

but as the behaviour continued he realised Soper was doing exactly what he feared. At the time he felt not only confused but upset, angry and very awkward. He didn't feel able to tell his parents about the extent of Father Soper's behaviour not least because his father had been regularly beaten at boarding school.

53. [RC-A600] went off the rails and was expelled at the end of his second year of Middle School.

54. [Sibling] will also tell you that in the 1980s her brother went into more detail about what had happened to him – explaining that [RC-A600] had told her that Father Laurence Soper would get [RC-A600] into his office even though he hadn't done anything and he would touch [RC-A600] up stroking his bottom. He told her that this occurred on several occasions.

55. Years later [RC-A600] read some articles about the school and was aware others had come forward. He had recently become a father and he had become concerned that Father Soper may still have access to children. He had also been in touch with a man called Jonathan West who runs a web site called 'confessions of a skeptic' and through him had been provided with the name of a police officer who could assist if he wanted to take matters further. [RC-A600] contacted the police to tell them about his experience at St. Benedict's School.

56. He does not know the other complainants and has had no contact with them.

57. **Count 16 [17] multiple incidents.** [RC-A11] (date of birth [DPA] 1968). [RC-A11] was interviewed on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. [RC-A11] attended St Benedict's school from around 1975 to July 1982 (aged 6/8 to 13). He was in the Middle School from September 1980 to July 1982, ages 11-13.

58. Home life was difficult for [RC-A11] in these years. His mother was dying of [DPA] and his father had [Irrelevant] [RC-A11] was the main carer for his mother whilst attending school [RC-A11] described the school and the teachers generally. There were lay teachers and other priests, some of whom would prey on the children. He describes being sexually abused by two other men in addition to Father Soper one other was Mr Maestri, the other was Father David Pearce. Both were prosecuted and convicted of sexual abuse of children at the school. In interview [RC-A11] described Father Soper as a 'sadist'. He described how Father Soper was Head of the Middle School and would cane him for no good reason. He would have to go to his study and bend over a chair. He was caned on his return from the holidays during which his mother had died; he also remembers being caned

because his marks were too good, to keep him in his place. He remembers being caned every 2 weeks or more over a 2 year period.

59. Father Soper would rub his back in the pretence of looking for a book under his trousers. [RC-A11] reflects that any such book could easily have been discovered without taking a boys trousers and pants down however Soper would demand that [RC-A11] took his trousers and pants down, saying that if he didn't, he would get 6 thrashes instead of 3. [RC-A11] describes Father Soper putting his hands down the back of his trousers, demanding that he take his trousers and pants down. He would refuse and Father Soper would rub his bottom. [RC-A11] [RC-A11] describes being pushed to breaking point by Father Soper's treatment, he decided he couldn't take anymore and fantasised about killing Andrew Soper. [RC-A11] believes that Soper sensed he had pushed him too far. He was asked to leave the school for being disruptive.
60. **Count 17 [18] Specific incident.** [RC-A591] (date of birth [DPA] 1968). [RC-A591] was at St Benedict's School from 1976 to 1985 (Junior though to Senior School) leaving aged 16 years.
61. [RC-A591] was interviewed on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011. [RC-A591] remembers a specific occasion aged about 11 when he was attacked by another pupil who kneed him to his upper thigh which caused him serious pain. He went to see Father Laurence to complain. Father Laurence's study was high up in the Middle School building. He was invited into his study and asked to stand next to Father Laurence this surprised [RC-A591]. He explained what had happened and Father Laurence said he wanted to look at his leg and told him to take his trousers down. [RC-A591] obeyed when suddenly Father Lawrence started rubbing his hands up and down his thigh – his hand started to go higher and higher. [RC-A591] felt he wasn't looking at his injury but just rubbing his thigh. Father Laurence then pushed his fingers up and under the leg band of his pants and was touching his groin, part of his hand was touching his penis and scrotum.
62. [RC-A591] was facing the window which looked out onto the playground he remembers feeling shocked and mortified the thought that his class mates might be able to see what Father Laurence was doing. Father Lawrence then moved his hand round the back of [RC-A591] pants to his bottom, cupped one of his bottom cheeks and squeezed it. He remembers the silence in the room and says the incident seemed to last sometime before Father Laurence removed his hand. He pulled up his trousers and tucked in his shirt. Father Laurence then looked and smiled at [RC-A591]. [RC-A591] remembers clearly that Father Laurence then said "What I want you to do, is the next