



Ealing Abbey

a Benedictine Monastery, founded in 1897

Charlbury Grove · Ealing · London · W5 2DY
Abbot Martin Shipperlee OSB

2nd October 2009

Dear Parents,

Fr David Pearce, who taught at St Benedict's from 1976-1992, pleaded guilty on 10th August to serious criminal offences against children and has now been sentenced to 8 years imprisonment.

The crimes perpetrated by Fr David were a betrayal of the trust placed in him as a teacher and priest. His exploitation of the most vulnerable was brought to an end by the courage of those of his victims who came forward and revealed what had been happening.

We have cooperated fully with the police throughout their investigation and I would like to express my thanks to them for the professional way in which they have dealt with this matter.

I would like to apologise in every way that I can to the victims and to everyone else who has been affected by this case. I will remember in my prayers all those whose lives have been troubled by Fr David's actions.

I am instructing an independent review into this matter to examine what there is to be learned in order to ensure that there can never be a recurrence of this situation.

Fr David's future as a priest will now be reviewed by my superiors in accordance with the child protection procedures of the Church.

If you have any concerns or questions on this matter please contact Mr Cleugh, Mr Simmons or myself. I will also be present at the Parents' Forum on 13th October.

DPA