



**Most Reverend Alphonsus Cullinan
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Dear Chairperson, members of parish pastoral councils and parishioners around the Diocese.

Firstly, I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Secondly and sadly, I bring to your attention the following:

On Thursday night last, during the RTE 1 New Year's Eve countdown programme, there was a blasphemous clip/fake news item accusing God, dressed up as an old man, of having raped a middle eastern teenager i.e. Our Lady. The very thought of this is revolting and all Catholics and people of faith have been offended by our national broadcaster. It has also used the issue of rape in the context of supposed humour.

So far lots of complaints have been made to RTE and an apology of sorts has been issued but the offending piece remains on the RTE Player. I am asking people around the Diocese to make a complaint to both RTE by email: complaints@rte.ie and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland: <https://bai.service-now.com/complaints> to have the offending piece removed immediately. The more complaints that they receive the slower they will be in the future to gratuitously insult our Lady and our God as well as making fun of the issue of rape.

Let us also join in a prayer of reparation for the insults hurled at Our Father God and Our Mother Mary. The following prayer from Sr. Lucia of Portugal may help you.

"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners."

Yours sincerely,

Most Reverend Alphonsus Cullinan, DD,
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.