

## Assignment Record– Rev. James L. MacGuinness

**Summary of Case:** James L. MacGuinness was a Boston priest, ordained in 1910. He assisted in Lowell, Brockton, Beachmont, Marblehead, Lawrence, Roxbury and Sharon parishes, and he was pastor for three years in Peabody. He was also chaplain for a boys' orphanage and for a girls' academy. His career is marked by several unexplained leaves of absence, 1937-1938 and 1940-1942. MacGuinness died April 14, 1955. In June 2014 a 90-year-old man claimed in a lawsuit that MacGuinness sexually abused him as a child during 1938-1940, at a Roxbury parish. The suit was settled in December 2014, and the man died two months later.

**Ordained:** 1910

**Died:** April 14, 1955

Start	Stop	Assignment	Town/Accusations	State	Position	Notes
1910	1912	<b>St. Peter's</b>	<b>Lowell</b>	MA		
1912	1925	<b>St. Margaret's</b> <b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	<b>Brockton</b>  <b>Beachmont</b>		<a href="#">2/2, 2/3</a>	
Boston archbishop was William H. O'Connell - (1907-1944)						
1925	1937	<b>Our Lady Star of the Sea</b>	<b>Marblehead</b>	MA	2/2	
1933	1933	<b>St. Patrick's</b>	<b>Lawrence</b>	MA	2/4	St. Patrick's had a grade school with 423-458 boys and 423-342 girls, and a high school with 135-117 girls.
1937	1938	<b>Absent on Leave</b>				
1938	1940	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>Roxbury</b>  • In a lawsuit filed in June 2014, a 90-year-old man accused	MA	2/5	St. John's had a school with 215 boys and 220 girls.

			MacGuinness of sexually abusing him as a child in <a href="#">1938-40 in St. John's rectory</a> . The suit was settled in December 2014, and the man died two months later.			
1940	1942	<b>Absent on Leave</b>				
1942	1946	<b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b>	<b>Sharon</b>	MA	2/2	
O'Connell was succeeded by Richard James Cushing (1944-1970).						
1946	1947					MacGuinness is indexed in the 1947 <i>Directory</i> as at Our Lady of Sorrows in Sharon, but he is not listed as there in the Boston pages; nor is he listed at his next assignment.
1947	1948	<b>House of the Angel Guardian</b>	<b>West Newbury</b>	MA	Chaplain	This was an orphanage and grade school with 173 boys, run by the Bros. of

						Charity of Ghent.
1948	1949	<b>St. John the Baptist</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	MA	2/5	St. John's had a school with 208 boys and 285 girls.
1949	1952	<b>Mt. St. Joseph Academy</b>	<b>Brighton</b>	MA	Chaplain	Mt. St. Joseph's had 387-440 students, all girls.
1952	1955	<b>St. Anne's</b>	<b>Peabody</b>	MA	1/2, 1/1	MacGuinness died April 14, 1955.

**Source:** *Official Catholic Directory* (New York: P.J. Kenedy and Sons 1913-1956)

- [Boston Archdiocese Settles with 7 Alleged Victims of Clergy Abuse](#), By Brian MacQuarrie, Boston Globe, March 28, 2016
- [Assignment Histories for 16 Clerics Named in Recent Settlements by Attorney Mitchell Garabedian](#), Researched by BishopAccountability.org, March 28, 2016

**Priests in a Parish:** We use the following convention to show a priest's place among the clergy of a parish: 1/2 means that he is the first priest listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* (usually the pastor) and that there is a total of two priests at the parish. The shorthand 3/4 means that the priest is listed third on a four-priest roster. See our [sample page from the Directory](#).

**Note:** The *Official Catholic Directory* aims to report the whereabouts of Catholic priests in the United States on January 1 of the *Directory's* publication year. Our working assumption is that a priest listed in the *Directory* for a given year was at the same assignment for part of the previous year as well. However, Kenedy and Sons will sometimes accept updates well into the year of publication. Diocesan clergy records are rarely available to correct this information. The *Directory* is also sometimes misleading or wrong. We have tried to create an accurate assignment record, given the source materials and their limitations. Assignment records are a work in progress and we are always improving the records that we post. Please [email us](#) with new information and corrections.

This assignment record collates MacGuinness's career history as it is represented in the *Official Catholic Directory* with

allegations as reported in the media. We make no representation regarding the truth of the allegation we report, and we remind our readers that the U.S. legal system presumes that a person accused of or charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty. Similarly, individuals who may be defendants in civil actions are presumed not to be liable for such claims unless a plaintiff proves otherwise. Admissions of guilt or liability are not typically a part of civil or private settlements. For more information, see our [posting policy](#).

This assignment record was last updated on April 25, 2025.