

□ **FR CARRAHER: Safe haven**

Child abuse priest is safe from extradition

By George Clogg in Toronto

A Roman Catholic priest who admits to sexually abusing two boys in Dublin is living out his days in a Toronto retirement home because he cannot be extradited to face charges.

Northern Ireland-born Fr. Arthur Carragher (79) faces seven counts of indecent assault, each with a maximum penalty of seven years.

But Gardaí cannot compel him to return to this country, because Canada and Ireland do not yet share an extradition agreement.

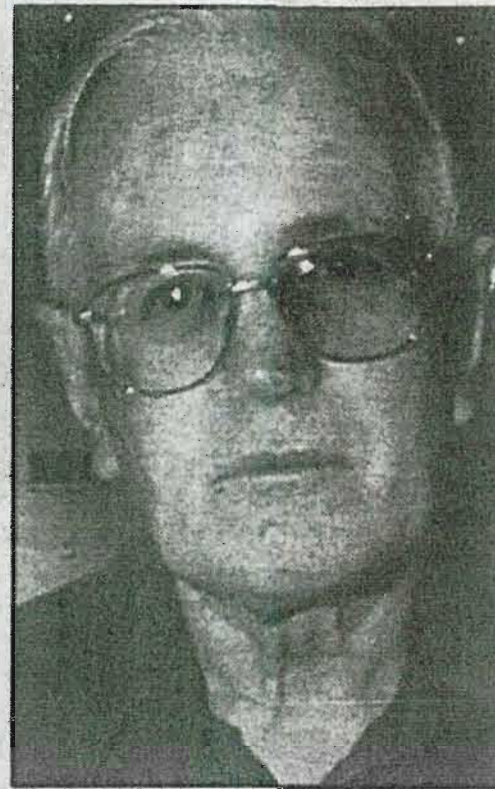
The charges stem from allegations made by Alan and Maurice Murphy, distant cousins of the priest, who claim he fondled them and forced them to engage in oral sex over a four-year period in the 1960s.

The boys were between the ages of eight and 15. They are now adults, and the allegations were not made until 1999.

Speaking at his residence, adjacent to a Catholic school for boys, Fr. Carragher – a member of the Spiritans order – said he did not dispute the allegations.

“Yes, they are all true. I appreciate the seriousness of the charges but I'm too ill to face them,” he said.

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