

STOLEN LIVES

in solidarity with survivors

'In a Church that often seems to be teetering on the brink of irrelevance, we must ask the laity to help "mind" the Church. To really nurture and care for it. This means being very brave in our faith... Unhealthy cultures must not go unchallenged.' **Brian Devlin, Oct 2021.**

The Survivors' Perspective

15 Jan 10.00 London time



BRIAN DEVLIN was a 19 year-old seminarian when Keith O'Brien, his spiritual director, made unwanted sexual advances to him. "I thought he was the holiest man I ever met. When he did what he did, the whole

edifice started to unravel." Brian gave up his anonymity to publish *Cardinal Sin* last year, saying that nothing has truly changed in the Church hierarchy's behaviour.

'**A711**' is a survivor of clerical sexual abuse who courageously gave evidence about both her original and her "retraumatizing" experiences to the Independent Investigation Child Sexual Abuse (England & Wales), which described her as "calm and dignified."



DR. CATHERINE DEVENEY will interview them. She is a multi award-winning journalist, who broke the story of the sexual predation and hypocrisy of Cardinal Keith O'Brien in 2013.

Abuse & Corruption in the Catholic Church

27 Jan 20.00 London time

TOM DOYLE, Priest, Canon Lawyer and American Airforce pilot, has over 35 years experience of relentlessly challenging sexual violence and abuse in the Catholic Church. He advised members of the Vatican's first Pontifical Commission on the Protection of Minors, and works tirelessly as an expert witness for survivors. He will touch on the scale of abuse and crime, and its many forms and root causes, in the context of international and historical perspectives.



Cover-up Culture

12 Feb 10.00 London time



FRANCIS SULLIVAN will highlight the challenges in changing a culture of systemic abuse. He will also identify reform strategies to create strong foundations, a system of accountability and structural Church reforms

closer to the person and mission of Jesus Christ. He currently chairs the Mater Group of Hospitals as well as Catholic Social Services in Australia. In 2020, he was honoured as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

What Can We Do? Open forum on positive, lay-led outcomes **24 Feb 20.00 London time**
Plenary Open Session with Francis Sullivan, and all our speakers



Photo by Arthur Poulin on Unsplash

Our Forum will have had three stages:

- Recognising the experience and impact of clerical abuse
- Asking, how does clericalism underpin the abuse of power
- Seeing the need for large-scale cultural change, and how it can really take root

This Plenary session will encourage us to contribute:

- Moving forward and understanding that we, the People of God, are the change - we can empower ourselves in solidarity with survivors, working to bring about the root-and-branch changes that are so badly needed.

We are deeply grateful to MACSAS (Ministry and Clerical Sexual Abuse Survivors) and Catholic Survivors for supporting us and guiding our planning throughout.



Registration is necessary and attendance is free.
R&B and SLN are unfunded, and run by volunteers. Donations towards our costs are appreciated.

For information and to register
www.rootandbranchsynod.org