

**COUNTS 2-3: RC-A596**

10. These six Counts relate to what **RC-A596** says happened to him whilst he was a young pupil at St Benedict's School and at the hands of the defendant, Father PEARCE. **RC-A596** was a young boy at the time that these incidents took place, he thinks between the ages of 10-14 years old. For reasons which might be obvious, he, and indeed other complainants after him, cannot recall precisely the dates and times of when things happened but he can recall that they occurred on a number of occasions only and the nature of what happened. The Crown will submit that this does not mean that the allegations themselves are any less clear or cogent or that **RC-A596** is any less clear that they happened. That which he says within his Video Interview with the police on 26 September 2008 is powerful affecting and detailed despite this evidence being given some 34 years after what he describes. The Crown will assert that the reason he is still able to give such detail is because what he says is true and not imagined or made up.
11. **RC-A596** first contact with the defendant was at St Benedict's School aged 10. This would have been in 1976 hence the start date in respect of each count relating to **RC-A596**. He recalls that Father PEARCE taught him and one of his earliest recollections of inappropriate and indecent behaviour by Father PEARCE was of the defendant sitting next to him and moving his hand up the young **RC-A596** **RC-A596** leg to his genitals. It is indecent by virtue of the touching around the genital area of a young boy by a much, much older man who was his teacher at the time. It is for this very reason that **RC-A596** and many of the other complainants, felt that they could not tell anyone what was happening to them. Father PEARCE was in a

position of trust, power and authority over these young school boys. For the most part they felt that they had little choice but to remain silent.

12. In the case of **RC-A596** and other complainants, this conspiracy of silence was maintained by Father PEARCE by telling **RC-A596** that this sort of sexual contact was OK and normal. It was also maintained by Father David manipulating his way into the lives of **RC-A596** and some of the other complainants and by befriending the child's parents and family. The Crown will assert that this sort of insidious behaviour by the defendant acted as a perfect cover for him to control the complainant and to obtain and maintain maximum contact without any awkward questions being asked.
13. Far far worse than the stranger that parents feared was Father David, say the Crown, for he managed to inveigle his way into the family unit, win the trust of the parents and in so doing created a further control mechanism over the child and complainant in question.
14. In **RC-A596** case the defendant told the complainant's parents that he would like **RC-A596** to come to tea with him, he would intercede on **RC-A596** behalf with the school and with **RC-A596** parents over numerous matters such as his behaviour in school and his willingness, or otherwise, to take part in sporting activities. The Crown say that this behaviour, whilst appearing to others as innocent pastoral concern, was in fact a way of gaining the trust of the complainant and thus enabling him to perpetrate his acts of indecency. In so doing **RC-A596** describes how Father David became a pervasive presence in his life over the period in his life from age 12 through to 14.
15. He describes how Father David managed to ostracise him from his peers by singling him out and calling him by his first name, something the Crown will say that he did with the complainant **RC-A597** Not only, the Crown says, does this demonstrate