

Marian Finucane 06.12.2009

The following concerns a correction made in response to comments made by Matt Cooper about Bishop Murray's request for prayers

Marian Finucane: The interesting thing about closing ranks is I was talking to a priest during the week who said that last Sunday was one of the worst days of his life as he had to go out and face the congregation and he was told what to do and he was livid with the hierarchy. The hierarchy had engaged in the cover up, his colleagues had let him down with their behaviour and he just felt that the priests were being let hang out to dry and take the abuse that would come at them which didn't come at him, as it transpired. Matt Cooper what do you think?

Matt Cooper: I was fascinated listening this morning to the news reports of Bishop Donal Murray, asking in his letter to parishioners this morning for people to pray for him. Now if prayer is your thing, I would've thought you might be praying for the victims of the abuse. It was suddenly why is Donal Murray portraying himself almost as if he's some sort of victim as if he needs help to get him through a difficult time? The honourable thing to do for him is quite clear and even the fact that the Cardinal and Archbishop Martin before it have had to come out and make these statements in public, that it actually hasn't been done quietly and dealt with, would suggest a certain obstinacy on Donal Murray's part which is quite hard to understand.

Matt Cooper's comments were likely to have been based upon the RTÉ news report bulletin which was itself selective and incomplete (see the following)

RTE News: "The Bishop of Limerick, Donal Murray, has asked Mass-goers in his diocese to continue to pray for him, especially this week. His request follows yesterday's call by Cardinal Sean Brady on all those named in the Murphy Report to act soon in light of the Commission's findings that cover-ups of clerical child abuse had taken place in the Dublin Archdiocese. Bishop Murray had been saying that he would spend the next month reflecting on his position following Judge Yvonne Murphy's criticisms of him and other bishops and clerics for failing to respond correctly to allegations and concerns about priests who were molesting children."

The Full statement asked people "to continue to pray especially for people whose trust was betrayed when they were children so that they may find healing, peace and closure."

The Diocesan spokesperson sent a message to the Marian Finucane show immediately after Mr. Cooper's comments and the following correction was made some 20 minutes later:

Marian: By the way, the bishop's spokesperson was on to us, this is Bishop Donal Murray, to point out that the bishop's statement today quote: "also asks us to continue to pray especially for people whose trust was betrayed when they were children so that they may find healing, peace and closure."

This correction was gratefully acknowledged by the Diocesan spokesperson to the show immediately

When it was pointed out to the RTÉ Religious & Social affairs correspondent, Mr. Joe Little, that the RTÉ news report bulletin was itself selective and incomplete, he duly brought this to the attention of the News Desk and explained to the diocesan spokesperson that “it resulted from early-morning haste and was unintended.”