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### Chronology of Brendan Smyth, O. Praem.

[This is a draft; not for distribution. An introduction with summary of key dates and a link to the photo gallery will be added here. The chronology below will be corrected and revised this week. Small photos and links to other articles will be added; names and dates will be checked.]

**1927-06-08** Born John Gerard Smyth in Belfast and raised in a terrace house off the Falls Road in West Belfast; Smyth attended the Christian Brothers School at the bottom of the Falls Road at Barrack Street (date from [Smyth's gravestone](#); details from Moore, p. 25, where the birthdate is 6/6/27; so also the Irish Times)

#### 1940s

**1945-09-08** Vested in Norbertine order (date from [Smyth's gravestone](#))

**1945-1947** **Studies:** Smyth studied at the Abbey of the Holy Trinity and St. Norbert, usually known as Holy Trinity Abbey, in Ballyjamesduff, Kilnacrott, County Cavan, in the Kilmore diocese ( Moore, p. 26)

Abuse: Smyth's "problem with children surfaced early in his religious life" according to Abbott Kevin A. Smith, O. Praem. (see [Smith's 9/26/94 letter](#))



**1947-09-08** Professed in Norbertine order (date from [Smyth's gravestone](#))

#### 1950s

**1947-1951** **Studies:** Smyth studied at the Gregorian University in Rome and received his S.T.L. degree (Moore, p. 26)



**1951-07-31** Ordained as a Norbertine priest (date from [Smyth's gravestone](#))

**1951-1957** **Assigned:** Smyth worked at the **Holy Trinity Abbey**, in Kilnacrott, where he "began organizing catechism classes for children after Mass. He established a choir, trained altar boys for services in the abbey chapel," and arranged "May processions, Christmas parties and outings to the cinema." The woman whom Moore calls Alison (see below) states that "some time around 1957 or 1958 he disappeared off the scene and it was seven years before I saw him again." (Moore, p. 220)

Abuse: Smyth sexually abused a girl at the **Holy Trinity Abbey**, in Kilnacrott, beginning in 1952 when the girl was 8 years old; the abuse included taking the girl on his lap while he had an erection, fingering the girl's genitals under her clothes, and ordering her to strip; Moore calls the girl "Mary"; in this early context, Smyth was already telling his victim to "look away" during the abuse, plying his victim with candy, and abusing in disciplinary contexts – in this case, on the pretext that Mary had sung poorly in choir (see also Moore, p. 94 on discipline in Fargo ND abuse); the parents supported Smyth's work with children, and told Mary, "Get yourself up there now to devotions this evening." (Moore, pp. 28-30; Independent 10/16/94) Moore also presents an interview with a woman he calls "Alison". Smyth would put her over his knee, turn her over, pull her skirt up, and slap her bottom, before he allowed her to borrow a book from the Holy Trinity Abbey children's library in Kilnacrott; then it would be her brother's turn. In 1994, she learned that her brother, her cousin, and another boy all "had difficulties with Father Smyth." (Moore pp. 218-220, see [transcript of interview](#); Keeping the Faith, at 13:04; )

**1957-1959** **Assigned:** Smyth worked for two years at **Saint Columba's** parish in **Annan, Scotland**, in the Diocese of Galloway; a priest at the Holy Trinity Abbey, in Kilnacrott, Rev. Bruno Mulvihill, O.Praem., said that Smyth returned from Annan and Wrexham (see next entry) under a cloud (Moore, p. 208)



**1958 or 1959** **Assigned:** Smyth lived in the presbytery of **St. Mary's Cathedral** in **Wrexham, Wales**, in the Diocese of Menevia; he was gone by Christmas 1958, returning to Holy Trinity Abbey, in Kilnacrott, under a cloud, according to Rev. Bruno Mulvihill, O.Praem. (Moore, p. 208; [Smyth victim tells of abuse on boat](#), by Alison O'Connor, Irish Times, 12/9/94)



Abuse: Smyth was "very friendly with the altar boys" in Wrexham and would tweak their ears, hug them, and feed them candy; Smyth took the altar boys on bus trips to the cinema and sexually abused the boys who sat next to him; the abuse entailed manipulating their genitals under their clothes; Smyth took 11-year-old John Russell, who wanted to become a priest and whose family was "very Catholic," on a holiday to Ireland in 1958 and abused him each night, starting on the ferry to Dun Laoghaire, and including a terrible night at the Gresham Hotel in Dublin (Smyth victim tells of abuse on boat, by Alison O'Connor, Irish Times, 12/9/94)

## 1960s

### 1960s

Abuse: Smyth sexually abused a West Belfast boy after befriending his parents; the abuse began when the boy was 6 years old in about 1959, and continued into his early teens, to about 1966; Moore (pp. 43-45 of Chapter 3) calls the boy "Anthony"; Anthony spoke of his abuse to "Seamus" and "Bernie" in 11/88 and confronted Smyth in their home in 2/89; Smyth also sexually abused Anthony's brother "John" in the 1960s as well as his sister; John came forward to a detective in 1992; Smyth took John on trips with other children, during which Smyth would organize group sex, compelling the children to masturbate him and each other (Moore, pp. 98-106)

### to 1963-08

**Assigned:** Smyth returned to Holy Trinity Abbey, Kilnacrott, in August 1963 from an assignment in Wales, according to Rev. Bruno Mulvihill, who at that time was at the abbey on retreat before starting his novitiate (Moore, p. 209 of Chapter 12)

### 1965-1968

**Assigned:** Smyth worked as a parish priest at **Our Lady of Mercy** church in **East Greenwich, Rhode Island**, in the Diocese of Providence; Smyth came back to visit the parish every few years until the early 1990s (see Their Best Fan Is Going Home, by Richard A. Beardsley, Providence Bulletin, 2/25/68; and Farewell, Father, Pendulum, 2/29/68)



Abuse: In a 1994 letter to journalist Chris Moore, Abbot Smith stated that Smyth "offended against young parishioners" in East Greenwich (see 9/26/94 Smith letter); Smyth sexually abused Helen McGonigle, her sister Kathieen, Jeff Thomas, and five other children (see Abbot: Priest Molested R.I. Children, by Richard C. Dujardin, Providence Journal-Bulletin, 2/6/95; Court Records Revealing Abuses by Ex-OLM Priest, by Abby Fox, East Greenwich Pendulum, 10/25/07; and Lawsuit Filed over Abuse Allegations, by Tom Mooney, Providence Journal, 6/17/08)



### 1968

**Phone Call:** Mulvihill states that in early 1968 he took an urgent call from Bishop Russell McVinney to Abbot Colwell; McVinney said that Smyth "was being put on a plane back to Ireland in disgrace after it was discovered that he had been sexually abusing children" (Moore, p. 205 of Chapter 12)

**Treatment:** Abbot Smith sent Smyth for treatment at **Purdysburn Hospital** in **Belfast** in 1968 after his return from East Greenwich (see the 9/26/94 Smith letter)

### 1968 or 1969

**Decree:** Mulvihill claimed that in late 1968 or 1969, he saw at Holy Trinity Abbey, in Kilnacrott, a decree issued by the Congregation of Religious: Smyth's "faculties for confession were to be rescinded for life, and ... he was not to leave the abbey precincts on his own" (Moore, p. 210 of Chapter 12, quoting Mulvihill)

## 1970s

### 1968-1976

Abuse: Smyth sexually abused four siblings orphaned in 1968; Moore calls the children "Siobhan" (age 6); "Danny" (age 4); "Marie" (age 10); and "Angela" (age 9); Smyth came to **Nazareth House** in **Belfast** on Tuesday afternoons; the nuns delivered first Danny and then Siobhan to a visiting room, where Smyth abused them in turn; he took Siobhan on his lap, ordered her to turn away, and using his finger penetrated her and anally penetrated her; when she complained about the abuse, a nun beat her head with a bunch of keys and made her kneel all night; Smyth attempted to continue the abuse when Siobhan was transferred at age 14 to Middletown Convent in County Armagh, but when Siobhan complained, the nuns supervised Smyth's visits, and they ceased; Danny was transferred to an **unnamed institution** at age 11, where Smyth followed him; Danny was subjected to sodomy and group sex involving Smyth and multiple priests (Moore, pp. 120-134)

### 1970-1974

Abuse: Smyth sexually abused a girl (called "Sally" by Moore) from 1970 through 1974, beginning when the girl was 10 years old, and ending when she refused to accept his visits to her school, **Cross and Passion** in **Belfast**; the abuse was done there, on a car trip along the Antrim coast, and in Sally's home in **West Belfast**; Smyth had gone to school with Sally's uncle, and he used candy and tickling to establish a connection with Sally and other victims in the neighborhood; these were consistent features of his M.O.; on the 1970 Antrim trip, Smyth also tried to penetrate and anally penetrate Sally's 8-year-old sister, who told her parents; Sally believes Smyth was told never to visit their house again, but he continued to visit and molest Sally when her parents were elsewhere (Moore, pp. 31-39)







### 1971

Abuse: Smyth sexually abused a 13-year-old girl in a visiting room at **St. Dominic's High School** on the Falls Road in **Belfast**, taking the girl, called "Sarah" by Moore, on his lap and touching her beneath her underwear; Sarah complained to two nuns, Sr. Joan and Sr. Virgilius, the principal, who asked Sarah to tell her parents (her father had gone to school with Smyth); the parents agreed not to pursue the matter after they were assured by Sr. Virgilius that the Church would not allow


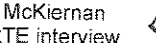


monitor the situation but could not interfere (Moore, p. 216; see an [excerpt of the 11/9/85 letter from Mulvihill to Abbot Smith](#))

- 1985** Notice: Mulvihill and a German colleague, during a visit to Holy Trinity Abbey in Kilnacrott, received the punishment of a Solemn Warning issued by the Abbot's Council, after young members of the Norbertine order at the abbey discussed with Mulvihill "the stories of Fr Smyth's sexual misconduct with children" (paraphrase in Moore, p. 215 of [Chapter 12](#))
- 1985-11-09** Notice: Mulvihill wrote to Abbot Smith that Smyth was "misusing" children; he states that he had also told Abbot General Van de Ven, Abbot Benjamin Mackin, and Abbot Noyens. (see Moore, pp. 216-218; see also an [excerpt of the Mulvihill letter](#))
- 1986-09-14** Notice: Mulvihill again discussed the Kilnacrott situation with Abbot General Van de Ven at Tongerlo abbey, where they were attending the ordination of Benno Haeseldonckx (Keeping the Faith, Chris Moore, UTV Counterpoint, at 45:11)
- 1988-11** Anthony revealed his abuse by Smyth to Bernie and Seamus at their home in West Belfast (Moore, pp. 43-44 of [Chapter 3](#))
- 1989-02** Anthony confronted Smyth at Bernie and Seamus's home (Moore, p. 44 of [Chapter 3](#))
- 1989** Bernie and Seamus meet with Abbot Smith at an Armagh hotel and discuss Smyth's abuse of their four children (see [9/26/94 Smith letter](#); Moore, pp. 111-112, 144)
- 1989 or 1990** Smyth vacationed in Langdon ND (Moore, p. 71)
- 1989-1992** Treatment: Abbot Smith sent Smyth to Dr Del Monte in St James Hospital, Dublin for treatment every other week, according to Abbot Smith (see the [9/26/94 Smith letter](#) to Moore; and the [2/4/91 Smith letter](#) to Bernie and Seamus)
- 1990s**
- 1990-02-23** Susan revealed to a social worker at the Catholic Family Welfare Society in Belfast that Smyth had sexually abused her (Moore, p. 49); her statement triggered the RUC investigation; the social worker also contacted the priest director of the Catholic Family Welfare Society, who contacted Cardinal Daly's priest secretary, who contacted Daly, who approved the RUC's investigation (Moore, p. 149)
- 1990-03-02** Bernie and Seamus, Susan's parents, met with a female sergeant of the RUC's Child Care Unit (Moore, p. 49 of [Chapter 3](#))
- 1990-03-07** The RUC's Child Care Unit interviewed the children of Bernie and Seamus for the first time (Moore, pp. 50-52 of [Chapter 3](#))
- 1990-03-12** Cardinal Daly and Abbot Smith met about Smyth (Moore, p. 150; [Daly statement](#), para. 6)
- 1990-08 and 1990-09** Assignment: Smyth worked as a locum chaplain at **Tralee General Hospital in Kerry**, in the Diocese of Kerry, in southwest Ireland, nearly as far away from Belfast as it is possible to be ([Parents asked to check on children's contacts with sex abuse priest](#), by Dick Hogan and John Maher, Irish Times, 10/13/94)
- 1991-02-04** Abbot Smith responds to a letter from Bernie and Seamus expressing concern that Smyth was still to be seen in his old Belfast haunts (see the [Smith letter](#))
- 1991-02-11** Cardinal Daly, in a response to Bernie and Seamus, writes "there have been complaints about this priest before and once I had to speak to the Superior about him. It would seem, that there has been no improvement. I shall speak with the Superior again." (see the [Daly letter](#))
- 1991-03-08** Smyth was interviewed at the **Grosvenor Road police station in Belfast**, charged, and released on £100 bail. (Moore, pp. 18, 145)
- 1991-04-03** Smyth was scheduled to appear on 4/3/91 for a preliminary enquiry, at which he would be formally charged, but his attorney requested a postponement
- 1991-08-16** Smyth's enquiry was rescheduled to 8/16/91, but the RUC was not able to contact him, and he did not appear
- 1991-08-03 and 1991-08-04** Smyth was given faculties by the Archdiocese of Boston and preached for the missions at **St. Camillus church in Arlington MA**; Rev. Paul Rouse was the pastor (see Becker [1](#) [2](#) and the [Boston archdiocesan statement](#); it appears that Rev. Richard G. Lennon, now bishop of Cleveland, would have been involved in these arrangements or apprised of them (see [sample Lennon documents](#))
- 1991-11** Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for six days in November
- 1991-12** Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for five days in December
- 1992-08** Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for four days in August




- 1992-09 Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for three days in September
- 1993-02-17 to 1993-02-20 Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for four days in February
- 1993-04-23 Warrants for Smyth's extradition from the Republic of Ireland submitted to a Belfast magistrate (Moore, p. 160)
- 1993-04-30 Warrants for Smyth's extradition, together with a covering minute and supporting documentation, were received by Matthew Russell in Attorney General Harry Whelehan's office from the gardai in Dublin, who had received them the previous day from the RUC
- 1993-07 Smyth was in the vicinity of **Ballyhaunis** and **Knock** in County Mayo in connection with a retreat (see Priest's Mayo visits 'caused unease', by Kathryn Holmquist, Irish Times, 10/24/94)
- 1993-09 Smyth worked as locum chaplain at **Tralee General in Kerry** for one day in September
- 1993-09-20 to 1993-12-19 **Assignment:** Smyth was assigned for three months as locum chaplain at **Mercy Hospital in Cork**, in the Diocese of Cork and Ross (Moore, p. 194) 
- 1993-12 Susan attempts suicide; Smith has Fr Marshall contact Bernie and Seamus about a quiet resolution
- 1994-01-21 Smyth turns himself in to the RUC, and is broadcast on television doing so. As a result, Smyth survivors talk with UTV's Chris Moore, who was filming *Suffer Little Children*. 
- 1994-02-22 Sally speaks with Chris Moore (p. 33)
- 1994-03-05 Statement by Rev. Wendelyn Vetter is read by Rev. Dale Kenzler at St. Alphonsus in Langdon ND (see the text of the Vetter statement)
- 1994-05-20 Moore wrote letter to Abbot Smith, describing his findings and questions, and asking Smith for an interview (see the text of Moore's 5/20/94 letter to Smith)
- 1994-06-10 Smyth hears the clerk at Crumlin Road courthouse read 17 charges that Smyth of sexually abused 5 girls and 3 boys in Northern Ireland between March 1964 and December 1, 1988; Smyth pleads guilty to each charge (see Moore, p. 181)
- 1994-06-24 Smyth is sentenced by Crown Court judge Sir Robert Porter to four years in prison for indecent assault involving the sexual abuse of five girls, two of them sisters, and three boys, two of them brothers, between March 1964 and December 1, 1988 (see Priest sentenced to jail for four years for abusing children, Irish Times, 6/25/94) 
- 1994-09-26 Abbot Smith writes to journalist Chris Moore (see the 9/26/94 Smith letter)
- 1994-10-06 UTV airs a Counterpoint program entitled **Suffer Little Children**, in which Chris Moore interviewed survivors of abuse by Smith, as well as Rev. Bruno Mulvihill, O.Praem. (see Church admits errors on sex abusers, by Gryer Moriarty, Irish Times, October 6, 1994) 
- 1994-11-17 Resignation of Taoiseach Reynolds and Harry Whelehan, President of the High Court (see Reynolds resigns with a 'sense of achievement', by Dermot Kelly, Michael O'Regan, and Marie O'Halloran, Irish Times, November 18, 1994; and Whelehan's Statement of Resignation) 
- 1994-12-06 Statement by Cardinal Cahal B. Daly, Primate of All Ireland (see the Daly statement)
- 1995-03-22 Mulvihill meets with Rev. Gerard Cusack; he films the meeting and some of the rooms and grounds at Holy Trinity Abbey, in Kilnacrott
- 1995-08-08 In a committal hearing at Belfast Magistrates Court, Smyth was sent for trial on 16 charges of indecent assault involving 5 girls and 3 boys over a 15-year period ending in 1989 (see Priest facing 16 sex abuse charges, Irish Times, August 9, 1995)
- 1995-09-22 Smyth pleads guilty to an additional 26 charges of sexually abusing an additional 9 girls and 4 boys in Northern Ireland, and is jailed for an additional three years, to run concurrently with his previous sentence (see Smyth faces 30 new charges of child sex abuse, by Dick Grogan, Irish Times, 9/22/95; Smyth's path through the courts, Irish Times, 9/23/95; Smyth to face 30 additional charges in Republic, Irish Times, 9/23/95) These charges were the result of an RUC investigation after Smyth's 6/24/94 plea and sentencing, in which RUC detectives "went through the rolls of every Catholic children's home and orphanage in Northern Ireland known to have been visited by him" (see Church must face the unpalatable truth as list of offences grows, by Andy 

Smyth back in the school, and that (paraphrase by Moore, p. 57) "the incident would be referred to a higher Church authority" (Moore, pp. 53-58)

- 1972** Smyth gave a retreat in **Ballyhaunis** in County Mayo; "and afterwards occasionally visited the area coinciding with retreats at Knock" [about 11 km distant], until 1993 (see Priest's Mayo visits 'caused unease', by Kathryn Holmquist, Irish Times, 10/24/94)
- 1973** **Treatment:** Abbot Smith sent Smyth for treatment at **St. Patrick's Psychiatric Hospital** in **Dublin** (see the 9/26/94 Smith letter; for other priests treated at this hospital, see the Murphy report, 20.151, 28.60, 28.61, 28.65, 28.67, 28.68)
- 1974-11-01** A letter from Rev. Bruno Mulvihill to Bishop Francis J. MacKiernan of the Diocese of Kilmore, dated 11/1/74, was excerpted on UTV Counterpoint's Suffer Little Children documentary
- 1974** **Treatment:** Abbot Smith sent Smyth for treatment at **Our Lady of Victory** in Brownhill near **Stroud** in **Gloucestershire**, a treatment facility run by the Servants of the Paraclete (see the 9/26/94 Smith letter; for Stroud, see the Murphy report, 11.15 and 16.14, which discusses a roughly contemporaneous treatment at Stroud of Rev. Patrick Maguire, who was sent there in 1976; see also the index of the Murphy report, for discussion of other priests treated at Stroud) 
- 1975-03-29** Fr Sean Brady and two other priests interviewed in Dundalk a 14-year-old boy who had been sexually abused by Smyth, as part of an investigation undertaken by Kilmore bishop MacKiernan. Brady's role at the meeting was to take notes. The boy was compelled to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- 1975-04-04** Brady interviewed a second boy, aged 15, in the Parochial House in Ballyjamesduff, as part of the Kilmore diocesan investigation of Smyth. On this occasion Brady conducted the inquiry by himself and took notes. The boy was compelled to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- 1975-04-12** Bishop MacKiernan of Kilmore reported the findings to Smyth's Religious Superior, Abbot Smith of Kilnacrott. MacKiernan withdrew Brendan Smyth's priestly faculties and advised psychiatric intervention. [Press release and 1994 RTE interview with MacKiernan] 
- 1976** Rev. Wendelyn Vetter, vicar general of the Fargo diocese, "believed Fr Smyth had seen service in the parish [St. Alphonsus in Langdon ND] at an earlier time, possibly as early as 1976" (Moore, p. 72)
- 1977-1979** **Abuse:** Smyth sexually abused Sam Adair at Rubane House in the De La Salle Boys home at Kircubbin, Co Down, in the Diocese of Down & Connor; Adair was also sexually abused at Rubane by other priests (see Police 'ignored' clerical abuse claims say Nazareth resident, by Alana Fearon, South Belfast News, February 22, 2010) 
- 1979** In an interview with Chris Moore, Rev. Wendelyn Vetter mentioned that the Fargo diocese had in its files an employment record for Smyth, which included information "that he had been working in a **retreat house** in **Dublin** - that sort of thing" (Moore, p. 89); a year is not given, but we tentatively assume that this was Smyth's assignment prior to his arrival in Langdon ND in 1979
- 1980s**
- 1979-1983** **Assignment:** Smyth was assigned as a pastor and sole priest at **St. Alphonsus** church in **Langdon ND** in the Diocese of Fargo; Sr. Peggy Byrne, P.B.V.M., was principal of the parish elementary school, which had 162 pupils in 1980-1981; Smyth also "attended" a mission church called St. Edward's in Nekoma ND (Moore, pp. 66-97) 
- Abuse:** Smyth sexually abused more than seven children at this assignment: 6 altar boys and "one very serious case of sexual assault against a girl"; (Rev. Dale Kinzler quoted in Moore, p. 76); one of the boys, called "Dave" by Moore, whose abuse began in 1979 at age 12, was paid compensation for therapy in five installments: an initial payment of \$500 and four payments of \$5K in 1992-1993; the victim subsequently received a six-figure settlement; Smyth was removed from this assignment after the mother of one of the other altar boys complained to the previous pastor, Rudd, who spoke to Bishop Justin Driscoll, who sent Smyth back to Holy Trinity Abbey, in Kilnacrott, (first 3: Moore, p. 73-74; payment: Moore, p. 85-86; girl: Moore, p. 76; settlements: An arrogant and calculating man, by Nuala Haughey, Irish Times, July 26, 1997)
- 1983-1985** **Abuse:** Smyth sexually abused the daughter of Bernie and Seamus, whom Moore calls "Susan", in her home, on trips, and at St. Dominic's school, despite a commitment made by the school in 1971 to refuse him entry, after he abused Sarah there; Smyth also abused Susan's three siblings; Susan's meeting on 2/23/90 with a social worker at the Catholic Family Welfare Society in Belfast started all the Smyth revelations (Moore, pp. 44-52; Abuse victim plans legal action against church, by Alison O'Connor, Irish Times, 10/19/94)
- 1984-08** **Notice:** Mulvihill stated that he had discussed sexual abuse by Smyth with Abbot General Van de Ven and Abbot Benjamin Mackin, while traveling to an abbatial blessing in California (Moore, p. 216; see an excerpt of the 11/9/85 letter from Mulvihill to Abbot Smith describing the meeting; for Mackin's career, see the Norbertine Necrologium entry); Mackin said he would look into the matter and take it up with Smith
- 1985** **Notice:** Mulvihill "discussed the matter at length" with Abbot Hermenegild Noyens of Tongerlo Abbey, who said he would

Pollak, Irish Times, September 30, 1995)

- 1995-12-24** UTV airs a Counterpoint program called Keeping the Faith, a sequel to the 1994 Suffer Little Children
- 1996-04-18** Abbot General Marcel van de Ven resigned; he was succeeded by Mgr. Hermenegild Noyens of the Abbey of Tongerlo.
- 1997-03-21** Smyth is moved from Magilligan Prison to Limavady for an extradition hearing before a special sitting of the local magistrates, flown to Eglinton Airport, and transferred to Bridewell Garda station (see [Paedophile priest to face Dublin court](#), Irish Times, March 21, 1997)
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- 1997-03-26** Smyth pleads guilty in Dublin District Court to 74 charges of indecent and sexual assault of 7 boys and 13 girls in the Republic of Ireland; "He pleaded guilty to 62 offences of indecent assault on males and females in a hotel, a cinema, a boat house, an abbey, a convent, and in other venues in several counties within the State on dates from January 1st, 1958, to December 31st, 1991. He also pleaded guilty to 12 charges of sexual assaults on males and females on dates from January 1st, 1991, to December 31st, 1993. The offences took place in nine counties spread over the four provinces. Females were the victims in 61 of the charges and males in the remaining 13." (see [Smyth admits 74 sex offences](#), Irish Times, March 27, 1997; for more detailed description of the charges, see [Smyth has served two terms in North for similar sexual offences](#), Irish Times, July 22, 1997; and [Paedophile priest affirms guilty pleas to 74 charges](#), Irish Times, April 23, 1997)
- 1997-04-22** Smyth affirms guilty pleas at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court before Judge Cyril Kelly to 74 charges of indecent and sexual assaults on 20 victims over a 35-year period to 1993 (see [Paedophile priest affirms guilty pleas to 74 charges](#), Irish Times, April 23, 1997)
- 1997-07-21** and **1997-07-22** Smyth survivors spoke at a sentencing hearing in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court before Judge Cyril Kelly, and Smyth's counsel, Ms. Gemma Loughran, read an apology written by him; among the survivors in the sample cases was Bernice Donoghue (See [Smyth has shown no remorse, court told](#), Irish Times, 7/22/97; [Abusing priest offers apology and faces sentencing](#), Irish Times, July 23, 1997; [Smyth has served two terms in North for similar sexual offences](#), Irish Times, July 22, 1997; and [Six Reasons Why I Want to Be Excommunicated](#), Bernice Donoghue, Irish Times, 2/23/10)
- 1997-07-25** Smyth was sentenced to 12 years in prison
- 1997-08-22** Smyth died in the Carragh prison exercise yard in County Kildare

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