

BROKEN

Episode 2

Father Michael's Story

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GREEN SCRIPT

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INT SACRISTY OF SAINT NICK'S DAY 6 09.15

But keep ON calling him, and he will. I was a catholic again.

6 EXT ROAD DAY 6 09.30 6

Christina walking. She goes into the post office.

7 INT POST OFFICE DAY 6 09.40 7

She's next. Her heart is hammering. Now it's her turn.

POST OFFICE CLERK
Hi, Christina.

Christina will slot in a card, punch in her mother's pin.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
Hi. Pension withdrawal.

POST OFFICE CLERK
Your Mum's?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
(nods)
She's not too good.

POST OFFICE CLERK
Her chest?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
(taken aback a bit)
Yeah.

POST OFFICE CLERK
She said last time. Tell her I was asking.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
I will. Thanks.

She picks up money and a receipt.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS (CONT'D)
Thanks.

POST OFFICE CLERK
Bye.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
Bye.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

I'm fine.

He takes Nan's hand in his.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)

I'll miss you, Rosie.

He realises something. He studies Nan's face, Nan's skin.

He looks at Christina. It unnerves her.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

What?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

When did she die?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

(practised)

Some time between ten o'clock last night and ten o'clock this morning when I found her. Father.

(pause)

What is it?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Would you mind if I lit a candle?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

No.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

It's easy to forget that Christ is here, giving us strength, easing our pain. The candle reminds us of that fact.

He lights it.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)

She's been dead a few days, Christina.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

That's impossible, Father.

He studies her, knows she's lying.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

I need to ask this, Christina, I'm sorry. Was it her pension?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

I don't know what you're talking about, Father.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Christina, we'll need a doctor to certify death. He'll know she's been dead for days. He'll phone the police. The first thing they'll do is check when her pension was last drawn. When was that?

A pause. She has never felt so trapped.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
(suddenly)
Did you know she was getting pains in her chest?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
I didn't. Everybody else did but I didn't!

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
When was her pension last drawn, Christina?

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
(eventually)
An hour ago.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Oh, Christina.

He looks at the flickering candle, seeking an answer there.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
Will I go to prison?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I don't know.
(pause)
Will you join me in a prayer?

It's so desperate she finds herself nodding: yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name...

BOTH
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Now, at a loss, he looks at the crucified Christ on the wall.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
(to Christ)
What now?

12 EXT CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS' S STREET DAY 6 12.30 12

A police car drives down the street, pulls up outside Christina's house. P.C. Andrew Powell gets out and knocks.

Father Michael opens the door. This surprises the policeman.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
Hello, Michael.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Hi, Andrew.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
She's dead?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
Natural causes?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
Then why call me?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
The doctor told us to. He's with her now. Upstairs, on the right.

Intrigued, P.C. Andrew Powell passes Father Michael...

INT CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS' S HOUSE DAY 6 CONT.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

(explaining)

My sister.

(pause: an answer machine)

I'm being arrested. I need you to
look after the kids.

She finishes the call. PC Andrew Powell enters.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL

But Mariella cannot bring herself to look back at her.

Father Michael Kerrigan is nearby, watching this.

Christina is driven away.

15 INT FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN'S HOUSE NIGHT 6 23.30 15

Father Michael Kerrigan lies in bed, listening to the shipping forecast. Sleep will not come.

16 FLASHBACK INT CORRIDOR/SHOWERS DAY 16

Steam billows out of a shower room at the end of a corridor.

FATHER MATTHEW

*It is absolutely essential that you
dry in between your toes. Any
moisture left there causes
infection...*

Father Matthew's eyes focus off camera as he speaks.

FATHER MATTHEW (CONT'D)

*Athlete's Foot especially. If
you've ever had...*

A young unidentified boy fastens the last buttons of his shirt...

FATHER MATTHEW (CONT'D)

*Athlete's Foot you'll know it's a
lot easier to catch it than it is
to get rid of it.*

Young Michael Kerrigan walks down the corridor away from shower room with his kit bag under his arm.

17 INT FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN'S HOUSE NIGHT 6 CONT. 17

Back to Father Michael. Sleep still won't come.

18 INT MAGISTRATE'S COURT DAY 7 11.15 18

MAGISTRATE

*Is there anything you'd like to
say, Mrs Fitzsimons, before we get
to sentence?*

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

*Christina's asked me to say a few
words, Ma'am, if that's okay with
you.*

MAGI STRATE

Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

I'm Father Michael Kerrigan and I'm Christina's parish priest. You may not know this, Ma'am; you may not BELIEVE this, Ma'am, but social services are talking about taking Christina's kids away from her. Apparently they had this mental image of kids running round a dead body for days on end and nothing could be further from the truth. It's a cruel irony, Ma'am, because Christina did what she did on account of those kids. Every penny she has ever earned she has spent on those kids. Everything she has ever done she has done because she loves those kids. Ma'am, I ask you to treat this wonderful woman with as much leniency as possible and to do all in your power to ensure that those children stay with the mother who loves them.

That almost reduces Christina to tears - but she fights it.

MAGI STRATE

Thank you.

The magistrate confers briefly with the clerk. Meanwhile Christina nods to Father Michael: thank you.

MAGI STRATE (CONT'D)

I'll do all I can to help with the children, Mrs Fitzsimmons. As regards this case, I'm going to grant you an absolute discharge on the count of preventing a lawful burial but I cannot ignore the benefit fraud. On that count I sentence you to six months in prison but I will suspend it for a year. On both counts there are charges to pay and there's nothing I can do about them, I'm afraid. They amount to fifty five pounds. How will you pay it?

She manages a little joke.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS

Good question.

18A

EXT CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS' S STREET DAY 8 08.15

18A

Christina and Father Michael walking down the street. They're carrying bags; they've been to the food bank.

At the other end of the street, Christina's children appear. They see their mother and start running to her.

Christina dumps the bags and heads towards her kids.

They all hug each other.

Christina looks up and sees her sister following. They look at each other...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
If you had no money? Hungry mouths
to feed?

MARIELLA, CHRISTINA'S SISTER
No way.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
You think she loved her less than
you did?

That throws Mariella. She doesn't want to answer it.
Christina answers it for her.

CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS
Yes.

So Mariella goes for it.

Michael and Christina look at each other. Michael picks up the candle and blows it out.

20 INT CHRIST OUR LORD PRIMARY SCHOOL DAY 8 12.40 20

Michael hurrying along a corridor. It's lunchtime. The noise of kids playing in the schoolyard.

He gets to the headmistress's door. He knocks, hears "come in", pops his head in.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I'm sorry!

For being late again he means. She's picking files up.

HEADMI STRESS
It's okay.

They leave, start walking along the corridor.

21 INT CHRIST OUR LORD PRIMARY SCHOOL DAY 8 12.55 21

A classroom. Six or seven people around a table. A lunchtime meeting. People eating sandwiches and whatnot...

HEADMI STRESS
Next is First Holy Communion.
Nothing but praise for last year's,
Pauline, thanks very much, so if
you're prepared to take it on
again?

PAULINE PICKERING
Yes, yes.

HEADMI STRESS
In that case, same again this time.
Yes?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
There's just one thing.

Miss Pickering's reaction.

HEADMI STRESS
Yes, Father.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
It's the cost.

PAULINE PICKERING
The cost?

Pauline Pickering, single, highly strung, has organised the school's First Holy Communion Ceremony for the last twenty years and this is the first complaint she has ever had.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Yes. I know last year a few families got into debt for everything: the dress, the party, other bits and pieces. And I think this year there'll be more doing it.

PAULINE PICKERING

The ceremony itself costs nothing, Father.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

I know. And, like Annette says, it's wonderful. What you do is truly amazing, Miss Pickering. I'm just concerned that people spend what they can't afford and it's loan sharks who profit from it.

PAULINE PICKERING

There'll always be people who go overboard.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Well, it's not that, is it? I don't think they're trying to outdo anyone. They just want their kids to look as nice as other kids. And that's expensive.

PAULINE PICKERING

I don't think there's anything we can do about that, Father. We tell them every year to keep it simple and they just get more and more...
(hesitating to say it)
Well, vulgar.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

There's one thing we can do.

PAULINE PICKERING

Yes?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

We can ask them to do it in their school uniform. No suits, no fancy frocks.

Miss Pickering is stunned. Moments pass.

HEADMI STRESS

Pauline?

PAULINE PICKERING

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
(entering)
Sorry. Really sorry.

A black woman and her teenage son (Helen and Vernon Oyenusi).
Two female case workers are here also. Father Michael senses
the atmosphere.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
You've started?

HELEN OYENUSI
Vernon's coming home.

That surprises Father Michael.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Is he well enough?

CASE WORKER
We think so, yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Vernon?

Vernon shakes his head. He can't answer.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
Last time we met, you said how well
he was doing.

CASE WORKER
Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Then why send him home?

CASE WORKER
Precisely because he's done so well
here. He's ready for it.

HELEN OYENUSI
Is it money?

CASE WORKER

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
"Least unwell" does not mean
"well".

SENIOR CASE WORKER
No.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Vernon is still ill?

SENIOR CASE WORKER
Yes.

CASH SWITCHERS MAN

My grandad's in his seventies, used to be a docker, used to talk to me about blacking ships: Chilean ships because of Allende, South African ships because of Mandela, Californian ships because they'd sacked a longshoreman, Aussie ships because they'd imprisoned a wharfie. Dad's like him, a bit of a socialist, works in Wilton-Smith, something in the union. With him it was always "branch" and "delegate" and "resolution", "amendment" - all that trade union stuff. But I work in a pawn shop now and they utterly despise me for it. No, that's wrong. They don't despise me; it would be easier if they did. They despise the job I do. So they never talk like they used to talk. They might forget, kick off on one, but then they realise I'm there and they stop and switch to the footy. I work in a pawn shop, see; I feed off other people's hunger.

Oh how this man needs help!

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Grandad comfortable?

CASH SWITCHERS MAN
Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Your Dad?

CASH SWITCHERS MAN
Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Maybe they haven't got any more integrity than you. Maybe they've just got more money.

He fades out and Pauline Pickering fades in.

27 INT CONFSSIONAL DAY 8 15.50

27

PAULINE PICKERING
I'm ashamed of the way I reacted,
Father...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Not at all...

PAULINE PICKERING

I AM. The Head suggested school uniform fifteen years ago, the previous Head, and they still all came in their frocks - as I knew they would. They WANT to dress up, Father, and the poorer they are the more they want it: their child a princess for the day. But I'll write to them all. I'll insist this time, I'll insist they keep it simple. Plain and simple. "It's a child's First Holy Communion, not My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding."

We fade out and cut to the door opening suddenly...

29 INT CONFSSIONAL DAY 8 16. 25

29

Roz Demichelis enters.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
You still doing it?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Hearing confession?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

She looks around.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Not what I was expecting.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
No?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
No. Expected it dark. A little shaft of light. Specks of dust spinning in it.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
You've not been for a while then?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
No.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Where shall I sit?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
(pointing)
Please.

So he sits facing her. She sits, shows her legs off a bit.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Michael.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Roz.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
How d' you do, Roz?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
How d' you do, Michael?

A pause.

ROZ DEMICHELI S (CONT'D)
(eventually)
Cat got your tongue?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
No. I'd sooner listen for a while.

That gets to her, unnerves her a bit. He picks up a candle. He'll light it as he speaks.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
Christ is here. Sharing our pain.
This'll remind us of his presence.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
(eventually)
I'm going to kill myself, Michael.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Why?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Do I look good?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

But I'd look a mess on the slab
then, wouldn't I? So it's booze and
pills.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
When?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Tonight.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Do you have a family?

That really hurts.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

So how do we start? Bless-me-father and all that?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

If you like.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Bless me, father, for I have sinned. It's God knows how many years since my last confession and I HAVE... I've had other men but only when I found out he was having other women. And I've stolen two hundred and thirty two thousand and whatever from my employer.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Is that it?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Yeah. Well there's other stuff but nothing special. If I was on Match Of The Day, they'd be the bits you see: the men and the money.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

And are you sorry?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Not about the men, no. And as for the money, I'm just sorry I've been caught. That's not enough, is it?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

No.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

You can't absolve me unless I'm truly sorry?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Well I don't absolve you. It's God who... Please don't kill yourself.

It's such a simple, honest, direct appeal that it almost makes her cry.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Thank you.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

If it's shame, you can live with shame.

She realises something.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
You've been there.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Suicidal.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Over?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Things I did as a young man.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Worse than stealing two hundred and thirty two thousand and whatever from people who trusted you?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Much worse.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Then how do you cope?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I atone. I spend my life atoning for it and I just hope that when I die, I'll have atoned enough. Promise me you won't kill yourself and I will show you how to atone.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
I can't.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Then promise me you won't kill yourself TODAY, promise me you'll come back in two or three days and I will make you want to live.

She nods.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
You promise?

ROZ DEMICHELI S
I promise.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Will you join me in the Lord's Prayer?

She is amazed to hear herself say what she now says.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Yes. Yes, I will.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Our Father, who art in Heaven...

BOTH

Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come; thy will be done...

30 EXT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH NIGHT 8 20.15

30

Father Michael pulling at the huge door/gate to the church.
It slams shut.

His mobile phone starts ringing. He checks it. It's from
"Mam". He answers it.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Hi, Mam

MICHAEL'S SISTER BETH (V.O.)

It's Beth. It's Mum's birthday.

Father Michael's reaction: he'd forgotten.

MICHAEL'S SISTER BETH (V.O.)

Phone her on her landline, you
prick.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Right.

Michael's Sister Beth cuts the call. He scrolls, hits a
number.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER (V.O.)

(eventually)
Hello.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

"Happy Birthday to you..."

MICHAEL'S MOTHER (V.O.)

(delighted)
I was beginning to think you'd
forgotten.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Nah. Just never had the chance till
now. How are you..?

They fade out and we hear someone murdering Stand By Your Man
or similar.

HELEN OYENUSI (V.O.)
It's Helen Oyenusi here, Father.
You're probably fast asleep so
never mind...

34 INT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 34

HELEN OYENUSI
It's just that Vernon wanted a
word, didn't you, Vernon..?

We go to Vernon. He's falling apart, holding a knife.

HELEN OYENUSI (CONT'D)
If you play this in the morning,
maybe you could phone him, Father.

35 INT FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 35

Father Michael listens. Should he pick it up, should he pick
it up...?

HELEN OYENUSI (V.O.)
You know what he's like. Doesn't
believe a word his mother tells him
but everything you say is gospel.
No pun intended, Father.

It goes dead. Father Michael, feeling as guilty as sin, takes
another sip of wine.

36 INT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 22.50 36

Time has passed. Vernon is even more agitated.

VERNON OYENUSI
Phone him again.

HELEN OYENUSI
He's in bed, Vernon.

VERNON OYENUSI
He's not. They won't let him pick
up the phone.

HELEN OYENUSI
Who won't let him?

VERNON OYENUSI
You know who.

That makes up her mind for her. She picks up the phone again.

HELEN OYENUSI
Can I call the crisis team, Vernon?

VERNON OYENUSI

VERNON OYENUSI

Go away. I will not let you in. I
will do this
(knife to his own throat)
Before I let you in. Now go!

He slams the door shut again.

The nurses look at each other. One of them takes out her
phone and punches in a number.

38 EXT ROAD NIGHT 8 23.50 38

A police car hurtling along, siren blaring.

39 INT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 39

Vernon, pacing, hears the siren. His mother too.

HELEN OYENUSI

The police are coming, son, and we
have to let them in.

VERNON OYENUSI

No.

HELEN OYENUSI

We'll let them in and we'll let the
crisis team in and they'll...

VERNON OYENUSI

No.

HELEN OYENUSI

...give you something and
everything will be fine. You're
only feeling like...

VERNON OYENUSI

No one's coming in.

HELEN OYENUSI

...this because it's your first
night away from the centre and as
soon as they give you something for
it you'll be fine.

VERNON OYENUSI

No one's coming in.

The bell goes. Vernon opens the door, pulling it back on its
chain again.

Our police officer again.

VERNON OYENUSI (CONT' D)
No one's coming in.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
It's me, Vernon.

VERNON OYENUSI
Go away.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
It's Andrew. Andrew Powell. What
are you doing with the knife,

VERNON OYENUSI
Get out of this house!

HELEN OYENUSI
What is it?

Vernon puts the knife to his own throat. P.C. Andrew Powell starts kicking/shoulder-charging the door.

P.C. DAWN MORRIS
Drop the knife.

VERNON OYENUSI
Get out. Get out now. Get out now
before I do something very, very...

The door is forced open as, simultaneously, she sprays Vernon.

Helen screams. Vernon, blinded, roars in agony. He starts waving the knife to ward off any further attack and this keeps PC Andrew Powell at bay.

Vernon blunders through the damaged front door.

His mother goes to follow him but P.C. Andrew Powell grabs her in a bear hug.

44 EXT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 44

Vernon, in agony, hardly able to breathe, is heading blindly towards the police.

VERNON OYENUSI
I'm blind.

SERGEANT DENIS KILCAID
Armed police. Put down the knife.

VERNON OYENUSI
I'm blind.

SERGEANT DENIS KILCAID
Armed police. Put down the knife or
I will fire.

VERNON OYENUSI
They've burnt my eyes.

He shoots Vernon through the chest.

45 INT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 45

Helen and P.C. Andrew Powell have heard the shot. She breaks free of the officer and heads for the street. He follows.

P. C. IAN WAKEFIELD
(to Dawn)
You stupid bitch!

46 EXT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE NIGHT 8 CONT. 46

Helen, P. C. Andrew Powell and Sergeant Kilcaid approaching Vernon's body.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL
(to Kilcaid)
What were you thinking of?

Helen squats next to her son's body, holds him.

P. C. ANDREW POWELL (CONT'D)
For God's sake, man, what were you
thinking of?

47 INT FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN'S HOUSE DAY 9 08.00 47

Bedroom. An alarm clock buzzing. Father Michael wakes. He's slept in.

48 INT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH DAY 9 09.00 48

Sacristy. Father Michael pulling on his vestments. He briefly checks himself in the mirror, steels himself, leaves...

49 INT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH DAY 9 CONT. 49

ALL
And with your spirit..

50 INT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH DAY 9 09.35

50

We leap forward to the consecration...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

(struggling)

The blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

Again a bell rings.

53 INT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH DAY 9 10.15

53

The mass has moved on.

The Headmistress of the primary school is reading out the bidding prayers (requests for prayers for the sick, the bereaved and the dead).

HEADMISTRESS

... Her daughter Christina is with us today along with her beloved grandchild Lisa and we remember all of them in our prayers. And, finally, we remember Vernon Oyenusi who was so tragically taken from us last night and, of course, his...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

What?

HEADMISTRESS

Yes?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Vernon Oyenusi.

HEADMISTRESS

You haven't heard, Father?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

No.

HEADMISTRESS

He was shot dead by police last night.

(continuing)

And we ask Almighty God to ease the grief of his mother Helen Oyenusi whom many of us have known since she first came here four or five years ago...

Father Michael is almost reeling...

HEADMISTRESS (CONT'D)

We remember all of them in our prayers.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

(struggling even more now)

I know the First Holy Communion children are here but I'm gonna have to leave immediately the mass finishes, I'm so sorry...

Hard cut to Father Michael walking fast...

Father Michael Kerrigan turning into Helen Oyenusi's street. Ahead of him are police vehicles and whatnot. Helen's house and the "scene of crime" have been sealed off.

He approaches a copper.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
How did it happen?

And now the first lie...

POLICE OFFICER
I don't know.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Where is she?

POLICE OFFICER
His mother?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Yes.

POLICE OFFICER
Hospital. The General.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Is she hurt?

POLICE OFFICER
No. He's there. The morgue.

Father Michael walks off, back the way he came.

A maze of corridors. We hear footsteps. Father Michael appears from the right, disappears left. His footsteps stop, start again. He reappears from the left. He's lost for a moment. He turns towards us, walks past us.

Helen stands alone in her own tortured world.

HELEN OYENUSI (CONT' D)
He wouldn't let them in so they
phoned the police and the police
gassed him and shot him.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Why didn't you phone me?

HELEN OYENUSI
I knew you were in bed. I'd phoned
earlier and you didn't answer so I
knew you were in bed.

That devastates Father Michael.

HELEN OYENUSI (CONT' D)
They won't let me see him. They
said you can, I can't.

57 INT MORGUE DAY 9 11.35 57

A mortuary assistant leading Father Michael. They come to a
bodybag on a slab.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
May I?

Undo the bag he means.

MORTUARY ASSISTANT
I'm afraid not. Evidence.

Father Michael hesitates: it's all faintly ludicrous but...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Have mercy on Vernon Oyenusi, Lord.
Forgive him his sins and grant him
eternal rest. Amen.

58 INT HOSPITAL DAY 9 12.00 58

Father Michael enters. Helen Oyenusi is here. Also, a young
woman: a liaison officer.

HELEN OYENUSI
This lady's a police liaison
officer. I've told her I do not
want one. I will get all the help I
need from my priest and my church.
Police officers have done enough
for now, thank you very much.

LIASON OFFICER
Helen will need somewhere to sleep
tonight. We've still not finished
with the house.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
She can stay with me.

LIAISON OFFICER
And the chief inspector has asked
to see her. Four o'clock if
possible.

Father Michael looks to Helen. She nods.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I'll come with her.

LIAISON OFFICER
Thanks. Bye, Helen.

No response.

LIAISON OFFICER (CONT'D)
Bye, Father.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Bye.

She goes - so Helen can now ask...

HELEN OYENUSI
They let you see him?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
(nods)
He looks so peaceful, Helen.

Alie but it's a crumb of comfort she devours.

59 INT POLICE STATION DAY 9 16.10

59

Father Michael, Helen Oyenusi, the Chief Inspector and other
uniformed officers. Mid-meeting...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Helen WILL have questions, yes. Why
Vernon was discharged from the
centre will be one of them, I'm
sure. As will why police shot dead
a boy who wouldn't harm a fly. But
that will all have to wait because
Helen can't even think straight
right now.

CHIEF INSPECTOR MCDONALD
Of course. The officer who used the
spray says she did so because she
feared for Mrs Oyenusi's safety. As
does...

HELEN OYENUSI
That's not true.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Well, undeniably it will...

He jabs his finger into his skull (or whatever) to indicate the easing of conscience. A pause.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
You still off the sugar?

FATHER PETER FLAHERTY
(nods)
Four days now. Puts the crucifixion into perspective, doesn't it?
(beat)
She needs you, Michael. She has to have total faith in you. You can't destroy that just to clear your own conscience.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
It's not that.

FATHER PETER FLAHERTY
No?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
No. You lose a loved one suddenly, unnaturally, you want to know everything, Peter. Every detail. People try to hide it from you, thinking it too painful but how dare they? You've lost a son; nothing can be worse than that. And I'm going to be helping her in that quest, Peter. The police will tell her lies and we'll expose those lies. "Total truth please, officer." I can't do that while hiding an inconvenient truth of my own: that, had I acted, her son might well be alive.

FATHER PETER FLAHERTY
What she doesn't know won't hurt her.

Father Michael couldn't disagree more.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Good night.

FATHER PETER FLAHERTY
Have I offended you?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
No, I'm just a bit tired.

62 EXT FATHER PETER FLAHERTY'S HOUSE NIGHT 9 21.15 62

Father Michael leaving.

FATHER PETER FLAHERTY
Good night, Michael.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Good night, Peter.

Father Michael walks away.

63 OMITTED 63

64 EXT STREETS DAY 10 10.00 64

Sudden energy, joy...

Little Lisa Fitzsimmons, delighted, is hurtling along a street. She turns into her own street and hurtles down it towards her house.

She bangs on the front door. One of the boys opens it. She hurries inside.

65 INT CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS' S HOUSE DAY 10 CONT. 65

Lisa runs up the lobby and bursts into the living room. Her Mum, Christina, is here and her aunty, Mariella.

Mariella offers her a little bag/parcel. She takes it, opens it. It's a beautiful communion dress.

Tears of joy. We start to hear a hymn.

66 INT CHRISTINA FITZSIMMONS' S HOUSE DAY 10 10.30 66

The hymn continues. Lisa in her communion dress, the two women beaming, the two boys immersed in Minecraft...

67 EXT STREETS DAY 10 13.00 67

Lisa in her communion dress making her way up the street with her Mum and her Aunt.

Another girl in another street.

A boy in yet another street.

And another girl in the most flamboyant dress you have ever seen. Her parents walk proudly alongside her.

The hymn continues.

68 INT SAINT NICK' S CHURCH DAY 10 13.30 68

The church is packed.

The hymn continues. Girls in communion dresses make their way up the aisle. Boys in shirts and ties.

Lisa...

The Girl In The Flamboyant Dress...

A beaming Father Michael Kerrigan begins to distribute communion.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
The body of Christ.

BOY
Amen.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
The body of Christ.

GIRL

Amen.

On and on. Body of Christ. Amen. Body of Christ. Amen...

We go to the parents of the Girl In The Flamboyant Dress. Her father's finger hovers over a remote control. Back to Father Michael. He's nearing Lisa Fitzsimmons.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

The body of Christ.

GIRL

Amen.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

The body of Christ.

LISA FITZSIMMONS

Amen.

He's only two away from the Girl In The Flamboyant Dress and her parents can hardly contain their excitement.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

The body of Christ.

BOY

Amen.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

The body of Christ.

GIRL IN FLAMBOYANT DRESS

Amen.

The girl's father hits the button on the remote and the girl's flamboyant dress begins to flash like a super charged Christmas Tree. It starts playing music too.

69

INT SAINT NICK'S CHURCH DAY 10 14.00

69

The Mass is over.

HELEN OYENUSI

Thanks.

In other words, I'm not inviting you in.

Helen and Father Michael enter the house, close the door on the officers.

71 INT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE DAY 10 CONT. 71

Father Michael sees the damaged security chain.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
What happened?

HELEN OYENUSI
Policeman did it. That night.

Father Michael suddenly snaps, yanks open the front door.

72 EXT HELEN OYENUSI'S HOUSE DAY 10 CONT. 72

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
(Loud, angry)
Couldn't you have fixed the chain?!

The officers stop, look back.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)
For God's sake, she's grieving,
vulnerable, alone, so couldn't you
have fixed the bloody...

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Shall I?

Sit, she means. She's wearing her office clothes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Yes. Am I alright here?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

How are you?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Well, this is not my going away outfit so no immediate panic but I'm still going to do it I'm afraid.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

When?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Soon.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

May I?

Light a candle, he means. It happens to be a brand new one.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Yes. Am I your first?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

No.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

But I'm the first you've needed a candle for?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Yes.

So she pulls an aren't-I-special face. He smiles.

ROZ DEMICHELI S

Go on then.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Sorry?

ROZ DEMICHELI S

You said you'd give me a reason to go on living.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

If I said that, it was...

ROZ DEMICHELIS

You DID.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

It was arrogant of me, I'm sorry.
But I could suggest something.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

Go on.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

It'll take guts.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

I've got guts.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

You lost most of the money on
machines?

ROZ DEMICHELIS

Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Those machines in the betting shop?

ROZ DEMICHELIS

Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

The more you lost the more you
chased those losses?

ROZ DEMICHELIS

Yes.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Tell the world.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

What?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

I want you to tell the world what
those machines have done to you.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

I'm killing myself because it's
gonna make the local paper. You
want me to tell the world?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN (CONT'D)

Four in each shop, sixteen in all,
and each one sucking up thousands
because they're addictive. It's not
just you, it's everyone. You're not
a criminal; you're not a villain;
you're a victim.

She wants to believe him BUT...

ROZ DEMICHELIS

I don't think my boss would see it
that way.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

What made you steal that money? The
machines. Who got that money? The
machines. Tell the world. If you
don't tell the world, it's a guilty
secret that's gonna be revealed
anyway. If you DO tell the world,
it's a campaign, it's your reason
for living.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

I'll go to prison.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Not immediately. And not forever.

She's tempted but frightened...

ROZ DEMICHELIS

What did you do?

He won't go there.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Others will come forward, Roz. With
stories very similar to yours. We
could get together, keep together
until there's not one machine left
in Hallcross Road.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

(so tempted, so
frightened)
What did you do?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN

Promise me you'll think about it.
(She nods)
Promise me you'll come back and see
me, you won't do anything until
you've seen me again.

ROZ DEMICHELIS

I promise. What did you do?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I'm here to listen to you, Roz, not
to...

ROZ DEMICHELI S
You said you did something worse
than stealing two hundred and odd
thousand pounds. What was it?

He hesitates...

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I've done two things worse than
that. One of them's too recent, too
raw.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
The other?

Again he hesitates.

ROZ DEMICHELI S (CONT'D)
Who'd you think Jesus confided in?
Peter with a poker up his arse?
Judas? Nah: Mary Magdal en. She'd
been there, done it, bought the tee-
shirt. She understood.

He comes to a huge decision. He WILL tell her.

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
I treated young women very badly.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
When?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
When I was eighteen, nineteen. Not
all young women, just the ones I
had sex with.

ROZ DEMICHELI S
Why?

FATHER MICHAEL KERRIGAN
Because they let me have sex with
them. It was forty years ago and I
could live with it then. Forty
years ago the only good woman
there'd ever been was the Virgin
Mary 'cause she'd never done it
with anyone whereas a girl who did
it with a boy, any boy, was filth
and if she did it with me, a boy
from whom every last bit of self
esteem was well and truly banished,
well she was less than filth;

(MORE)

78 EXT MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE DAY 11 11.10 78

Helen and Father Michael enter the health centre from where Vernon Oyenusi was sent home.

79 INT MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE DAY 11 CONT. 79

The youngish case worker sees them approaching. She is at a loss.

CASE WORKER
Hello, Helen.

HELEN OYENUSI
Hello.

CASE WORKER
Father.

Father Michael nods. He can't disguise his anger.

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)
Trish is on her way.

HELEN OYENUSI
Good.

It's so, so difficult...

CASE WORKER
Would you like to see what we've got?

HELEN OYENUSI
Please.

CASE WORKER
This way.

80 INT MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE DAY 11 CONT. 80

They enter a room, artwork and photographs all over the walls

CASE WORKER
(at a table)
This is a log of every call, text and e-mail we got about Vernon. Would you like it?

HELEN OYENUSI
Please.

CASE WORKER
There'll be more but we'll pass them on as well.
(another file)
(MORE)

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)
And these are photographs taken
throughout his time with us.

Helen looking at them...

The case worker, hopelessly out of her depth, looks to Father Michael for reassurance, finds none.

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)
On the wall there's some of his...

The senior case worker arrives - much to her junior's relief.

SENIOR CASE WORKER
I am so, so sorry!
(approaching Helen)
I am so, so sorry, Helen. Please
say you forgive me.

HELEN OYENUSI
There's nothing TO forgive: you
didn't want to send him away from
here. I'm here to say thank you,
Trish. Thank you for making him so
happy. He loved it here and that
was down to you.

That reduces the senior case worker to tears. She and Helen Oyenusi embrace. In the embrace, Helen extends an arm and the junior case worker joins them.

Father Michael, profoundly moved, watches them.