

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MGE

Support person present: No

1. My name is MGE. My Catholic confirmation name was MGE. That may have been used on occasion in my records during my time at boarding school. My nickname at St Joseph's was MGE. MGE was used so much by teachers and pupils at the school that very few people even knew I was called MGE. Were people to recall me from my time then it is likely they would know me as MGE. MGE. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to St Joseph's

2. My mother and father married about a couple of years before I was born. My father's name was . He had various jobs. The last job I remember him having was being a quality control inspector in a carpet factory. My mother's name was . She was a teacher.
3. I was born in Reading in 1956. I am the oldest of four siblings. My sister is called . She is about two years younger than me. My oldest younger brother is called . The name on his birth certificate is . He is three and a half years younger than me. My youngest brother was called . The name on his birth certificate is . He is now deceased. He was about five and a half years younger than me.

4. I lived in England until 1966. I wasn't told that we were moving to Scotland before we went. I went up with my brothers and sister for a three week holiday with our grandmother near Stranraer. My mother and father then joined us. That was when we discovered we were moving house. We ended up moving to a small mining village called [REDACTED] in North Dumfriesshire. I started Primary Six at a primary school called [REDACTED] Primary School. My mother taught there. I left there after Primary Seven.
5. I later discovered the reasons for us moving to Scotland. The first was because my mother wanted to be closer to her parents. The second was because my parents wanted to get me into St Joseph's.
6. Before I came up to Scotland I was aware that my mother was quite excited about the idea of her sons going to boarding school. I remember hearing the name 'St Joseph's' mentioned. My mother must have had a prospectus or something. That wasn't something that I ever saw though. After we all arrived in Scotland there was very little said about me going to St Joseph's.
7. Unbeknownst to me the rest of the family was told I was going to St Joseph's in the Easter of 1968. I discovered that because my youngest brother had to write something at school. In that he wrote something like [REDACTED] MGE is going to college. I am very upset." He showed me what he had written. After seeing what my younger brother had written I asked my parents when I was going. I was told "don't worry about that" and "it'll be after primary school." It was all kind of pushed into the background. In the August of 1968 I was taken down to Dumfries to get my uniform for St Joseph's. It all came as a surprise to me. Not long after that I was taken down to St Joseph's to start school.
8. Looking back I think one of the reasons for me going to St Joseph's was partially snobbery on behalf of my parents. They were insistent on finding somewhere where I could get a good education. Another reason was that there would be one less person in the house to look after.

St Joseph's College, Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway

9. I started at St Joseph's College in the [REDACTED] of 1968 when I was twelve. The Marist Brothers ran St Joseph's. It was all boys. I'd say the age range was between the nine and eighteen. I know it was up to eighteen because I remember boys being there who were old enough to drink and have a driving licence.
10. The school had both boarders and day pupils. The day pupils weren't fee paying. I think at any one time there were up to four hundred boys who boarded in the college. I'd estimate there were about one hundred to one hundred and fifty day pupils on top of that.

Layout of St Joseph's

11. There were two floors of dormitories in the main building at St Joseph's. If you were looking at the college from the front the dorm for the first years was to the left hand side of the college on the sixth floor. The dorm had a long passageway with beds and lockers lined along the sides. There were rooms off of that passageway. I think there were four rooms off of the passageway. Three of those rooms had four beds and four lockers beside each other. The other room was where the dormitory master stayed. That was on the left hand side as you walked into the passageway. In total there were about seventy beds between the passageway and the four rooms. At the end of the passageway were two sets of wash basins and a footbath.
12. To the right hand side on the sixth floor was another dormitory. That dorm was used for second year and some third year pupils. It was a space just as big as the first year's dorm. It was a completely open space. On each side were three rows of beds and lockers. I think there were in total about ninety eight beds. The space didn't have any rooms leading off the passageway. However, it did have two parts which were walled off for dormitory masters alone. In practice, only one of those walled off parts was used by a dormitory master at any one time.

13. On the fifth floor was the dormitory where the third and some fourth years slept. It was a large space which had half of the space screened off to create an area which contained what we called 'cubicles'. There were wooden partitions which sectioned off individual beds. At the end of each space was a curtain. It was never really big enough to cover the space. It was quite high off the ground. All that really made it feel quite open. I can't remember exactly how many cubicles there were. I'd estimate there were maybe twelve to fifteen cubicles on each side. The other half of the space contained communal showers and wash hand basins.
14. To the other side on the fifth floor was another dormitory. It wasn't quite so crowded as the large dormitory on the sixth floor. The third years slept in that dorm. There was enough space to move easily between the rows. I would estimate there were about sixty beds in that dorm.
15. There was a new building in the college grounds which contained large rooms. Those rooms were meant to be used as music rooms. However, when I was in second year those rooms were used as overspill dormitories for a while. I think they only used those rooms as dorms for about a year.
16. There was a separate building which was called 'the old building'. In reality it was only two or three years older than the main building. I think on the ground floor contained the Prep School dormitories. They contained the boys who were in Primary Six and Primary Seven. Above that were the Prep School's classrooms. The top floor was where the Fifth and Sixth year pupils had their dorm. It was a dorm that had a similar set up to the first dorm I was in. There was a big open space with beds and lockers with rooms leading off which were also used to sleep boarders. The rooms contained only one person. I think there were about sixteen rooms. Some of the rooms had curtains separating them from the open space and others had walls and doors.

Academic years / the Prep School / Classes

17. When I joined St Joseph's there were eight academic years that ran from Primary Six through to Sixth year. They stopped doing Primary Six and Seven before I left. Those two years were known as the Prep School.
18. I remember that the Prep School was fee paying. When the Prep School was there the boys were always kept very separate. I don't remember seeing any of the Prep School boys. We were kept separate at break times and meal times.
19. Within the academic years they had classes for the boys. You were allocated your classes depending on your academic ability and your achievements in examinations. The classes were labelled '1A', '1B' and '1C' in first year, '2A', '2B' and '2C' in second year and so on. I was in amongst the top five boys academically in the 'A classes' for the first two years I was there.

Divisions and houses

20. Above the Prep School there were six academic years in the college. However, there were also, what they called, four divisions of boarders spread over all of the boys there. The first division was called the 'Wee Rec.' I think 'Rec' was an abbreviation for the word 'Reception.' That was for the boys in first year who were in the first dormitory on the sixth floor of the main building. The next division was called the 'Intermediate Division' or the 'Inters.' They were placed in the large dorm that contained second years and some third years on the sixth floor of the main building. The division after that was called the 'Middle Division' or the 'Mids.' That comprised of the third and fourth year pupils who stayed on the fifth floor. After that was the 'Senior Division.' That comprised the fifth and sixth year boys who stayed in the dorms in the separate building.
21. The movement between the divisions more or less followed the academic year you were in apart from when it came to second and third year. I remember wanting to

get out of the Inters as quickly as possible to be with the bigger boys in the Mids. You did feel as if you were being held back if you were kept in the Inters.

22. There was a house system at St Joseph's. There were four houses which contained boys from all the years at the school. You'd remain in the same house from start to finish. I can't remember what the houses were called. I think they were named after regions of somewhere. You played in your house teams during sports on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. I don't think the houses were particularly relevant to anything else.

Staff and other adults who were present at St Joseph's during my time there

Staff structure / involvement of the church

23. There was a quite a big distance between the headmaster and the teachers. You never really saw the headmaster, who was a Marist Brother, alongside any of the other Brothers. The teachers were a mixture of Brothers and lay people. It was roughly half and half. There was also quite a distance between the Marist Brothers and the lay teachers. They didn't seem to mix together. It was all very marked. The Marist Brothers weren't priests. The church's involvement was limited to the priest who came into the school.

Staff – [REDACTED] and priests

24. For the first four years I was there the SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MYZ [REDACTED] Brother MMK [REDACTED] was the SNR [REDACTED] when I left. I think he took over as SNR [REDACTED] when I was in fifth year. He had previously been, I think, the SNR [REDACTED]. I remember he also taught [REDACTED]
25. The priest was called Father Toplass. He was a nice guy. He kept himself apart from the Brothers. He didn't take part in assemblies or anything like that. I think that he stayed within the grounds.

Staff - Brothers who were dorm masters

26. The dorm masters were Brothers who were in charge of particular dorms. There were different dorm masters as you got older and went on to different dorms. The dorm masters all had rooms attached directly onto the dorms in the main building. All their rooms had doors but the doors were more or less always open.
27. My first year dorm master was Brother CIPHER WI. As far as I know he didn't teach me. If he did teach he might have been on the Prep School side of things. He had a [REDACTED] that was quite spooky. He would leave [REDACTED] a glass by the side of his bed. He was a recreation master who was in charge of part of the Wee Rec area. I remember that he was often drunk. He kept a glass of whisky by his bed.
28. Brother Damien was my dorm master in second year for a short time. He did that for about a term and a half. His real name was Thomas McCann. He also taught French up to O-Level. I don't think he taught Higher French. He was ultimately removed from his role as dorm master.
29. Brother MLX was another one of my dorm masters in second year. He was one of the Brothers who sometimes did the refectory duties. He was an [REDACTED] teacher.
30. There was a Brother whom we nicknamed MOC [REDACTED]. I don't remember his name. His name might have been Brother MOC but I am not sure. MOC [REDACTED] was called that because he was a dead ringer for a tall cadaverous folk singer in the sixties called [REDACTED]. He too was our dorm master in second year. He was only our dorm master for about the first month. He was another Brother who sometimes had refectory duties. I think he did have teaching responsibilities but I don't recall being in any of his classes. I don't remember what he taught. He played the guitar. He was younger and quite progressive. I think that was why he might have left the school in the end. He might have been moved on from the school.

31. For a short time we had a dorm master called Brother ^{MNV} [REDACTED]. He was my dorm master in the Mids dorm. He taught but I can't remember what he taught. He was quite famous for being involved in a war in [REDACTED]. I think he wound up being trapped in an airport there and ended up having to be rescued by special forces. He was famous for that.
32. Brother Francis was my dorm master when I was placed in the overflow dorm during second year. He taught biology and, I think, chemistry. He was softer in terms of discipline. I think he genuinely wanted to form relationships with the boys to work through issues and problems. Looking back that was the worst thing he could do in that environment. He was taken advantage of by the pupils because they felt he was someone they could run rings around. In any other environment he probably would be viewed as a standard teacher because he actually took an interest in the pupils.
33. Brother ^{MFT} [REDACTED] was the dorm master in my dorm in third and fourth year. He taught [REDACTED]
34. Brother ^{MLZ} [REDACTED] was my dorm master in fifth and sixth year. He taught [REDACTED]. I think he taught [REDACTED] as well. He was quite an aesthetic. He loved classical music and literature and so on. He was unlike the other Brothers who had other vices. He would have been more at home with the Jesuits than the Marist Brothers. He had that level of intelligence and the form of behaviour the Jesuits are famed for. He liked to think of himself as being at the centre of a spider's web controlling everything. He was one of the masters who was a discipline master. He dealt primarily with the boarders. I think he liked to think of himself as an enforcer for the headmasters.
35. Brother ^{AKV} [REDACTED] was at St Joseph's at the same time I was there but I didn't have a great deal to do with him. His real name was ^{AKV} [REDACTED]. I was completely unaware of him when I was there. I can't remember much about him at all. I subsequently discovered that he had previously taught at a Marist Primary School called St Columba in Largs.

36. Brother MFI was at St Joseph's when I was there. He was a teacher. He was very and extremely . He had very bright . I remember he could barely get up stairs. He obviously had a cardiovascular disease. It would take him a whole break time to get from one part of the building to another.

Brothers and lay staff who were solely teachers

37. Brother CIPHER was a teacher. He taught up to fourth year. I think he might have been a dormitory master on the Prep School side but I am not sure.
38. Mr MLY taught . He also took . His first name was MLY
39. Mr Lorenzo Rinaldi taught History. I heard in media reports later on that he held himself out to be some sort of guidance teacher. I don't remember him having that role whilst I was there.
40. Mr Neil taught English. I can't remember his first name. He was a kind of "right on" semi hippy kind of guy. He gave us challenging books to read and things like that.
41. We had a female Maths teacher who I can't remember the name of. I think her surname began with a 'W'. She would get so drunk at lunchtime that she frequently fell asleep during classes.
42. Patrick Craig only taught gym. He didn't take classes. He was a discipline master. He had a role disciplining the day pupils only. That was more his role. I think he was fair. He passed away, I think, in the eighties.

Brothers and lay staff with non-teaching responsibilities

43. I can't remember the matron's name but her nickname was . She was there throughout the time I was at St Joseph's. She was a small and fierce looking woman. She despised us all. I think she didn't like the boys because she knew that

some of them were being abused. I think she just thought we were subhuman because we were fodder or something.

44. There was a chef who joined the college who we were told had previously worked on the QE2. I don't remember his name.
45. There were people who served in the refectories. There were also cleaners. There was a groundsman and a boiler man who also did handyman type jobs.

Siblings and other children

Siblings

46. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also subsequently went to St Joseph's. [REDACTED] was three years below me. [REDACTED] was six years below me.
47. I remember having a friend who had a brother in the Prep School whilst he was in a later year in the college. He never got to see his brother. It was as if the Prep School was sealed up and insulated away from the college.

Background of children who came to the school

48. There were kind of two groups of boarders. I belonged to the group that was funded by the state. The situation at that time was that if you lived in the catchment area of the normal high school in Dumfries, lived too far away to commute and were Catholic, you were funded by the state to board at St Joseph's. There were boys at St Joseph's whilst I was there who were from Annan, Kirkconnel, Langholm and even places right the way into Galloway. I remember a boy from just south of Stranraer being there.

49. The other group of boarders were from elsewhere. Those boys were mostly from further afield in Scotland but there were also some boys from abroad. Their parents paid their fees.
50. The reason I boarded was because St Joseph's was too far away from [REDACTED]. At that time it would have taken me over an hour to get to the St Joseph's from my home. I was too far away to be a day pupil. It was more a geographical thing than anything else.

Boys who I remember from my time at St Joseph's

51. The boys I remember from my time at St Joseph's include [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Stephen Behan and MND [REDACTED].

Routine at St Joseph's

Early memories of being at St Joseph's

52. I was taken to St Joseph's by my parents. They took me up to my dormitory on the sixth floor of the college with my trunks and cases. I remember that we all had to be in the dorm at a certain time and your parents had to leave at a certain time. After my parents left Brother [REDACTED] CIPHER WI, who was the dormitory master, shouted at us what we needed to do next. He told us where to put stuff in our lockers and so on. My first impression was that we were all new and we were in a weird situation. I later on learnt that we weren't all new because some of the boys there had been to the Prep School at St Joseph's.

Daily routine

53. What time you got up depended on whether you went to Mass. There was an arrangement whereby one of the boys would be woken up by the dormitory master

and that boy would in turn get up all the other boys in the dorm who went to Mass. That was usually done at about 7:00 am. In practice very few boys went to Mass. If you didn't go to Mass you were got up by the dormitory master at 7:30 am. He would walk up and down shouting. You then went to the washbasins and washed your face and teeth before getting dressed. You had to be downstairs for breakfast by 8:00 am. Breakfast was held in your division's refectory. After breakfast you went to your designated recreation areas for recreation until about 9:00 am. You weren't supposed to go up to your dorm during this time unless you had permission from your dorm master or one of the Brothers who was in charge of the various recreation areas. After morning recreation you went to assembly. That only lasted about ten minutes. It was prayers and sometimes a hymn followed by some news. There was never really any news. After that it was classes until a break at about 10:20 am for fifteen or twenty minutes followed by more classes and lunch at about 12:30 pm. Lunch was followed by a break that lasted until about 2:30 pm.

54. What you did during the rest of the days varied depended on what day of the week it was. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the classes for boarders and day pupils went on until 5:00 pm. During those afternoons there was also an hour of compulsory sports. Wednesday afternoons comprised of an afternoon of sport for the boarders until 5:00 pm. I don't think the day pupils had to do sport on Wednesday afternoons. They could go home.
55. Both the day pupils and the boarders had classes on a Saturday morning. I remember the day pupils not liking that very much. There was compulsory sport held in the afternoon just for boarders. As a boarder, the only time you could get out came on a Sunday after Mass. You had to be back by suppertime. It initially worked out that you were away between 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. Later on they allowed you to go home earlier. You got to go home on Saturday evenings. That changed in second year for pupils, like myself, whose families lived nearby.
56. Every day, between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm, the boarders had homework before suppertime. There was always a bit of time after that when we were all supposed to wash, get into our pyjamas and get into bed. That was a time when you could read.

It was like free time but you couldn't go out of your dormitory. After that there were prayers. The time for lights out was different as we got older. I think in first year it was 8:00 pm, in second year it was 8:30 pm and in third and fourth year it was 9:30 pm. I remember that for sixth year it was 10:00 pm.

57. You went everywhere in herds. You couldn't deviate from the routine without permission. Any pupil that was seen out on their own was always challenged. You would be asked who you were and where you were going by whichever teacher or Brother it was.

Sleeping arrangements

58. Initially, when I started, I don't think there was anything particular that decided which bed you got. I think it was randomly assigned by the number you were given when you started at the college. It seemed to be the case for the first term there was a little bit of movement of boys between beds. It wasn't much though. By the second term it was decided where you were permanently going to be in the dorm. You weren't part of that process. You were just told where you had to go by the dorm master. Later on, there were situations where behavioural issues dictated that boys might be moved around. Dorm masters would move boys about. That happened to me when I was moved into a dorm in another building in second year.

Mealtimes / food

59. We ate all our meals in large refectories that were located on the ground floor of the main building. It was like the old Victorian style of dining rooms. I think the Prep School had a separate refectory. The first, second and third years' refectories were large, open and cramped. I think when you got into fourth year there were smaller refectory rooms which you shared with the fifth and sixth years.
60. We weren't allocated seats or anything like that. Where you sat in your refectory depended on where you found yourself on your first day. You tended to stick with

that no matter what. I think there was a bit of movement later on but that is generally what seemed to happen.

61. I'd say that there was probably enough food there to be eaten. Whether you wanted to eat it was another matter. The quality of the food was pretty horrendous. It really was awful. Sometimes the food was inedible. It was pretty much stews containing bone and gristle, lumpy mash and boiled cabbage swimming in water. A good day was fish fingers because they were edible. The good thing was that at tea times you had chips. If the food was really bad at lunchtime we could at least have the chips. I remember there was a campaign amongst the boys to allow us to have bread so we could make chip sandwiches. The Brothers eventually allowed that.
62. I remember that in one of the big refectories a Marist Brother would sit at a table on a platform at the top of the room. You could see that they got the best bits of the bad food. At least once a week there was an open lorry that came in from the abattoir. You'd see the animal carcasses being loaded off. It was apparent that the Brothers were getting the best bits off of the carcasses
63. One of the Brothers who sat on the platform had spoons lined up on his table. He was called MOC by the boys. He was extraordinarily accurate at throwing spoons at boys who were doing things that he thought they shouldn't be doing. We just found that funny in comparison to the other stuff that was going on in the college. It was something we could laugh about and share.
64. Brother MLX was another Brother who sometimes did the refectory duties. He used to just say he would see a boy upstairs if they misbehaved. It was usually for things like making a noise or not being attentive enough during the prayers that were said before mealtimes. I remember that there could be half a dozen boys lined up outside his room waiting after mealtimes. They would be given the belt when they saw him. That happened to me. I can't remember what that was specifically for. It was probably for just larking about. It was a two pronged belt. He could draw blood with his first whack. He would hit you on your wrists or the palms of your hands. I can

remember having cuts from him. It could be as many as six lashes spread across your wrists or palms. Two lashes was the least.

65. The Brothers didn't come round the tables whilst you were eating your meals. There wasn't any kind of penalty for not eating your food. They weren't bothered whether you ate or not. It wasn't any of their business. Occasionally there were boys who would see the big bowl of stew that was placed on the table and spit in it. That meant nobody could eat it. Boys were just being boys. If one of the Brothers saw a boy doing that they would either have a spoon thrown at them or they would have to go and see someone for the belt.
66. I remember that in second year there was an announcement made that the college was getting a chef to run the kitchen. We were told he had formerly worked on the QE2. I sort of made friends with him. I later discovered that he had only been a porter for Cunard. He'd lost his job with Cunard because they discovered he couldn't help out with the cooking.
67. The tuck shop was open at break time in the morning and the afternoon break time on Mondays to Fridays apart from Wednesday afternoons. It only sold chocolate and crisps and things like that.

Washing / bathing / personal hygiene inspections / inspections of lockers

68. In the mornings you got washed in the wash hand basins that were in, or next to, the dorms. There was an allocated day when you could use the showers in the shower room. If you had time coming back from compulsory sport you could sometimes get access to the showers. There were also deep sinks and a footbath, which was like a large tiled shower basin, that you could use if you didn't get access to the showers. The showers weren't supervised by staff.
69. Very occasionally in first year you were made to stand in the dorm by your bed with your socks off. Brother CIPHER W would come around everyone and inspect their

feet. He did that to make sure that your feet were washed. That maybe happened once a week or a fortnight.

70. I remember that Brother CIPHER W would inspect your locker at the same time. He'd check that your locker was tidy and your shoes were polished. It was like something out of the military. You always felt you had to be prepared to tidy your locker at a moment's notice because of that. I remember that he occasionally would use the belt to punish you if your feet were dirty or your locker was untidy.

Clothing / uniform

71. Your uniform was paid for by your parents. It was a blue blazer with a gold braid, a blue jumper with two gold stripes around the V-neck, a grey or a white shirt, trousers and dark shoes. You were supposed to have a school cap but everybody just threw those away. Like all schools the boys tried to modify their uniforms. There were some quite bizarre and inventive modifications that people made. I remember boys getting in trouble for doing that.
72. Your hair had to be no longer than your collar. I had a friend called [REDACTED] who was in the same division as me. We shared the same dorm master. He was found to have hair that was slightly longer than his collar. He was expelled for the length of his hair at the end of fifth year. The odd thing was that I had hair longer than him. Furthermore, as a mark of rebellion, I had had a bit of it streaked. I wasn't expelled for my hair but [REDACTED] was. There was no even handedness there. I think they used [REDACTED] long hair as an excuse to chuck him out.

Pupil numbers

73. Every pupil was given a number. Mine was [REDACTED] You'd be known as much by your number as your name. Quite often teachers, staff and the Brothers referred to you by your number. Anything that was done outside the classroom involved using your number in some way. It was used more for the administrative side of things when it came to the boys who were boarders. If there was a letter that came in for you for

distribution it would be marked up next to your number. The number was also placed on tags in your clothes. That was so as they could sort out your clothes when they came back from the laundry.

Nickname at St Joseph's

74. I was called MGE at St Joseph's both by the staff and the other boys. The nickname came about because when I started there was a teacher who would call boys MGE if he didn't know their name. For some reason it stuck with me. The nickname carried on to my brothers. My younger brother became Wee [REDACTED] and my youngest brother became Wee'er [REDACTED]

Personal possessions / pocket money / the cashiers office

75. The sort of personal possessions you kept in your locker were clothes, shoes, washbags, books, vinyl LPs, cassettes and cassette players. It was the usual stash of stuff that boys kept. Boys might also keep pornography, knives and cigarettes. There was a bit of an issue concerning thievery amongst the boys but not a lot. Occasionally knives were stolen. It was basically usually money, cigarettes or sweets that was taken. You didn't report it when it happened. There was a kind of code surrounding that amongst the pupils.
76. They would use your number to administer your pocket money. They would ask you what your number was when you went to collect your pocket money. There was a sort of cashiers office. Parents could leave money there for pupils to be given pocket money.
77. The cashiers office was also where they recorded things like laundry if you had anything extra laundered. I didn't do that because I took my laundry home at weekends.

Schooling

78. I found the quality of education at St Joseph's really bad. There wasn't any real focus on individuals becoming brilliantly academic. It felt as if the academic side of things was a by-product of the place where we just happened to be living. It was almost as if we were living in a bizarre place that was just trying to be a school at the same time.
79. I did really well in first and second year. I had come from, what I felt was, a very formative two years in my previous primary school. I had done very well there. I remember that I was in the 'A' classes in the first two years but slipped down the classes later on. Nobody ever said to me anything like "how come you were second in the class in history and last the next year?" There was nothing like that.
80. At the end of second year it was decided whether you were going on to do science subjects or arts subjects. I wasn't given any choice in that. I was told that I was going to do science subjects. I was disappointed because my best subjects were the arts subjects. It was, oddly, Brother ^{MLX} who told me that. He was only my dorm master. There was no discussion with me or with my parents. I think from then onwards my education suffered.
81. I passed all my O Levels in fourth year. In my fifth year I got three Highers out of the five I did. I should have had five A's based on how I had been performing in first and second year. I ended up with three Cs and two fails. When I went back for my sixth year there was resistance when I tried to join classes. I was supposed to be repeating the classes where I had got Cs in as well as the classes for subjects I was re-sitting because I had failed. I was basically asked during the classes what I was doing there. Word had come down from somewhere to prevent me sitting the classes that I wanted to do. I ended up being pretty much just left to sit in my room on my own.
82. There were about thirty-two boys in each class. The classrooms had wooden dividers with frosted glass between each class. The classes would be lined up

beside one another. You could hear what was going on in the other classrooms quite well.

83. It was part of the discipline that nobody left or came into the classroom during classes. It wasn't like in other schools where teachers would regularly come in and ask to borrow a duster or something. That just didn't happen. The only times another teacher or Brother would come in is if the Brother or teacher needed to go to the toilet or if too much noise was being made whilst we were unsupervised. I think that the absence of people coming in and out of the classrooms during classes was a product of Brothers and teachers protecting their vices.
84. The female Maths teacher who would get so drunk at lunchtime and fall asleep during classes knew the environment was corrupt and that she could drink and get away with it. Looking back, those were the ones who were least of your problems. At least they left you alone.

Homework

85. Homework for the boarders was undertaken in the classrooms. Unlike the classes during the day they folded back the dividers between the classrooms to create one big room. One of the Brothers would sit at the front of the class. His role would be called 'taking the homework.' Part of the discipline of the classes during the day carried over into when we did homework. You weren't allowed to interact with the Brother and he wasn't supposed to interact with you. You weren't allowed to interact with each other. It all had to be done in complete silence and at your desk. I remember that if you needed to go to the toilet you had to put your hand up.

Sex education

86. We never really got any proper sex education. The extent of what we got was being called into the SNR [REDACTED] office in second year during homework. The SNR [REDACTED] who did that was called Brother MYZ [REDACTED]. Basically, the extent of the sex education talk you received from him was something like "whatever you hear, or

whatever you do with males and females, what you need to know is that Our Lord was born of an immaculate conception and there wasn't a union between Joseph and Mary. Do you understand?" That was the total of it. Everybody got the same talk.

Religious instruction / confession

87. There wasn't any great encouragement to be religious. It wasn't hammered into you. It wasn't like what I had experienced in other schools earlier on in my life. There wasn't any strong push to join the church. As far as I know nobody was pushed that way. I don't remember any of the boys being particularly religious.
88. The first period of every morning was spent doing religious instruction. Given the environment we were in there was a hypocrisy in what they were teaching you in religious instruction. That was obvious. There was nothing in that environment that was conducive to being religious. I suppose, looking back, the only reason you may have wanted to be involved is if you had a vice, wanted to join in and wanted to get away with it.
89. We had to say prayers when we went to bed and before meals. We said prayers at assembly. Mass wasn't compulsory except for on Sundays. You were always encouraged to go to Mass but there wasn't any feeling that the pupils who didn't attend were treated differently.
90. Confession did play a part at St Joseph's. There was a time when each class had to go to confession. You would sit in the church and wait to go in. When you went in you'd just say you had told lies or something. You would make something up. You would make up that you told lies. Confession was absolutely not the place to report things that had happened. The priest was very separate from the Brothers.
91. Certain pupils were encouraged to join the Marist Order. The boys who were encouraged to do that were always the loners amongst the boys. They were taken to places. I remember that they were taken to a place called Kinharvie. Kinharvie

was a kind of training place for the Marist Brothers. I remember us asking the boys who went there what it was like. None of the boys who went would say anything. We used to think that it was because the boys didn't want to be outed as being religious.

Chores

92. I can't remember there being any particular chores that we had to do. I can't remember anything in the dormitories, the refectories or classrooms. We didn't have to do anything like cleaning or anything like that. The only thing like that we had to do was set up things during sport and gym. It would be setting up the equipment, putting it back and things like that.

Leisure time

93. There were four designated recreation areas. Each one was separately assigned to a different division. You weren't supposed to go across into the other areas outside your division's recreation area. The Wee Rec recreation area had kind of a Nissen hut with quite a few ping pong tables inside. Outside was a sort of patio area. There was a grass area which contained a couple of tennis courts and a football pitch. The Inters had a huge hall in their recreation area. The Mids had another recreation area. The Seniors had an area that was totally separate from the other recreation areas where you could smoke. They had an old smashed up listed building where they could go. Each of the recreation areas was nominally supervised by one of the Brothers. They often wouldn't be around.
94. There were sometimes functioning record players in the recreation areas. You could use them to play your own records. There was sometimes a functioning television that you could watch as well. You'd only get to see that for about half an hour between supper and bedtime. I remember that it was always a huge disappointment that you never got to see Top of the Pops.

95. On Sundays there was always a film shown at about 6:30 pm. A projector was set up in the assembly hall and a black and white film would be shown. It was 'Guns of Navarone', 'The Heroes of Telemark', John Mills films and things like that.

Smoking

96. Cigarette smoking was largely tolerated at the school from about second year onwards. It was pretty much acceptable past then. There were almost designated toilets where the younger pupils could smoke. Past the age of sixteen you could smoke in the Senior's recreation building.
97. I remember there was a shop outside the school which used to sell what they called 'penny singles' which were individual cigarettes. I remember the queues of boys outside that shop being massive. The understanding was that if a teacher, or some other staff member, went to the shop they got to go to the front of the queue.

Holidays / weekend leave

98. You went home for Easter for two weeks, Christmas for two weeks and for Summer for six weeks. You got to go home at weekends as well. For the first two years I was released at 10:30 am on Sundays after Mass to go home. I had to be back by 5:30 pm that evening. The time you were allowed out wasn't really that long when you consider the distance it was for me to get home. When I was in third year the period you were allowed out got extended to between after the compulsory sports on Saturday and teatime the following Sunday. That meant we could actually have some time at home.

Trips

99. One of the aircrew from the dam busters gave us a talk about a charity he was involved with. It was called The Cheshire Foundation. We ended up doing a sponsored walk for The Cheshire Foundation. We walked to the top of a hill called Criffell.

100. I remember being taken in a class by Brother Francis to an old river delta. I went there with two of my friends later on unsupervised. I remember that on that occasion [REDACTED] fell off a swing and broke his arm.
101. We were sometimes taken to the local swimming pool for swimming lessons.
102. Every year they had trips to places during the summer in July. You went with a couple of the Brothers. I went on one of these trips. I went to San Sebastian in Spain. That was in about 1970. I would have been about fourteen. Brother [REDACTED] was one of the Brothers there. I can't remember who the other Brother was. We stayed in a youth hostel in dormitories.
103. There was a strange incident in San Sebastian involving Brother [REDACTED]. My passport went missing from my dormitory. I told Brother [REDACTED] and we arranged to go to the consulate. On the way there Brother [REDACTED] took me for some tapas and drinks in a bar. I remember being ok with that at the time. We then went to the consulate. It was closed because it was siesta. I remember we went back to the consulate later on. It was strange because they didn't seem concerned about me losing my passport. Later on, the passport suddenly reappeared in my locker in my room at the youth hostel. That was odd. In hindsight, in light of things I learnt later on about Brother [REDACTED], I wonder whether that was some sort of attempt to groom me. It was all very strange.

Birthdays / Christmas

104. Birthdays were never acknowledged. Being a boarding school, everybody was supposed to go home for Christmas itself. However, there were special arrangements made for some of the boys to stay at the school over Christmas. I think it was only about half a dozen boys who did that. They were boys who had parents who lived abroad. Nobody asked those boys what happened over the Christmas period.

105. In the lead up to Christmas there were Christmas carols at assembly instead of hymns. I think one year there was an attempt to stage a nativity but it never really worked. I think it was because that sort of thing would have needed a loosening up of the controls they had in place.

Letters / telephone

106. If anybody wrote to you they had to put your school number on their letters. The letters that came in were given out over lunchtime. They were pre-sorted in the school office. They were sorted by what refectory the pupil was in. That's how you got your post.
107. You had to be careful with receiving letters because they could be intercepted. I remember some of us being sent letters and discovering later on they were confiscated. There was an incident where we were rebelling and writing to the Chinese Embassy for a copy of the little red book. I remember there was an announcement in assembly by the headmaster alluding to those letters. They must have got hold of some of the letters incoming in the opposite direction.
108. There was one public telephone in the school. You were allowed to use that phone during recreation time. That wasn't supervised. If your parents needed to speak to you urgently they had to call this telephone during homework time. We all told our parents that that was when to call if there was an emergency. I remember hearing the telephone ringing during homework time. It would drive us nuts. Nobody would pick it up until there were about twenty five rings. It actually felt like torture for us because we all knew the only reason it was ringing was because there was something that had gone wrong for somebody.

Visitors

109. Visits from friends and relatives were only encouraged at certain times. They were times like when they picked you up or dropped you off at school. Friends and relatives might be contacted to come into the school if something had happened like

a friend or another family member dying. There was a Whitsun sports day where parents were encouraged to come in. That was about it. There was nothing that was remotely casual about the way they dealt with visitors. It was always very carefully orchestrated and controlled.

Inspections

110. We would be prepped in advance of the inspections that were made by the education authority. We were told when and how the inspection was going to happen and how we should behave. I remember people coming in and sitting at the back of classrooms during classes. You would get a different lesson than what was normal for us from the teacher or Brother taking the class.
111. There was no oversight from inspectors outside of the classrooms. The classrooms were the only place that I saw them. There was never anybody who came up to speak to me publicly or privately. Nobody ever asked me how I was getting on at the school. There was never anything like that.
112. There were no inspections of the non-educational side of the school. Nowadays you would have the Care Commission come in. There was none of that back then. Looking back, we were always aware that the Marist Brothers self-policed themselves. You were always aware that there was no oversight from outside of the Order. They were a law to themselves particularly when it came to the care they provided outside of school hours.

Pastoral care

113. Anything that was to do with what we would call nowadays pastoral care was completely absent at St Joseph's. There wasn't any careers guidance. I heard that after I left there was a teacher who gave some sort of careers guidance in one of my brother's classes. That didn't really happen when I was there. I think that all came in after I left.

114. I heard in media reports in later life that Mr Rinaldi was claiming that he was a guidance teacher. That's not something I was aware of when I was at St Joseph's. It would have been impossible for him to have been a guidance teacher. He was only there between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm. He took lessons between those hours. He wasn't around whilst all the things were going on. He would have known nothing of what was going on in terms of the things that went on outside of his working hours.

Healthcare

115. The matron had a little office on the third floor of the main building. There was a sickbay next to her office with four beds in it. I think there was also a toilet attached. If, in the morning, you were ill you would have to get permission from whoever was your recreation area master to see the matron. You had to ask someone in your class, after you got permission, to inform the teacher in your first class why you were absent. You would then go and see the matron at about 9:00 am. What was wrong with you could vary. It could be anything from a cold, right through to a broken bone.
116. I remember that there could be anything between five and thirty boys standing waiting to see the matron. When you arrived you had to line up with your back to the wall outside of the sick bay. I remember that the corridor had a cold stone floor. The matron would come out and make everybody take off their shoes and socks. You would be standing there in the freezing cold. I remember that the matron would inspect your feet. If your feet weren't clean she would slap you and make you go and wash your feet. Only after you did that could you come back. I saw that happening with other boys whilst I was standing in the queue. It was one slap across the face. She would be genuinely angry. The matron would then call boys into the sickbay in the order they were in the line unless there were particular boys who were noticeably very ill.
117. The matron left at a certain time in the morning. I think it was about 11:00 am that she usually went away. The only time she stayed around was if the doctor was coming in later on. I don't think there were any official arrangements for the

supervision of boys in the sickbay after the matron left. The boy's dormitory master would be informed though if they were there. I remember that they were told. It was a very loose arrangement.

118. There were visiting doctors. They would only come in if they were called in. The matron usually left it quite late until she called the doctor in. I think they would leave it until about lunchtime to call the doctor for boys who were in the sickbay. If there were accidents, things like broken bones, Dumfries Infirmary was immediately across the road. There was an A&E department there alongside the general hospital.
119. We had age appropriate vaccinations. I think I got my tuberculosis vaccine when I was thirteen or fourteen. I think they had to complete a record to show that you had received your vaccinations. I think that was probably about the only record I saw anyone taking whilst I was at the school.
120. There was no dental care apart from being sent to an emergency dentist if need be. If that was the case you had to go and see the matron first for the arrangements to be made. There were no regular appointments with dentists or anything like that.

Running away

121. I never ran away. I had nowhere to run to. It was very seldom that boys did run away. The boys who did run away were the boys who had "flipped and gone feral." I can remember it only happening about a couple of times a year. The boys who ran away always got picked up and brought back. There wasn't a specific punishment for the boys who ran away. They were just treated even worse.
122. There was one boy who was French who ran away to France. His name was [REDACTED]. I don't remember his surname. He was only at St Joseph's for about a year. I was friends with him because we were both friendly with the art teacher. He was abused but I don't know the circumstances around what was happening. He was one of those boys where it wasn't spoken about but you just knew there was

something that wasn't right. I remember that when [REDACTED] came back we discovered he had shaved his head whilst he was away. That was unusual because everyone had long hair at that time.

123. A boy called Stephen Behan was another one of the boys who went feral. There was one day in the refectory when he pinned someone's hand to the table with a fork. A little while after that he ran away. He reappeared the following day having spent the night in a local church. He told us that he had defecated as much as he could on the church's altar. I don't remember what happened after he returned in terms of discipline. There was something said in assembly about people going into churches of other religions. Everybody knew what the person making the announcement was referring to.

Bed-wetting

124. Bed-wetting wasn't a problem that I had. You could go out of the dormitories at night time if you needed to go to the toilet. If you did go you might see the head of a Brother looking out from their room's doorway. They would be checking what time you were going out. They would look out of their doorway when you came back in.
125. There were boys who were bed-wetters but it was all kept quiet. For those who did wet the bed there was a terrible shame attached to it. I can't remember seeing boys who wet the bed made to strip their bed and take their sheets somewhere. What I do remember is that the cleaners would go around the beds whilst we were in morning classes. They would identify the beds which had been wet and change them. There would ultimately be an extra laundry bill for the boys who had wet their bed. I know that because everybody was billed by the amount of laundry they produced.
126. I knew the sheets were changed because I saw the sheets had been changed when I came back into the dorms. You noticed these things because there wasn't much in the rooms. The rooms were all pretty spartan. All that was in the rooms were beds and lockers. You would notice when bed clothes were changed because so little did

change. That's how you became aware of these things rather than any announcement being made or anything like that.

Discipline and punishment

127. It was all very arbitrary. They had quite a loose structure when it came to discipline. It was all applied randomly by different people. There was never a list of things you could be punished for. There was never a list of what punishments you could get for doing certain things. It was never as direct as "if you do 'x' then you get six of the best with the belt."
128. Sometimes it depended on who the boy being disciplined was. Sometimes it depended on the person punishing you. There were Brothers who appeared to be ok for a while and then, all of a sudden, turned on people. They could suddenly become over tough in terms of discipline. A point was always made that things weren't always even handed. It seemed to be part of the common purpose. I think that was their way of destabilising the situation. I think they got control through doing that.
129. I was never one of the boys who got in serious trouble at St Joseph's. I was never that bad. I was never destructive or violent or anything like that. I think I was just resentful of the whole situation I had found myself in more than anything else.

The use of movement between the Inters and Mids as a sanction

130. The movement of boys between the Inters and the Mids was a tool that the Brothers used over you. You would be told that if you didn't stop doing this or that you could be held back in the Inters. I remember being told that. It would have been Brother MLX who told me that. They did hold back, or put forward, boys between those divisions depending on their behaviour. It was quite random though. Sometimes boys were held back for some sort of behaviour and other boys, who had behaved in exactly the same way, would be moved forward. It left you thinking that certain boys

were almost being rewarded for their bad behaviour when others were being punished.

131. Some Brothers sometimes threatened to split you up from your friends between the Inters and Mids. Brother MLX was one of those who said that. They knew that you didn't cross over the divisions and that you wouldn't get to see your friends if you were moved to the Mids or held back in the Inters.

The use of smoking as an excuse to discipline pupils

132. Smoking was used as an excuse to get at people. You just knew the people who were smokers. The Brothers would use their smoking as an excuse to target them. They would use the excuse that they smelt smoke on your breath whether you had smoked or not. It was usually the Brothers who used smoking as an excuse because the prefects and enforcers were usually smokers themselves.

Corporal punishment

133. Whether or not you were taken away to be belted depended on the particular Brother or staff member punishing you or whether your face fitted. I was belted quite a few times. I remember pretty much all the Brothers and lay teachers used the belt. Some used it more than others. I remember Mr Rinaldi didn't use it so much. There were people who got belted more than me. You could get the belt for being seen to be cheeky. It could come out of the blue. You could go for months being much cheekier and then randomly you were punished.
134. If your misdemeanour was in the classroom or in recreation time you would be belted pretty much there and then. If it happened elsewhere they would drag it out. They would call you to a room to give you the belt later on. Brother MLX was one of the Brothers who liked dragging it out. That was another twist to their system I suppose.
135. Another thing you were supposed to be belted for was smoking. There was a toilet where groups of boys who weren't old enough to smoke went to smoke. Brothers

used to walk in and randomly pull out a couple of people from the group and take them away to be belted. The rest of the boys in the group were told just to put their cigarettes away. Brother MFT was one of the Brothers who did that. I think that was because the toilet was located in the Mids recreation area and he was the dormitory master for the Mids. He's the one I remember the most doing that. Not all the Brothers behaved like that. I remember that Brother Francis would look in the toilets and just tell pupils to put their cigarettes away.

Prefects

136. The prefect system was quite odd at St Joseph's. There was never a big thing made of it. The prefects mostly comprised of the boys who captained the football teams. Quite often you didn't even know who the prefects were. It wasn't really until fourth and fifth year that you worked out who were prefects. The prefect's role wasn't what you would typically imagine it to be. Their role was never really to represent the boys. To me it felt like the prefects were kind of like enforcers for the Brothers.

Boys who were assigned disciplinary and enforcement roles in the dorms

137. As you went through the years there were more and more boys assigned disciplinary roles in the dorms. Half of the boys were picked by the Brothers because they were bullies who would carry out what the particular Brother wanted them to do. The other half were boys who kept themselves to themselves. It wasn't formalised but they nominally took the role of prefects. There wasn't anything like that in first year. In second year boys were nominally given that role. It was really only by third year that the boys who were given those roles took more prominence. By the time you got to fifth year you knew who the boys were who took up the disciplinary roles. The boys who took on those roles used physical violence quite a lot.

Abuse at St Joseph's – specific incidents relating to me

138. There were things going on day to day. The things that shouldn't have happened always happened amongst the mundane. The mundane was quite often the cover for what was going on. Sometimes it felt a bit like a bubbling pot with a lid that was going to come off. They always kept the lid on things though. They were very clever at doing that. It did seem to me that, whatever happened, there was never a feeling of it all coming crashing down. For some of the Brothers the abuse was to do with paedophilia. With others it was to do with power.

Brother CIPHER W

139. In first year I had a [REDACTED] teacher called Brother CIPHER. During class he would call you up to stand with him behind his desk at the front of the class. You would stand next to him on the platform behind his desk.. He would say that he would correct my work. The bottom half of your torso would be blocked off by the front of his desk so the class would not be able to see what was happening. He frequently would then put his hand down the back of my trousers inside my pants. It was always my bottom that he touched. He would be correcting your work with his other hand. Nobody else would be able to see what he was doing because of the set up with the desks. He probably did that to me on half a dozen occasions. After a while I became uncomfortable with it and started trying to move away. I think once he realised that you were a boy who tried to move away he would move on to someone else.
140. Brother CIPHER did what he did to me to everybody in the class. It was common knowledge that he did what he did. It was openly discussed amongst the boys. Nobody said that it hadn't happened to them. Virtually everybody at break time talked about what he did in class. They would say things like "I wish I had farted on his hand" and that sort of stuff. I'd estimate that Brother CIPHER probably did what he did to me to one boy in the class about once a fortnight.

141. I never ever heard of anyone else being abused in any other way by Brother CIPHER. Then again, what with everything be compartmentalised, if something had happened I wouldn't have got to know about it.

Brother Damien

142. Brother Damien is the Brother who really stands out for me in terms of abuse. He arrived at the school when I was in second year. He was quite elderly. He started the same business as what Brother CIPHER had been doing during classes in the classroom. He would call you up to stand beside him at the front behind his desk. He would put his hand down the back of my trousers. As with Brother CIPHER, the setup of the desk meant that other people couldn't see what he was doing.
143. Brother Damien was slightly different to Brother CIPHER because he was a little bit more probing. He'd try to get his hand around to your testicles or try to stick one of his fingers in your bottom. When he did what he was doing he would be quite often be doing that with his left hand and masturbating under his cassock with his other hand at the same time. Sometimes he would openly masturbate whilst he was feeling your bottom in the classroom behind the desk. His penis would be fully out. That would be quite shocking. His hygiene wasn't the best. I remember that his penis, when you saw it, was smelly and crusty. That happened quite frequently.
144. Brother Damien did what he did to me with other boys as well. He did that with everyone. It was discussed amongst the boys that he was doing the same thing to me as he was doing to them. It was the same sort of things that were said about Brother CIPHER. It was all the same silly jokes.
145. Brother Damien used to do a strange thing with his erection during classes. All the Brothers had a big long rope which they wore around their waists outside of their cassocks. The rope was doubled up around their waists. Brother Damien would tie the rope around his penis over his cassock and pull the rope backwards and forwards from side to side whilst he was walking up and down between the desks. You could clearly see he had an erection through his cassock. He'd do that whilst

we were all sitting there doing an essay or a translation or something like that. I remember that we were all a bit agog at the way he was behaving.

146. Brother Damien never mentioned what he was doing or talked whilst he was doing the things that he was doing. He didn't say anything. Even the times that I saw him openly masturbating he never even acknowledged what he was doing. There were no instances where other staff came into the classroom whilst he was doing these things.
147. One of the main times that Brother Damien committed abuse was during night time. He was the dormitory master when I was in the Inters in second year. He had a room that was connected to the Inters dormitory. Brother Damien used to keep his door open at night time. There was one particular French boy called [REDACTED]. He was a boy who Brother Damien used to come out of his room for. He'd do that about twenty minutes after the lights went out. He'd tap [REDACTED] on the shoulder, or whisper in his ear, then take him into his bedroom. Brother Damien would do that pretty much every night. [REDACTED] would be gone for about half an hour.
148. Brother Damien did try the same thing with one or two other boys. I don't remember their names. They were all boys who slept near his room. The boys would maybe only go to his bedroom two or three times before it stopped. It seemed to be, for whatever reason, that Brother Damien had some sort of a hold on [REDACTED] as opposed to the other boys. For [REDACTED] it never seemed to stop.
149. All of us knew what might be happening with [REDACTED] because of what we had seen Brother Damien doing in the classroom. I can't remember the exact instances but other boys had also said they had been taken into Brother Damien's room and he had tried to do things to them. I can't remember what exactly was said. It was one of these things where it was what was not said rather than what was said that made it obvious. Because of the relationships you had formed with the other pupils you didn't need to say or hear much to know that something was going on.

150. I think that, because of the limited sex education we had and because a lot of the boys were naïve, the extent that we thought that something was going wrong was limited. What we thought was that it was wrong and it was to do with your genitals or your body. We didn't really understand what was going on.
151. I was never subjected to what [REDACTED] was experiencing with Brother Damien. He never tried to do anything with me. My bed was too far away from Brother Damien's room for him to try on anything. My bed was about halfway up the dorm in the middle. There was a concentration of beds around his room. I remember that some boys were moved to the beds near his room because I think he wanted to see if he could get them into his room. [REDACTED] was one of the boys who Brother Damien moved to a bed near to his room.
152. I remember that the tension in the dormitory was high because of Brother Damien. We were all trying to sleep at night whilst waiting for Brother Damien to come out of his room. I remember thinking "thank God he's picked [REDACTED] and not me." I felt sorry for [REDACTED]. He'd joined the school in second year and that all started happening to him only about a week after he started. He was getting taken out of his bed pretty much every night. It went on for him for almost the whole term.
153. Brother Damien's behaviour in the classroom went on for years. The things that were happening with Brother Damien in class went on throughout all the time I had him as a teacher. I know that he carried on behaving like that after I wasn't in his classes. I have heard that through other people.
154. Brother Damien's behaviour in the dormitory was different. His behaviour was too outrageous for him to be allowed to carry on as a dormitory master. It was too disruptive and too well known. Boys weren't sleeping. There were all sorts of impacts there as a result of his behaviour. He was ultimately removed from his role as dorm master. I can't recall there being any specific event that led to him being removed from that role. However, his behaviour was far too open to be unnoticed. It must have gone far beyond what even they thought was acceptable.

Brother MFT

155. Brother MFT attempted to abuse me on one occasion during third year during the first half of the first term. I hadn't been in the dorm all that long. I would have been about fourteen. He took me into his room ostensibly to punish me. I can't remember what that was for. It would have been for smoking or laughing too loudly or something like that. He got his belt out and told me to lean over his bed. He then lifted up my dressing gown and pulled my pyjama bottoms down. He then put his belt away. It was at that point that I worked out what was happening. I then resisted. Looking back, resisting could have been dangerous. I made it clear that it wasn't happening. He just left me to sort out my dressing gown and pyjamas and go back into the dormitory. I don't recall any repercussions for me but I think my brother was affected later on.

Abuse at St Joseph's – recollections of other pupils being used by staff to physically assault me and my peers

156. I can't really remember any instances of pupil on pupil sexual behaviour. It could have happened but that isn't something I remember. Deals were made between particular Brothers and particular pupils that resulted in pupils physically assaulting other pupils.

Mr MLY

157. The only time I recall a lay teacher instructing another pupil to do something to me came in the second term of second year. We had a teacher called MLY. I remember that he was proud of the fact that the only thing he kept in his briefcase was a belt and a sandwich. He would open up his briefcase and let you see the belt. He was a bit power mad. He was very sarcastic. There was also something quite human about him. He was normal in a lot of other senses when compared to the Brothers.

158. I can remember Mr **MLY** saying something sarcastic to me out of the blue. Before I had the chance to stop myself saying something I replied. The class laughed. Mr **MLY** then looked at me. As far as I knew it was all over at that. That was until we got onto the rugby pitch that lunchtime. Mr **MLY** told me that I had to be the hooker. If you know anything about rugby being the hooker means you are kind of in the middle of the scrums. Mr **MLY** then told the other team to "get me." He told them to "get **MGE**" within earshot of the whole scrum. The boys were essentially given carte blanche to beat me up. I remember that I had an awful struggle getting back to the changing rooms to get changed after that game.

Brother **MLZ**

159. Brother **MLZ** use of control was more measured and thought out. He wouldn't respond to a situation immediately. He behaved totally differently to the other Brothers. You knew, even though you couldn't prove anything, that when you were being punished by other boys that it came from him. It was almost as if he hid out in the open with his enforcers.
160. In fifth year, around about April or May, about four of us had been caught smelling of beer. We weren't falling about drunk or anything like that. I can only remember that one of the other boys who was caught with me was called **[REDACTED]**. Brother **MLZ** instructed some boys to deal with myself and **[REDACTED]**. **[REDACTED]** I wasn't there when they were instructed by Brother **MLZ** but I later learnt that they had been instructed later on. One of the boys who was instructed was called **[REDACTED]**. He was a year older than me. He was one of the boys who was a prefect. He was a **[REDACTED]**
161. **[REDACTED]** was called into **[REDACTED]** room before I was. The prefects who were waiting in the room hung **[REDACTED]** by his ankles out of a window at the top of the school. Brother **MLZ** was standing below in one of the recreation areas looking up at what was happening. I was aware of what was going on and that it was going to be my turn next.

162. There was a gap before I was called into [REDACTED] room. [REDACTED] was quite upfront about what he was doing. I remember what he said quite clearly because I hadn't heard the expression he used before. He said "We have been told to fill you in and hang you out the window." I didn't know at the time what "fill you in" meant. It was clear though that he had been told to do what he was about to do. In the end they didn't do to me what they did to [REDACTED]. The so called prefects and enforcers were really just thugs. They enjoyed what they were doing. They loved the power and control.
163. I know that the boys who hung my friend out of the window were also drinkers. They had been told they would be rewarded if they punished us for drinking, which they did. Their reward was to be taken to the Station Bar in town and given a pint by one of the Brothers. It was all as blatant as that. I don't know which Brother took them out but I remember that we had to stop going to the Station Bar because those boys started going there.

Other Brothers use of enforcers

164. I remember that after we negotiated the bread to have with our chips at teatime and after we negotiated to get away on Saturday afternoons after sport with the Brothers we were bullied that little bit extra by the prefects. Those boys were acting as the Brothers' enforcers. We were marked out as causing the Brothers bother. We had to pay the price.

Abuse at St Joseph's – recollections of receiving verbal bullying at St Joseph's

Encouragement of verbal abuse by teachers and Brothers at the school

165. There was plenty of verbal bullying by staff. There was also something encouraged by a couple of teachers as well as the Brothers. It was the so called "poof culture." All that went on for too long. Boys would be running around calling each other

"poofs." Boys were encouraged to do that by certain teachers and Brothers to other boys.

166. The Brothers and teachers knew the effect the "poof culture" had on you. It terrified you. It was supposedly the worst thing you could be. You didn't want to be called something that you didn't really understand in front of everybody else. The strange thing was that nobody really knew what a "poof" was. None of us had an understanding of heterosexuality or homosexuality at that age. It was different days back then.
167. I remember that when I was in first year there was a second year boy who was asked by a Brother to call me a "poof" every time he saw me. I dreaded lunchtimes because I was called this by this boy. I remember watching the boy's class come out, seeing the boy coming out and shouting "oh he's a poof" when he saw me. I remember trying to avoid this boy. It was horrible. I wasn't the only one who experienced that. My impression was that it was encouraged.

Abuse at St Joseph's – recollections of my brother [REDACTED] experiences at St Joseph's

168. About a year and a half after I left the school [REDACTED] was in third year and in the cubicle dormitory. I remember saying to him that the best thing he could do is try and get along with everybody even if you didn't like them. I told him that if he tried to be friends with everybody then that would help get him through. There were three [REDACTED] boys in [REDACTED] dormitory who kept themselves to themselves. They were hard boys who had their own little clique. The way that they coped with their environment was that they physically protected themselves. They were involved in martial arts. My brother made sure that he kept friends with them.
169. At some point in third year [REDACTED] was caught drinking. I don't know who it was who caught him. However, it would have been reported to Brother [REDACTED] MFT. My brother thought he had got away with it. Later on, one of the three [REDACTED] boys had

some money stolen from them. My brother knew who it was who had taken the money but decided that he wouldn't grass the boy up. The [REDACTED] boys went to the dormitory master, Brother MFT, and reported that the money had gone missing. Brother MFT told the boys that it was [REDACTED] who had stolen the money. Not long after that, on a Wednesday afternoon, Brother MFT arranged for the three [REDACTED] boys to have half an hour undisturbed in the cubicles in the dorm with my brother. He did that by calling my brother up to the cubicle. When my brother got there he found out he was alone with the [REDACTED] boys. They had been waiting for him. They ended up putting my brother into hospital. There weren't broken bones but my brother was beaten unconscious. He was badly bruised. My brother ended up having to stay in hospital for a week to recover.

170. I don't know whether my brother made a report about the assault to anyone whilst he was in hospital. I do know though that the three [REDACTED] boys totally got away with it. They weren't punished even though Brother MFT would have known it was those boys who had done what they had done.

Abuse at St Joseph's – recollections of my brother [REDACTED] experiences at St Joseph's

171. [REDACTED] was groomed, courted and abused at St Joseph's by a Brother called Brother AKV. I've no idea what Brother AKV's real name was. He was a Brother that I didn't have a huge amount of dealings with because of the way that the school was compartmentalised. [REDACTED] said that he was targeted and groomed. I remember being sympathetic to him when he told me about his experiences but found it hard to understand.
172. I have learnt from [REDACTED] a bit more recently about what happened to him. As time goes on he has told me more and more about his experiences. He told me that in adult life he saw Brother AKV in London three times.

173.



Abuse at St Joseph's – other boys' experiences of abuse at St Joseph's

Abuse suffered by [REDACTED]

174. I know that the matron was told by certain Brothers to keep certain boys in the sick bay who weren't ill enough to be kept in the sick bay because I heard that from [REDACTED]. Quite early on in second year he went to see the matron. I'm pretty sure it was in the beginning of second year. I can't remember what was wrong with him. I don't remember it being anything serious.
175. [REDACTED] told me that the matron had been told by a particular Brother to keep him in the sick bay. I knew at the time which Brother it was he told me came into the sickbay but I just can't remember now. I think it's one of those things that I've pushed further away in my memory. The matron, upon the Brother arriving, was told to go away for half an hour.
176. I was told a little more about the abuse from a mutual friend called [REDACTED] who had talked about it with [REDACTED]. He told me that the Brother came in and abused [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] didn't use those exact words but he made it clear that something had happened to [REDACTED] and that shouldn't have happened.
177. After the incident me and [REDACTED] went to the sickbay to see [REDACTED]. The reason we went was because we didn't understand why [REDACTED] had been kept in the sickbay and wanted to find out what was wrong with him. We wondered whether he would like us to get him some sweets or something. When we saw [REDACTED] he looked like a boy who was eight years older who didn't know where he

was. He told us what had happened but didn't go into the detail of the abuse. He was in a mess.

178. About a month after the incident [REDACTED] was behaving older. He went feral after the incident. He flipped and never came back. He would often suggest things to us for us to do. The things were often too outrageous for us to do. He would be up for any shenanigans with anybody. He didn't really care. I heard that he got into all sorts of trouble after he left the school. I remember that someone told me that [REDACTED] ended up in jail. I can't remember what that was for.

Reporting of abuse whilst at St Joseph's

179. It wasn't really the environment where you could report something. If anything you were actively discouraged from reporting anything. I never reported anything to any of the Brothers. I did, however, mention what was happening to teachers.

Reporting Brother Damien's abuse to Mr Neil

180. At the end of my O-Levels, about two weeks before the end of third term, we were all playing bridge. We were all talking whilst sitting at a table. Mr Neil was sitting at the table. We were talking like people talked normally. We were having banter. I mentioned to Mr Neil about Brother Damien's behaviour. I think I thought it would be ok making a comment to him about Brother Damien. I think I thought it would be interesting to hear what he would say in response. Mr Neil essentially denied anything was going on. His response was something like "oh it's not happening."

Reporting Brother Damien's abuse to Mr Rinaldi

181. Mr Rinaldi acted like he was someone who might be approachable. I remember that when I was in fourth year I mentioned to him the things that Brother Damien had been doing. He said something like "Brother Damien is outrageous isn't he" and "oh we think that is all because of an illness he picked up in Africa." I'd heard the

comment regarding Africa from at least one other person whilst I was at the school. I think the first time I heard that was in about fourth year. It was before Mr Rinaldi mentioned it though.

Reporting abuse to parents

182. I didn't report what was happening to my parents. I think that my parents were blind to what was going on at the school or what it might be like. I think they were like that because of what they were getting out of the situation at that time. They kind of put a veil in front of their eyes. They were perhaps more pre-occupied with their own circumstances.

■■■■■ *attempt to report abuse*

183. My brother ■■■■■ was desperate to leave. He phoned my uncle on a couple of occasions and told him that he couldn't take any more and wanted to get out. On one occasion my uncle picked him up and looked after him for an afternoon. My brother also mentioned what happened to him to my parents. That was during my last year at the school.
184. My parents went down to the school to take him out after he told them. I don't know what happened but they met with Brother ^{MMK} ■■■■■. He was the ^{SNR} ■■■■■ at the time. My parents were persuaded by Brother ^{MMK} ■■■■■ to leave my brother in the school. The strange thing was that the school persuaded my parents to keep my brother at the school at a time when they were trying to push me out. The result of my brother being kept in the school was that he was later on groomed, courted and abused.

Leaving St Joseph's

185. The way they encouraged me to leave in sixth year was to not educate me. I wasn't welcome in the classrooms. I would be asked by the Brother or teacher taking the class why I was there and that sort of thing. I got fed up with being ignored and

being in this one room on my own whilst my friends were all in the classrooms. I left because I didn't have anything to do. I had no one to socialise with when the other pupils were in classes. It all got a bit too much. I'd effectively been frozen out.

186. I think I was only at the school for about three months during my last year at school. I think it was there from [REDACTED] until around about the beginning of [REDACTED] 1973. I think I was just over seventeen when I left. I just went home and told my parents that I wasn't going back. I think I'd left for about a week before the school noticed I wasn't there.

Life after leaving St Joseph's

187. After I returned home my mother said that I had to get a job. I then got a job in a local supermarket stacking shelves. I had a girlfriend at the time. She got pregnant. We got married and moved down to Folkestone in Kent. We split up and I came back to my parents. I got a job in the explosives factory in Bishopton. I then met my partner who was a student at Glasgow University. I went to Edinburgh to work for Ferranti. I worked on the satnav system for the Tornado aircraft. I then came back to Glasgow to be with my partner. I worked in a paint factory. I then did an office course at Glasgow Technology College. The course covered accounts and things like that. I did that up until about 1980.
188. I struggled to get a job in 1980. I split up with my partner. It had always been my ambition to be a train driver so I got a job on the metropolitan line in London. I became a train driver. I then decided to do something else because there were too many shifts on the rota. There were too many hours. I got a temporary clerical job with the Camden and Islington Family Practitioner Committee in Islington. I ended up being taken on permanently in another office there.
189. I then got a job in the orthopaedic department in St Mary's hospital in Paddington. I progressed from there to being involved in bed management. I actually ended up being the [REDACTED] bed manager at St Mary's. My job entailed counting the

people in their beds, reviewing the lists of people who were coming in the following day and becoming involved in the cancellation of operations if I needed to be.

190. I then ended up taking up a post in medical records management in Saudi Arabia. I did that for a year. When I came back practice management had just started. I came back to Glasgow. I had to start at the bottom and work my way up. I have been doing practice management in Glasgow ever since. I've been doing it for about eighteen years.

Impact

191. I started off really well at St Joseph's academically. After that things just ended up slipping. It ended up with me feeling as if I wasn't supported or even acknowledged for being there. There was a complete lack of attention given to me and my education after I failed some of my Highers. I ended up not sitting any of my exams in my final year. I had to leave. I ended up not having enough qualifications to go to university.
192. I initially found it difficult to cope with things like authority and relationships. I found it difficult to deal with things like rules. I left St Joseph's thinking that rules were something that were to be used as a tool and not something that required to be adhered to in black and white. To me it felt that rules were things that had enormous flexibility for those who were in authority.
193. The one thing I do resent about St Joseph's is that they left me badly prepared for life. I didn't have any education or support from them. All that did affect me. It was a handicap. I felt that I wasn't worth anything more than stacking shelves, stirring huge vats of paint or driving forklifts. I felt as if I wasn't fit enough to deserve any kind of good future.
194. That sort of environment left you badly prepared and that could lead you to some really dangerous situations. I came through it all pretty much unscathed. I would

say that I came out of it a lot better than most of my peers. I know that there are a lot of former pupils who are dead, damaged or doing damage. I think if someone looked into the death rate for people below the age of twenty five who were in my year and the years above and below me I suspect that it would be double that than the national average. I say that from hearing anecdotally about the deaths of former pupils. I have heard those things from my brothers and other former pupils. I have heard of former pupils who have killed themselves because of the abuse they suffered at the school.

Impact of abuse on my brother [REDACTED]

195. Sometimes when things happened to boys at the school they would flick like a switch. They would go feral. They would suddenly be only looking out for themselves. They would understand the rules but there would be certain things that they just wouldn't give a damn about. They lost all their social grounding and almost became wild. I think that happened to [REDACTED] after the beating he received from the [REDACTED] boys. He flipped. I think that he couldn't understand why my parents had placed him in that environment. I think he couldn't understand how our parents could say they cared for him yet put him through this hell. He went on to become a drinker. He then got into drugs. Finally, he ended up having an early death.

Treatment and support

196. I have never had any treatment or support. It's not really something I have been interested in. There may have been times when I might have benefited from something but it's not something I think I need now.

Reporting of abuse after leaving St Joseph's

My experiences of reporting what happened to the police

197. A friend of mine called MND had been at St Joseph's. He was friends with someone called Stephen Behan. I'd known Stephen Behan quite well when I was at St Joseph's. I think Stephen Behan was the first person to make an abuse allegation to the police. MND then provided a statement alongside other people Stephen Behan had been in contact with. After six months or a year it all started appearing in the press.
198. MND went off and got a solicitor. He told me that his solicitor could also do my stuff. I can't remember the name of the solicitor but I remember that he was a solicitor for Partick Thistle Football Club at that time. His office was on Sauchiehall Street opposite Newton Terrace in Glasgow. I think I was once in the solicitor's office for about five minutes with MND. I think we had to sign something but I don't remember what that was.
199. In 1997 I was then contacted by the police. I was asked whether they could come up and interview me. I agreed. A policewoman and a policeman arrived at my house. I can't remember their names. It didn't get off to a good start. I offered them a cup of tea and one of them said something like "no we've just had something to eat. We've got a long journey back to Dumfries." That rather set the tone. I felt that they were only there to quickly take a statement and then go away. It sort of went downhill from there.
200. The policeman and policewoman asked me about abuse at St Joseph's. My impression during the interview was that the police had been sent up and didn't know anything that had gone on. My feeling was that they had some sort of disgust and that they were dealing with some sort of scumbag that might have deserved it. That was the attitude I felt they had. I talked during the interview about Brother CIPHER W and Brother Damien. I talked at length.

201. Towards the end of the interview the policeman turned round and said something to me like "the behaviour of Thomas McCann, could that have been something to do with an illness he picked up in Africa?" I was confused because I hadn't mentioned Brother Damien by the name Thomas McCann. Furthermore, the policeman had been acting throughout the interview as if he hadn't a clue about what had been going on. I just replied back "of course not." It was shortly after that question that the police left.
202. I found the policeman mentioning the name "Thomas McCann" and the supposed illness in Africa very strange. It threw me. Firstly, the policeman should have not used McCann's name. Secondly, he should have been a bit more disguised when asking about the supposed illness in Africa. I was left confused because I now realised the police had been pretending throughout the interview that they didn't know anything about what had been going on. I was left thinking that they already had a statement from the school, had now taken a statement from me and that my evidence wasn't going to fly. It left me with the impression that it was all going to be covered up and nothing was going to be done. That was the last time that I spoke to the police.
203. I remember that after I made my statement the notebooks were closed. They didn't read it back to me. I never got to sign anything. They just got up and left. I'm really curious about what happened to the statement I gave to the police because I never got to see it. I never heard about it or saw it again. The content should be what I have pretty much told the Inquiry in this statement. If that statement is not the same then it has been made up.

Criminal injuries compensation

204. In about 1997 I received a cheque for £800 from the Criminal Injuries Board. It's a mystery to me how or why I was sent that. It came along with a letter from the solicitor that my friend had seen. The solicitor said in the letter that he had taken his fee off of what had been sent from the Criminal Injuries Board. There was no explanation for what I was getting given the money for. I don't remember making an

application for criminal injury compensation. I wasn't seeking any, what is sometimes horribly described as, financial justice. I must have signed something in the solicitor's office. I thought that all I had agreed to was the solicitor representing me and that was it.

Hearing anecdotally of other people's attempts to report the abuse they suffered at St Joseph's and subsequent prosecutions

205. I think quite a lot of accusations were made to the police concerning various people at St Joseph's. I remember hearing through the grapevine about people who had named abusers and being surprised by some of the names. I remember hearing that Stephen Behan's abuser was Brother MFI. I was surprised by that because my memory of Brother MFI was that he could barely move when I was there. He was like a walking aneurism waiting to burst. He could hardly walk from classroom to classroom. The only person I am aware of who has been [REDACTED] is a Brother called Brother AKV. As far as I know nobody else has been [REDACTED].

Records

206. I haven't made any attempt to obtain my records. It would be pointless doing so. There won't be anything there. The only time I remember records being taken was when we received our vaccinations.

Lessons to be learned

Structure and culture

207. St Joseph's is a really difficult place to describe in terms of structure and culture. Things weren't even handed. We were all in different compartments. Deals were made between Brothers and pupils. It was an environment which was compartmentalised and full of secrecy. There was a lot that was left unsaid that

people knew was going on. Part of the understanding became that if you did things in certain ways then you wouldn't be randomly punished for something else. You got a sense of how to survive.

208. The whole situation was really corrupt. There were more people there who were corrupt than not corrupt so corruption won out. Anybody who had a vice could get away with it. I think that wherever you go you are going to find that range of people but there are usually constraints to limit their behaviour. I think those constraints weren't at St Joseph's. The environment at St Joseph's brought out the worst in people rather than the best.
209. I have heard that things hadn't been as bad as I experienced before I went to St Joseph's. I often wonder whether there was a culture change when I started there. I wonder whether there were things that weren't so exactly strict. I wonder whether things like the procedure for going to see the matron was a hangover from that stricter culture.
210. I think that the structure of the school had a kind of logic if you viewed it as being run by people who were involved in a corrupt system. To me corrupt systems are either incredibly tight and impenetrable or they are haphazard, disjointed and compartmentalised. St Joseph's system was the latter.

Awareness of abuse amongst the boys and staff

211. Nobody wanted to say what had happened to them. We were all aware that we were in an abusive environment albeit we didn't understand the abuse at the time. That was true of all the pupils to one degree or another. The whole package of the place made you feel disempowered. You felt cut off from other people whether they be family or close friends. It affected your relationship with each other. There were things that you just couldn't talk about.
212. Even though there was a silence about what was going on, particularly with regards to the physical and sexual abuse, there was a sort of comradery amongst the pupils

underlying everything. You didn't grass another pupil up. You had to suck it up when things like theft happened amongst the boys. It wasn't organised but that comradery was there.

213. From the staffs' point of view it seemed to me that nobody was keeping an eye on what each other was doing. It seemed that the furthest thing from their minds was to even acknowledge that there were other members of staff. You knew they had to be together at some point but you just didn't see that around the school. You just would not see the Brothers and staff together. I think that people were aware that abuse and things were happening but because it was compartmentalised they didn't witness it directly.
214. I think that MNY the matron despised the children who came to the sick bay because the sickbay was an area where boys were abused. It was one of the few areas where abuse could be organised. It was my clear impression that the matron was aware of the abuse. One of the problems with the way they did things when you were ill was that the recreation master who you had to ask permission from to go to the sick bay would know where you would be.

Views on why people abused and opinion of those who covered up abuse

215. It seems to me that you can't be offended by some of the people who committed certain offences. It's like the weather. You can't blame a cloud for raining on you. These people are just like that. People like Brother Damien were driven no matter what to do the damage he did. Those sorts of people were probably born like that. There was nothing you could do about it. I think he probably didn't have a choice about the way he behaved. He was driven to get away with as much as he possibly could.
216. The ones who cover things up aren't like the weather. They should know better. They have a choice whether to cover up or not. I almost resent Mr Rinaldi more than the Brothers because I know from seeing him in the media in later years he tried to cover up what was happening at the school. This was someone who was holding

himself out as an ok guy but, at the same time, was covering things up. He should have known better.

Views on the way the police dealt with my complaint

217. Whatever criticism I have for the police at the time that they dealt with my complaint I am aware that things are completely different now. I understand from my career experience that government has a habit of adding on roles to authorities without properly resourcing them. It actually blows my mind to think that police in Scotland are being trained in the subtle nuances of domestic abuse. When I was at school a domestic would never have reached the courts. I think it is a wonderful thing now that there is an awareness of how to deal with abuse.

Hopes for the Inquiry

218. I have spoken to the Inquiry in the hope that I have spoken up for some people who aren't able to speak for themselves for one reason or another. I hope that through me coming forward it will help others come forward. I hope that the understanding that comes from the Inquiry will help society deal with the issues surrounding abuse in the future.
219. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed. MGE

Dated. 26th April 2019