

Rev. Michael McDonald

Summary of Case: Ordained in Ireland. Per his obituary, McDonald worked in Nigeria for 8 years and in New Zealand prior to his arrival in CA. Incardinated in 1958 into the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno. In 2004 the Monterey diocese reached a settlement of more than \$760K in a civil suit filed in summer 2003. A man alleged that he was sexually abused many times by McDonald at St. Mary of the Nativity in Salinas between 1964 and 1967, starting when he was 10. McDonald died 11/3/1971. Included on the Monterey diocese's 1/2/2019 list of credibly accused. Included in 2021 on the Fresno diocese's list.

Ordained: 1941

Died: Nov. 3, 1971

Start	Stop	Parish	Town/Accusations	State/Country	Position	Notes
1941	1958			Nigeria New Zealand		Missionary in Nigeria. Parish priest in New Zealand.
1958	1963	St. Anthony's	Atwater	CA	2/2	Parish had a school with 152-189 boys and 146-172 girls.
						Monterey-Fresno bishop was Aloysius Joseph Willinger, C.S.S.R. (1953-1967)
1958	1963	Immaculate Conception	Buhach	CA		This was a mission of St. Anthony's in Atwater.
1958	1961	U.S. Air Base	Castle Field	CA		This was a mission of St. Anthony's in Atwater.
1963	1964	St. Peter's	LeMoore	CA	2/2	Parish had a school with 156 boys and 135 girls.
1963	1964	St. Joseph's	Stratford	CA		
1963	1964	St. Rose's	Tache Indian Reservation	CA		
1964	1965	St. Patrick's	Watsonville	CA	2/3	
1965	1968	St. Mary of the Nativity	Salinas	CA	2/2	Parish had a school with 111-136 boys and 128-111 girls. Obituary: "active with youth in the parish and worked part time at General Hospital. "
						Willinger was succeeded by Harry Anselm Clinch (1967-1982) as Monterey bishop. The Monterey-Fresno diocese split in Oct. 1967.
1965	1968	Camp McCollum		CA		This was a station of St. Mary of the Nativity in Salinas.
1968	1969	St. Joseph's	Capitola	CA	3/3	Parish had a school with 128-149 girls.
1969	1971	St. Augustine's	Scotts Valley	CA	1/1	McDonald died Nov. 3, 1971

Sources: Official Catholic Directory (New York: P.J. Kenedy and Sons, 1959-1972)

- [Diocese Discusses Abuse Cases](#), By Dan Laidman, Monterey County Herald, January 28, 2004
- [Church Faces Big Financial Hit from Sex-Abuse Cases](#), By Donna Jones djoness@santacruzsentinel.com, Santa Cruz Sentinel [California], January 28, 2004
- [Bishop Ryan's February Pastoral Letter](#), By Bishop of Monterey, February 4, 2004

Priests in a Parish: We use the following convention to show a priest's place among the clergy of a parish: 1/2 means that he is the first priest listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* (usually the pastor) and that there is a total of two priests at the parish. The shorthand 3/4 means that the priest is listed third on a four-priest roster. See our [sample page from the Directory](#).

Note: The *Official Catholic Directory* aims to report the whereabouts of Catholic priests in the United States on January 1 of the *Directory's* publication year. Our working assumption is that a priest listed in the *Directory* for a given year was at the same assignment for part of the previous year as well. However, Kenedy and Sons will sometimes accept updates well into the year of publication. Diocesan clergy records are rarely available to correct this information. The *Directory* is also sometimes misleading or wrong. We have tried to create an accurate assignment record, given the source materials and their limitations. Assignment records are a work in progress and we are always improving the records that we post. Please [email us](#) with new information and corrections.

This assignment record collates McDonald's career history as it is represented in the *Official Catholic Directory* with allegations as reported in the media. We make no representation regarding the truth of the allegation we report, and we remind our readers that the U.S. legal system presumes that a person accused of or charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty. Similarly, individuals who may be defendants in civil actions are presumed not to be liable for such claims unless a plaintiff proves otherwise. Admissions of guilt or liability are not typically a part of civil or private settlements. For more information, see our [posting policy](#).

This assignment record was last updated on October 30, 2024