if it was true and I said 'yes'. She then rang the principal and told him.

On Monday morning, I told mum I was sick and stayed off school. I wasn't really sick but I didn't want to go to school. I was scared, I thought now the principal knows he is going to punish me and I will have to confess (in confession) to Father Peter I was so scared of Father Peter.

The principal told my mum what had happened and then she spoke to me about it when I got home from school. We then went back to school and met with Mr. ADAMS (principal) and I told him what happened.

Mum then took me over to Father Peter's house (on school grounds) and mum spoke to him. I heard mum say that it was wrong for Father to have hit me. Father Peter lied, I felt angry and scared at the same time and very worried. I thought everyone is going to believe the priest and not me. Father told me to get another altar boy to prove it,

so I ran off and got [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Father Peter then asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] if what I said was true. [REDACTED] said, "Yes you hit us, and you hit me too!".

I then left with my mum and went and saw the principal. Mum said she was going to complain to the education officials.

Ever since this all happened I have been faking being sick as I'm scared of Father Peter.

Father Peter's real name is Father Peter SEERSON). I'm not telling lies, I'm angry that a priest lied and everyone thinks I am the liar.

[REDACTED]

Statement taken and signature witnessed by me
this 19th day of November, 1996 at Dandenong.

M. WELSH
Constable 28021

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief that a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to the penalties of perjury.

[REDACTED]

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed by me
at 1330 hours on Tuesday the 19th day of November, 1996
at Dandenong.

M. WELSH
Constable 28021