



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL

25 September 2021

To the faithful of St. Mary's,

In line with the promise of Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila to be transparent with the faithful of the Church of northern Colorado, the Archdiocese of Denver needs to inform you that it has received an allegation that Fr. Michael O'Brien sexually abused a minor during his time as pastor of St. Mary's. The incidents allegedly occurred between 2004 and 2008.

Following our Code of Conduct and the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, the allegation was immediately reported to local authorities, and Fr. O'Brien has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of all investigations.

Fr. O'Brien has resolutely denied this allegation. Like everyone, he deserves due process and the right to be presumed innocent. Prior to this, the Archdiocese of Denver has never received an allegation against Fr. O'Brien.

The Archdiocese of Denver is committed to the protection of our most vulnerable, especially our children. The archdiocese takes all allegations of misconduct seriously and has specific protocols in place to make sure they are handled appropriately for all of the parties involved. Additional information will be communicated when appropriate.

Please pray for everyone who is impacted by this situation and know that the St. Mary's community is in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Randy Dollins
Vicar General

REPORTING ABUSE OR NEGLECT: If you are aware of abuse or neglect that has been committed by anyone affiliated with the Archdiocese of Denver, it should first be reported to your local law enforcement agency or the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline, 1-844-264-5437. The information should then be reported to the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Minor and At-Risk Adult Protection, by phone (720-239-2832), email (reporting@archden.org), or by filing out an [online reporting form](https://archden.org/protection/intake-form/) (<https://archden.org/protection/intake-form/>).
More information: <https://archden.org/protection/>