



18 March 2018

## VATICAN TRIBUNAL FINDS GUAM ARCHBISHOP GUILTY



The A Vatican tribunal has found Guam Archbishop Anthony Apuron, who had been accused of sexually abusing young men decades ago, "guilty of certain of the accusations," imposing a penalty of removal from office and a prohibition from living on the U.S. island territory. A five-judge apostolic tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith announced its verdict in Apuron's canonical case March 16 with a brief press release.

The release did not specify of which exact acts the archbishop had been found guilty. journalism.

"The canonical trial in the matter of accusations, including accusations of sexual abuse of minors ... has been concluded," states the release. "The Apostolic Tribunal ... has issued its sentence of first instance, finding the accused guilty of certain of the accusations and imposing upon the accused the penalties of privation of office and prohibition of residence in the Archdiocese of Guam."

Apuron, a Guam native who had led the island's only diocese since 1986, was placed on leave by Pope Francis in June 2016 after a series of accusations about abuse of young men in the 1960s and 70s were made public.

Francis named an apostolic administrator to run the archdiocese for several months and then named Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Byrnes, a former auxiliary bishop of Detroit, to take over.

As coadjutor, Byrnes would automatically become full archbishop of the archdiocese with Apuron's removal from office. But the doctrinal congregation's statement made clear that Apuron still has the right to appeal the ruling, and that during such an appeal the penalties against the archbishop are suspended.

In a statement through his lawyer later on March 16, Apuron said he had already appealed the ruling. "I am innocent and I look forward to proving my innocence in the appeals process," said the archbishop. U.S. Cardinal Raymond Burke, a noted canon lawyer, has served as the presiding judge in the Vatican's canonical trial.

Apuron, 72, has been accused of having inappropriate physical contact with at least five young boys. The allegations emerged in May 2016 when one of the boys, now in his 50s, came forward, prompting others to do the same.

Apuron has denied the allegations against him, and Guam civil authorities have not charged him with any crimes. He is however the subject of multiple civil lawsuits.

The Guam archbishop was spotted in Rome in February, when he was seen in a wheelchair during a weekly Wednesday audience with Francis. Several outlets reported at the time that Apuron greeted the pope and told him: "Holy Father, I wanted to see you before I die."

Announcement of the verdict in Apuron's case had been expected for months. Byrnes, the coadjutor archbishop, announced in October 2017 that the judges had come to a decision.

*Courtesy Joshua J. McElwee is NCR Vatican correspondent*

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

#### Sunday 11 March 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p210  
2nd Collection: p270  
Accord: p35  
Family Offering: p592  
St. Vincent de Paul: p460



### Recently Deceased

Michelle Dolan whose funeral took place on Thursday 16th March here in St. Nicholas of Myra

Sat 6pm: John, Josephine and Mary Hannon.

Sun 11.30am: Elizabeth & John Wilson, Georgina Alford 4th Ann, Mick Byrne, Patty O'Neill 7th Ann, Tommy O'Neill, Thomas Carton 12th Ann, Carmel Mennella 8th Ann.



### 3rd Annual Team Dublin Cleanup

Will take place on Saturday 21 April, 11am-1pm. To take part contact [fran.oshea@dublincity.ie](mailto:fran.oshea@dublincity.ie) as soon as possible.

Further info at: [www.teamdublincleanup.ie](http://www.teamdublincleanup.ie)



### All are Welcome Mass

Third Sunday of each month at 3.30 pm at Avila Carmelite Centre, Bloomfield Avenue (off Morehampton Road), Donnybrook, Dublin 4. All are welcome, and we particularly welcome LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people, their parents, family members and friends. We would like you to feel that you belong in a Praying Community, and we hope you experience full participation when celebrating the Eucharist. Next Mass will take place on Sunday 18th March 2018. Feel free to drop in.

**Timetable for Holy Week available at the back of the church. Take one.**

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

### A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The Lord said to me, "I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations." I answered, "Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say.

**This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 116

#### The Lord is merciful and good

I love the Lord, because he hears me;  
he listens to my prayers. He listens to me every time  
I call to him. The danger of death was all around me;  
the horrors of the grave closed in on me; I was filled  
with fear and anxiety. Then I called to the Lord, "I  
beg you, Lord, save me!" R/

The Lord is merciful and good; our God is  
compassionate. The Lord protects the helpless;  
when I was in danger, he saved me. R/

### Gospel Acclamation

Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all  
people.

### A reading from the gospel of Mark

He said to them, "Go throughout the whole world and preach  
the gospel to all people. Whoever believes and is baptized  
will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.  
Believers will be given the power to perform miracles: they  
will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange  
tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will  
not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people,  
and these will get well." After the Lord Jesus had talked  
with them, he was taken up to heaven and sat at the right  
side of God. The disciples went and preached everywhere,  
and the Lord worked with them and proved that their  
preaching was true by the miracles that were performed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I  
will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the  
House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with  
their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring  
them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of  
mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord  
who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the  
House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who  
speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on  
their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my  
people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to  
teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to  
know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less  
than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will  
forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 50

#### A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. R/

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R/



### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ. King of eternal glory. If a  
man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Praise to you  
Lord Jesus Christ. King of eternal glory.

### A reading from the gospel of John

Jesus said to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of  
Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat  
grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single  
grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who  
loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must  
follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If  
anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul  
is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I  
have glorified it, and I will glorify it again. People standing  
by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others  
said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It  
was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.  
'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince  
of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up  
from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these  
words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

This is the gospel of the Lord: praise to you Lord Jesus Christ