

The Cardinal Pell Trials:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This free e-book is designed to assist the public, journalists and commentators in particular, ahead of Cardinal Pell's appeal June 5 – 6, 2019.



WHO

Regular writer for the National Civic Council's publication, *News Weekly*, and former NCC president, **Mr Peter Westmore** attended both trials of Cardinal Pell and heard the evidence provided to the court twice.

Mr Westmore believes the public deserve to know why he and other commentators, lawyers, and public figures are shocked that the jury found Cardinal Pell guilty after the second trial.

Mr Westmore, more than anything else is committed to seeing justice done for victims and for the wrongly accused/convicted and will continue to report on the case including the upcoming appeal June 5-6, 2019.

You can follow Mr Westmore's reporting via www.newsweekly.com.au

WHAT

This e-book presents two key articles published by National Civic Council's *News Weekly* magazine.

We have included an **appendix** with many commentators who have questioned the conviction of Cardinal Pell on child sex abuse charges.

Some commentators are Catholic. A few are Catholic but not friends of Cardinal Pell. Many are non-Catholic or not religious.

Variouly they point to the lack of evidence for a conviction, contrary evidence from the witnesses brought by the prosecution, and the public trial by media before charges were laid that made the process a persecution not a prosecution.

Consequently, as some point out, Victoria's legal system is as much on trial as Cardinal Pell. The glaring problems with the trial and frenzied media attacks on the Cardinal brings into question the possibility of a fair trial or appeal.

Justice for victims of child sexual abuse is not achieved if a person is wrongly convicted and made a scapegoat for the heinous crimes of others.

We point to the infamous legal cases of people wrongly convicted, such as [Lindy Chamberlain](#) in the Northern Territory in the 1980s, [Alfred Dreyfus](#) in France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and, more recently, [Josephine Greensill](#), a Melbourne teacher who was wrongly convicted in 2010 of child sexual abuse and spent 2½ years of a seven-year sentence in prison before being acquitted.

Cardinal Pell's application to [appeal the case](#) is set for June 5-6, 2019.

The NCC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to matters of public interest, public policy, the defence of human dignity, the family, religious freedom and guarding institutions against corruption.

[DONATE NOW](#) TO HELP
US CONTINUE OUR
PURSUIT OF TRUTH.



Pell conviction a most unusual case

By Peter Westmore – Former National President of the National Civic Council



I was present in the public gallery at the two trials of Cardinal Pell in the Victorian County Court in 2018, took copious notes of the evidence given by about 25 witnesses, and came to the conclusion that Cardinal Pell could not have committed the offences on which he was charged and convicted.

There have been miscarriages of justice in Australia. One which many people will recall was the conviction of Lindy Chamberlain for murder after her baby was taken by a dingo at Ayers Rock (Uluru) in 1980.

She and her co-accused husband Michael were not freed until the conviction was quashed in 1987. There is no doubt that the Chamberlain's religious beliefs – they were Seventh Day Adventists – contributed to her conviction.

In the Pell case, there was a single complainant, who was a member of St Patrick's Cathedral Choir in 1996 and 1997. There were over 50 members of the Cathedral Choir at the time, about 40 of whom were schoolboys, with the balance being adults.

The complainant, now aged in his mid-30s, claimed that he and another choir boy who has since died, walked away from a formal procession of the choir after Sunday Solemn Mass, entered the cathedral and went to

the priests' sacristy which was empty at the time.

He alleged that he found a bottle of altar wine which he was swigging when Archbishop Pell came into the priests' sacristy, and sexually assaulted both boys over about five minutes. The boys then left the priests' sacristy, walked through the cathedral to the exit, and re-joined the choir.

A month later, the complainant said he had been publicly groped by the archbishop when their paths crossed in a busy cathedral corridor.

Not one of the witnesses present at the time supported the complainant's allegations in any way, and in different ways, all of them contradicted him.

The allegations relate to the period immediately after Cardinal Pell was appointed archbishop of Melbourne, over 22 years ago.

One of the difficulties of cases like this is that after such a long period, even people who were closely connected with the choir or the cathedral have difficulty remembering details of what went on at the time, particularly when there were no reasons at the time for believing that any improper conduct had taken place.

Over the course of two trials, each of which took five weeks, evidence was presented by a large number of people connected with St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, in the 1990s.

Apart from video evidence of a police interview with Cardinal Pell in Rome in 2016, (image below – [watch here](#).) when he was first confronted with the details of the accusation, the prosecution called about 15 members of the cathedral choir to give evidence.



These witnesses included:

- the Cathedral's Master of Ceremonies at the time, Monsignor Charles Portelli,
- the Sacristan, Max Potter, who served under four successive archbishops,
- Archbishop Mark Coleridge who was a priest in the Cathedral presbytery at the time,
- a number of adults who ran the choir including the Choir Director, John Mallinson, and two altar servers who were present on the days the alleged offences occurred.

Not one of these people corroborated the accusations of the complainant.

In his address to the jury, Judge Peter Kidd said that whether the charges were proved depended on whether the jury believed the complainant, despite the changes he had made to his testimony at different times.

He said, "The central issue in this case is whether [the complainant, whose name cannot be revealed publicly] is a reliable witness, and that his evidence is true. If you accept his account beyond reasonable doubt, you should have no difficulty in convicting Cardinal Pell."

He said that Cardinal Pell had consistently denied the allegations.

“You heard Cardinal Pell in his record of interview. He made strong denials of the allegations. He said that from what he had been told of the allegations, they constituted appalling and disgusting allegations which were contrary to his own beliefs, and the teachings of the Church.

“He said the allegations were ‘garbage’, and completely impossible. He made similar statements with regard to the second event.”

In relation to the evidence of the witnesses who were at the Cathedral at the time, the judge invited the jury to consider the likelihood of two choir boys leaving the formal procession after Mass, without being observed or apprehended, the opportunity for the choristers to get to the priests’ sacristy unobserved, the opportunity for Cardinal Pell to be present alone and unattended by any church official when evidence showed he was always accompanied at the Cathedral, the opportunity of the sacristy being empty during the time that the alleged offence occurred, and the opportunity of the choristers to return to the choir without being observed.



“The central issue in this case is whether [the complainant, whose name cannot be revealed publicly] is a reliable witness...” Judge Peter Kidd

Following Cardinal Pell’s conviction on all charges, his legal representatives filed an appeal in Victoria’s Supreme Court.

There are three grounds of appeal. The first is that the conviction should be set aside as it was contrary to the evidence given at the trial.

“The verdicts are unreasonable and cannot be supported, having regard to the evidence, because on the whole of the evidence, including unchallenged exculpatory evidence from more than 20 crown witnesses, it was not open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt on the word of the complainant alone,” Cardinal Pell’s lawyers have argued.

The other grounds relate to a technical question of Cardinal Pell’s arraignment, and because the judge refused to allow the defence to show a “moving visual representation” of the procession out of the Cathedral after Sunday Solemn Masses.

The defence believed that the representation would demonstrate that the alleged assault on the choir boys was impossible.

Cardinal Pell will be (was) sentenced in the Victorian County Court on 13 March, and his appeal will be heard after that.

Surprisingly, misgivings about the conviction have been widely reported in the media. John Silvester, a highly-regarded crime writer, questioned whether the conviction reached the threshold of beyond reasonable doubt.

He wrote in *The Age* that Cardinal Pell “denied the allegations, with the jury believing the testimony of one of the boys that he was molested in the crowded church.

“Pell was also convicted in relation to the second boy, although that alleged victim had previously denied ever being molested, did not make a complaint and was not interviewed by police or examined in court (he died in 2014).

“Which means Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behaviour or a confession.

“It is a matter of public record that it is rare to run a case on the word of one witness, let alone gain a conviction,” he said.

Looking at the broader implications of the case, Silvester said that Pell has become a lightning rod in the worldwide storm of anger at a systemic cover-up of priestly abuses.

“But that,” he wrote, “doesn’t make him a child molester.”

“If Pell did molest those two teenagers in the busy cathedral, it certainly does not fit the usual pattern of paedophile priests.

“Those in power identify vulnerable potential victims, groom and then isolate them, committing offences in private then pressuring the abused into silence.

Most of the successful historical prosecutions come when police find multiple individual victims who testify about similar facts ...

“In the Pell case, although he had access to hundreds of boys over his career, he did not groom the vulnerable. Instead he attacked two he did not know in broad daylight in a near public area.

“He could not have known if one of them was not the son of the chief commissioner, the premier or the chief justice who were waiting outside to collect them.”

It is perhaps coincidental that just two days after the jury verdict in the Pell trial, the Victorian government announced that it would be conducting an inquiry into whether the option of trial by judge alone should be made available in Victoria, as it is in other states.

And separately, in January, Melbourne University Publishing (MUP) – which published an inflammatory book detailing allegations against Cardinal Pell of sexual misconduct a month before he was charged – has been instructed by the University to confine itself to academic works in future.

The decision led to the resignation of MUP Chief Executive, Louise Adler, and five directors of the company.

Despite everything that has happened, Cardinal Pell has maintained a demeanour of fortitude and tranquillity, always greeting people outside the court with a friendly smile and an encouraging word.

I spoke to him briefly before the suppression order over his trial was revoked, and he expressed deep gratitude for the messages of support and prayers offered for him.

As he was being led into custody, his last action before leaving the court was to bow to the trial judge. It was a touching and significant gesture.

Article originally published in [The Catholic Weekly](#).

Has Cardinal Pell been wrongly convicted?

By Patrick J. Byrne – Current National President of the National Civic Council

[News Weekly, Feb 23, 2019](#)



Cardinal George Pell, one of the highest prelates of the Catholic Church, has been convicted by a jury of child sexual abuse, and is awaiting sentencing.

His defence lawyers have announced an appeal, set for June 5-6, 2019.

Leading commentators and lawyers have questioned the conviction.

[Andrew Bolt](#) is a leading Australian commentator on Sky News. He describes himself as an agnostic who says he has met Cardinal Pell on about five occasions. Bolt pointed to how the conviction did not match the evidence.

Cardinal Pell was said to have found two choirboys in the sacristy of St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, drinking altar wine just after Mass. However, evidence presented showed that the wine was locked away and that the choirboys did not have access to the room.

Cardinal Pell was said to have molested both boys whilst fully vested. The evidence was that the vestments could not be parted to allow for the alleged offences to occur.

The attack was supposed to have happened straight after a crowded Sunday Mass, when Cardinal Pell's custom was to speak to worshipers outside the Cathedral.

The attack is alleged to have happened in the sacristy, a busy place where Cardinal Pell would have known that people would almost certainly walk into the room.

The boys had allegedly slipped away from the choir procession after Mass to enter the sacristy, but none of the other choristers who gave evidence noticed them either leaving or re-joining the procession.

Cardinal Pell was normally accompanied during and after Mass by the master of ceremonies (Monsignor Charles Portelli), who testified that he escorted the then Archbishop from the moment he arrived at the Cathedral to the moment he left. Monsignor Portelli declared the assault was impossible.

Not a single witness, from what was a busy cathedral at the time of the alleged abuse, noticed anything untoward during the estimated 10 minutes of the alleged attack.



There is no history or pattern of similar abuse by Cardinal Pell, unlike the typical pattern of paedophiles. Cardinal Pell was 55 at the time.

Others express concerns

John Silvester, a Walkley-award winning investigative crime writer and columnist with *The Age* newspaper, expressed his concerns about the conviction in his article "Beyond reasonable doubt: Was Pell convicted without fear and favour?" [Silvester](#) wrote: "Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behaviour or a confession. It is a matter of public record that it is rare to run a case on the word of one witness, let alone gain a conviction."

Jesuit priest and lawyer [Fr Frank Brennan](#) wrote in *Eureka Street*: "There are some who would convict him of all manner of things in the court of public opinion no matter what the evidence. There are others who would never convict him of anything, holding him in the highest regard. The criminal justice system is intended to withstand these preconceptions. The system is under serious strain, however, when it comes to Cardinal Pell.

"The events of the Victorian parliamentary inquiry, the federal royal commission, the publication of Louise Milligan's book,

Cardinal, and Tim Minchin's song, *Come Home (Cardinal Pell)*, were followed, just two weeks before the trial commenced, by the parliamentary apology to the victims of child sexual abuse. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said: 'Not just as a father, but as a Prime Minister, I am angry too at the calculating destruction of lives and the abuse of trust, including those who have abused the shield of faith and religion to hide their crimes, a shield that is supposed to protect the innocent, not the guilty. They stand condemned ... on behalf of the Australian people, this Parliament and our government ... I simply say I believe you; we believe you; your country believes you.'

"Such things tend to shift not the legal, but the reputational, burden upon an accused person to prove innocence rather than the prosecution to prove guilt," Fr Brennan wrote.

Sentencing hearing

At the sentencing hearing on Wednesday, February 28, Cardinal Pell's legal counsel put to the trial judge that the alleged offending was at the lower end of the scale, describing it as a "plain vanilla sexual penetration case". This comment was in the context of the sentence hearing, arguing that the Cardinal's conviction should receive a lighter rather than a lengthier sentence.

The sentencing of Cardinal George Pell to a term of imprisonment of six years following his conviction on five counts of sexual abuse of minors was telecast live across Australia and, in fact, around the world.

Chief Judge Peter Kidd said that the televising of the sentencing was in the interests of “open justice”.

He said: “In my view, the broadcast of my sentencing remarks is simply a clear demonstration of transparent and open justice and an accessible communication of the work of the court to the community of a case of interest.”

Immediately after the judge concluded, the most derogatory comments appearing in Judge Kidd’s lengthy judgement became headlines on television news programs, in newspapers and online. Cardinal Pell was described as “breathtakingly arrogant”, engaged in “breaches of trust and abuse of power”.

The judge added: “In my view, your conduct was permeated by staggering arrogance.” Judge Kidd was aware of the consequences of his remarks. He said to Cardinal Pell: “Irrespective of the means of the delivery of my sentencing remarks, I nevertheless accept that your ongoing notoriety will continue to be exacerbated by the deluge of publicity which will follow my sentence.”

However, I heard the uncontested evidence of over 20 witnesses, over two trials, who contradicted the version of events given by the single complainant.

This evidence, given at each trial over a period of nearly five weeks, was never reported in public. This was an indirect consequence of the suppression order that Judge Kidd put in place last September, ironically to ensure that Cardinal Pell received a fair trial.

Apparently, the interests of “open justice” do not extend to making accessible evidence that contradicts the statements of the complainant.

The result is that the evidence of a single person has been adopted as factual, even though it has been contradicted by evidence from others who were present at the cathedral at the time the alleged offences occurred, and never challenged.

Judge treats Pell to a spot of ‘open justice’

By Peter Westmore – Former National President of the National Civic Council

[News Weekly, April 6, 2019](#)

I am not the only person to have drawn this conclusion. John Silvester, a long-time crime writer in Melbourne, wrote: "Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behaviour or a confession."

He added: *"It is a matter of public record that it is rare to run a case on the word of one witness, let alone gain a conviction."*



Tom Percy QC, a Perth silk writing in the West Australian, said: "I didn't sit through Pell's trial and I am not about to express any view on the evidence that supported or detracted from the conviction.

"But the history of the case does leave some concern as to the confidence that an objective outsider might have in the ultimate conviction."

Mr Percy pointed out that the magistrate at the committal proceedings had dismissed out of hand a number of similar complaints against the Cardinal.

"Those allegations could have been resurrected by the prosecution by way of a direct presentment, that would have seen those allegations go to trial in the higher court despite having been dismissed by the magistrate. But, in Pell's case, the prosecutors declined to resurrect them.

"Similarly, another trial that was scheduled to go ahead ... involving a separate set of allegations by other complainants was discontinued by the prosecution on the basis that there was no reasonable prospect of a conviction," he said.

Inferences

The judge felt free to make what he called "reasonable inferences" regarding Cardinal Pell's guilt, against the overwhelming weight of evidence heard in court, or the contrary evidence of Cardinal Pell's good character, which he referred to in his judgement.

In my view, his comments – extensively reported in the local, national and international media – are both untrue and unfair.

Judge Kidd also said that "we have witnessed, outside of this court and within our community, examples of a 'witch-hunt' or 'lynch mob' mentality in relation to Cardinal Pell. I utterly condemn such behaviour. That has nothing to do with justice or a civilised society."

I think his sentencing remarks added to just such a mentality.

The judge said that Cardinal Pell was a person of otherwise good character.

He said:

"You have no prior convictions. Since this offending, you have not committed other offences.

"I have received a number of character references ... from people who have known you for many years in various professional and personal capacities. They speak of a man who dedicated his life to service, in particular to vulnerable members of the community.

"They describe a compassionate and generous person, especially to those experiencing difficulties in their lives; someone who has a deep commitment to social justice issues and the advancement of education for young people. I note that these references were not challenged or contradicted by the prosecution."

* **Character references** submitted to the court for Cardinal George Pell can be read [here](#).

That being the case, does it not add to the conviction that a terrible miscarriage of justice has occurred, in which a man's good character has been destroyed by unsupported accusations from a single accuser?

Cardinal Pell's appeal will go to the Court of Appeal in June. We can only hope that common sense – and justice – prevails.



Cardinal George Pell's defence to child sex charges centred on ten key arguments, [Shannon Deery](#), *Herald Sun*, February 27, 2019

Cardinal George Pell always denied any and all wrongdoing, slamming child sex allegations against him as "deranged falsehoods". His defence relied on these 10 key arguments.

How will you feel if Pell's appeal is successful? [Amanda Vanstone](#), former federal Senator, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, March 4, 2019

"What, however, is particularly worrying is the suggestion that because he has now been convicted I should not speak as I found him."

Beyond reasonable doubt: Was Pell convicted without fear and favour? [John Silvester](#) (a Walkley award-winning crime writer, columnist and a co-author of the best-selling books that formed the basis of the hit Australian TV series, *Underbelly*), *The Age*, February 26, 2019

Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behaviour or a confession. It is a matter of public record that it is rare to run a case on the word of one witness, let alone gain a conviction.

'Faith, innocence' sustain stoic leader in darkest hour, [Tess Livingstone](#), *The Australian*, March 2, 2019

For all the vitriol hurled at Pell, supporters are outraged, anxious for his safety and distraught over what they are convinced is a gross miscarriage of justice.

Boosting Billy Doe? [Chris S. Friel](#), *Academia*, April 17, 2019

Keith Windschuttle notes similarities in the Pell allegations with the Billy Doe" case, a notorious case in Philadelphia where an ex-altar boy complained of historic abuse against some Catholic priests. We should be careful about setting too much store on Billy Doe.

*** Murmur in the Cathedral: What did Milligan Know?** [Chris S. Friel](#), *Academia*, April 18, 2019

Louise Milligan's book, *Cardinal*, cannot stand critical scrutiny. The book relates the events alleged to have taken place in St Patrick's Cathedral leading to the conviction of Cardinal Pell, but a microscope reveals the fault lines. This paper speculates about what Milligan thought about the allegations. I argue that the author sensed that the various strands in the allegations were inconsistent and improbable and as a result she tried to disguise that fact.

*Highly Reccomended

Note: Several news reports have repeated that the first trial of Cardinal Pell ended in a hung jury, 10-2 in favour of acquittal. That result, however, cannot be verified and may indeed be inaccurate. Please keep that in mind while reading or listening to the reports linked to these articles.

Cardinal George Pell's defence to child sex charges centred on ten key arguments, [Shannon Deery](#), *Herald Sun*, February 27, 2019

Cardinal George Pell always denied any and all wrongdoing, slamming child sex allegations against him as "deranged falsehoods". His defence relied on these 10 key arguments.

How will you feel if Pell's appeal is successful? [Amanda Vanstone](#), former federal Senator, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, March 4, 2019

"What, however, is particularly worrying is the suggestion that because he has now been convicted I should not speak as I found him."

Beyond reasonable doubt: Was Pell convicted without fear and favour?

[John Silvester](#) (a Walkley award-winning crime writer, columnist and a co-author of the best-selling books that formed the basis of the hit Australian TV series, *Underbelly*), *The Age*, February 26, 2019

Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behaviour or a confession. It is a matter of public record that it is rare to run a case on the word of one witness, let alone gain a conviction.

* **Pell and the jury**, [Chris S. Friel](#), *Academia*, April 10, 2019

In the absence of public knowledge of the complainant's testimony in the Pell case, the author discusses Louise Milligan's account in her book, *Cardinal*, as a proxy account of the events that made up the charges that led to Cardinal Pell's conviction.

The borrowed testimony that convicted George Pell, [Keith Windshuttle](#), *Quadrant Online*, April 7, 2019

A trial from over 10 years ago in Philadelphia in the United States and reported in *Rolling Stone* magazine in 2011 has several parallels with the trial that led to Cardinal Pell's conviction.



Did Victoria Police bug Cardinal Pell's mobile?

Andrew Bolt, *The Bolt Report*, May 17, 2018

Monsignor Charles Portelli talks about the leaking to the media of a private phone call between himself and Cardinal George Pell.

Easter in jail: the travesty of the Pell case, [George Weigel](#), *The Catholic World Report*, April 16, 2019

An innocent bishop is being made into a ritual scapegoat for the malfeasance (and worse) of his predecessors in high Church office.

On the downfall of George Pell, [Don Aitkin](#), *Reflections on Australian Society* (blog), March 8, 2019

I am used to microphone-wielding reporters pursuing alleged paedophiles, serial rapists and other miscreants, asking them whether they are sorry for their deeds, usually with one or two bystanders looking on. But I have never seen before the visceral hatred expressed by onlookers as Cardinal Pell arrived for his trial. It was simply horrifying.

Today's public burning and those to come, [Paul Collits](#), *Quadrant Online*, March 13, 2019

Did Cardinal Pell simply come along at the wrong time, and in the wrong place (Victoria), and so suffered the perfect anti-Catholic storm which has delivered him his unspeakable legal nightmare?

The Pell case: What it says, where it's going, [Paul Collits](#), *Quadrant Online*, March 2, 2019

The day Cardinal Pell's conviction was announced, most of his many (mainly silent) supporters and others ... are forced to witness the shock and horror reactions of the many in relation to his conviction on five charges related to the Melbourne matters.

'Christian fascists go to hell': Australia's new lynch-mob mentality, [Natasha Marsh](#), Catholic Herald, March 28, 2019

Many used the sentencing of Cardinal Pell as a springboard to air broader grievances against the Catholic Church, Christianity and anything the Cardinal stood for.

When a jury gets it ludicrously wrong, [Peter Wales](#), *Quadrant Online*, March 15, 2019

Justice Peter Kidd's remark prior to sentencing that his comments and sentencing were made on the assumption that the offences took place as alleged is striking and unusual.

Australian media 'made Pell personify the sins of the Church, [De Omnibus Dubitando Est](#) blog, March 16, 2019

*** Pell's vestments: the prosecution's impossible claims,** [QED](#), *Quadrant Online*, March 18, 2019

If you have difficulty imagining the layers of clothing a bishop wears when celebrating a Mass, watch this video.

DPP moves to jail dozens of editors, journalists over reports after Pell verdict, [Adam Cooper](#), *The Age*, March 26, 2019

Dozens of Australian editors and journalists could face prison for contempt of court over allegations they breached a suppression order in reports published after Cardinal George Pell's conviction.

Prayers for Cardinal Pell, [Deborah Gyapong](#), *The Anglican Use Society*, March 23, 2019 - Cardinal Pell advised Archbishop John Hepworth, who had been sexually abused, to go through the Melbourne process he had created to handle sexual abuse claims when he was Archbishop of Melbourne.

Pell case reminds the world why cardinals wear red, [Fr Roger Landry](#), *National Catholic Register*, March 20, 2019

"This is what the red colour of their habits means: the colour of blood and love." —Pope Benedict XVI

For the lynch mob, priests are guilty until proven innocent, [Miranda Devine](#), *The Daily Telegraph*, March 16, 2019

On Friday the Victorian Court of Appeal quietly acquitted a priest who has spent a year in jail after a jury convicted him of raping a young boy half a century ago. As is the case with Cardinal George Pell, the jury convicted John Tyrrell on the uncorroborated allegation of a sole complainant.

Review of Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell, [Gerard Henderson](#), The Sydney Institute website, 2017

Cardinal is not an objective analysis of either the Catholic Church or Cardinal George Pell. Rather, it is the case for the prosecution.

George Pell: a case in which justice never had a fair chance, [Greg Craven](#), *The Australian*, February 27, 2019

All my life, I have joined in the chorus that our justice system is the best in the world. With the case of Cardinal George Pell, I am not singing quite so loud.

Our Dreyfus case, [George Weigel](#), *First Things*, March 6, 2019

In December 1894, Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the French Army was convicted of treason on the grounds that he had given military secrets to France's mortal enemy, Germany. The charge was false; Dreyfus, a Jew, was framed. The conviction of Cardinal George Pell in December 2018 on charges of "historic sexual abuse" is this generation's Dreyfus Affair.

*** Cardinal Pell trial observer calls guilty verdict 'incomprehensible',** [Edward Pentin](#), *National Catholic Register*, March 14, 2019

A witness to both of Cardinal George Pell's trials, Peter Westmore, says the prefect emeritus of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy is a victim of 'trial by media' and the guilty verdict is 'utterly unfair'.

Analysis: What's next for Cardinal Pell? [Ed Condon](#), *Catholic News Agency*, March 13, 2019

For the time being, Cardinal Pell remains a prisoner of the state and a sitting cardinal – a combination unprecedented in modern times.

What Newman can tell us about the Cardinal Pell verdict, [Fr George W. Rutler](#), *Crisis Magazine*, March 14, 2019

An 1852 libel case against John Henry Newman holds instructive parallels to the Cardinal Pell case.

Pell case attracts inaccurate views, [Gerard Henderson](#), *The Australian*, March 16, 2019

It is important that reporters and commentators to be factual – especially in view of the international attention the Cardinal Pell case has attracted. Unfortunately, the coverage so far has had many blemishes – which go to a basic misunderstanding of the law and how it operates.

How Pell became the Vatican's sacrificial lamb, [Miranda Devine](#), *The Daily Telegraph*, February 27, 2019

The guilty verdict against Cardinal George Pell is devastating. It's devastating because I don't believe that Pell could be guilty of sexually assaulting two choirboys in a busy cathedral after Sunday Mass.

Four Corners: the third trial of Cardinal Pell, [Terri M. Kelleher](#), *News Weekly*, March 13, 2019 -

The *Four Corners* program seemed designed to explain away some of the questions raised by the evidence presented at the trials.

* **[George Weigel](#) in conversation with Patrick Coffin**, *The Patrick Coffin Show*, March 12, 2019

American commentator George Weigel speaks extensively on the verdict meted out to Cardinal George Pell

* **The case against Cardinal Pell**, [Julia Yost](#), *First Things*, July 3, 2017

An older article, but still relevant on every point and a great backgrounder to the case

Graceless new book takes hatchet to

Cardinal Pell, [Peter Westmore](#), *News Weekly*, June 3, 2017 - The title of the book, *Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell*, says it all: Cardinal Pell is guilty, and must be brought down.

Pro-Pell and pulped as a consequence, [Quadrant Online Editor](#), *Quadrant Online*, March 13, 2019

An edition of Hobart's *Catholic Standard* was withdrawn and pulped on account of a column by Professor David Daintree, of the Christopher Dawson Centre for Cultural Studies, that defended Cardinal Pell.

George Pell and the jury, [Keith Windschuttle](#), *Quadrant Magazine*, March 12, 2019

Enough of the George Pell case has been publicly discussed to demonstrate that the jury could not have come to its decision on the basis of reason and evidence alone.

It's not uncommon for jury verdicts to be questioned, [Gerard Henderson](#), *The Australian*, March 9, 2019

Reporting and commentary about R v George Pell have revealed that many journalists have little knowledge of the legal system, while others have projected their views into the coverage.

Calling Cardinal Pell's prosecution what it is: religious persecution, [Father Raymond J. de Souza](#), *National Catholic Register*, March 1, 2019

Miscarriages of justice do take place. The case of Cardinal Pell, though, was not a miscarriage akin to a mistake. It was done with police and prosecutorial malice aforethought.

The Pell fallout continues, and it has implications for the whole Church, [Steve Skojec](#), March 5, 2019

If the reporting is to be believed, the guilty verdict was obtained without a shred of corroborating physical evidence or testimony.

A litany of improbabilities, [Greg Daly](#), *The Irish Catholic*, March 7, 2019

The details which have come to light have certainly made scepticism about the verdict seem justified.

George Yeo on Cardinal George Pell's conviction: 'He has strong grounds for appeal', [Martino Tan](#), *mothership*, March 8, 2019

Former Singaporean foreign minister George Yeo says he believes Cardinal Pell is innocent "on the basis of what I know of the case and of the man".

Why Pell has been falsely convicted, [Andrew Bolt](#), *Herald Sun*, February 27, 2019

Cardinal George Pell has been falsely convicted of sexually abusing two boys in their early teens. That's my opinion, based on the overwhelming evidence. He is a scapegoat, not a child abuser. In my opinion.

Cardinal Müller: Cardinal Pell's conviction 'against all reason and justice', [Edward Pentin](#), *National Catholic Register*, March 6, 2019

The prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith told the Register that the allegations against Cardinal Pell are "absolutely unbelievable".

The vendetta against Cardinal Pell . . . His guilt was not established beyond reasonable doubt, [John Young](#), *The Wanderer*, March 5, 2019

it is absolutely certain that Cardinal Pell's guilt was not established "beyond reasonable doubt".

The factors that could see Pell freed, [Charis Chang](#), *news.com.au*, March 7, 2019

Questions hang over how George Pell's trial was conducted and whether certain decisions will mean his conviction is overturned.

'Perverse': Barrister Robert Richter won't lead Cardinal George Pell's appeal bid, [SBS News](#), March 6, 2019

The senior lawyer had labelled the verdict "perverse".

Triumphalism over Pell verdict shows civilisation just a veneer, [Greg Barns](#), *Hobart Mercury*, March 4, 2019

We can no longer pride ourselves on "Australia being a civilised society".

Victorian judicial system did not give Pell a fair trial, [Tom Percy QC](#), *West Australian*, March 2, 2019

Pell had to take his chances with a jury selected at random from a community that had been subjected to several years of vitriolic media.

The 'getting' of George Pell, [Geoffrey Luck](#), *Quadrant Online*, February 27, 2019

The conviction of George Pell demonstrates the power to skew justice of the emotional claptrap surrounding the serious crime of child abuse. ... The jury's decision is reduced to a distorted balance of probabilities, with motivation never examined.

Catholics, sex and Cardinal Pell, [Peter Wales](#), *Quadrant Online*, February 27, 2019 *One of George Pell's first actions on becoming Archbishop of Melbourne was to set up clear processes for dealing with complaints of sexual abuse.*

Truth and justice after the Pell verdict, [Fr Frank Brennan SJ](#), *Eureka Street*, February 26, 2019

The events leading up to the trial "tend[ed] to shift not the legal, but the reputational, burden upon an accused person to prove innocence rather than the prosecution to prove guilt".

[Fr Frank Brennan](#) answers critics of his defence of Cardinal Pell, March 7, 2019

"My article in The Australian on the Pell verdict has elicited quite a range of responses."

