**Book Title: Why Punish Me?** *Augustine’s sinful lust unwrapped*

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**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY (250 words)**

Michael Moloney is the pseudonym of an acclaimed British writer. He served as altar boy and chorister while attending faith schools in Ireland and England, where he encountered abuse. With the Vatican decrying critics of the church as “Friends of the Devil”, he thought back to his schooldays. Showing a profound understanding and scholarly knowledge of the church, its people and their rites and rituals, he evaluates the teaching of St Augustine.

He recalls the prayers of self-censure and remorse which are still recited in many faith schools today. Having a sensitive nature is a positive attribute. It’s what makes us human. But imaginative and impressionable children are susceptible to corrosive feelings of guilt and shame. These feelings are sharpened by the ritual avowals of penitence decreed by Augustine, whose hair-shirt texts are the bedrock of Christian belief in the Western Church.

Reading about the evasiveness of the churches in response to disclosures of child abuse, he resolved to use his familiarity with drill and doctrine to help throw light on the enduring consequences of religious indoctrination, for certain individuals. Tracing his own religious background, he sketches subtle pressures that colour the thinking of both followers and apostates. He suggests Augustine’s teaching on sinfulness and infantile lust might play a more influential role in child abuse and adult mental well-being than has generally been recognised in mainstream social science.

In the final chapters, educationist Lorna Graham, a schoolteacher for 26 years, brings faith schools to life depicting her struggle to deliver a critically conscious, dialogic education to her charges.

**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY (100 words)**

Michael Moloney is the pen name of an acclaimed British writer. He served as altar boy and chorister while attending boarding schools in Ireland and England where he faced abuse. With the Vatican decrying critics of the church as ‘Friends of the Devil’, he thought back to the drill and doctrine of his church schooldays.

In this book the author shows how the darkness of Augustine’s shameful ideas has ensnared us all. Lorna Graham, a teacher for 26 years, brings faith schools to life describing her efforts to deliver a critically conscious, dialogic education to her pupils.