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## Priest surprised at IRA meeting

By Diana Rusk

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NORTH Belfast priest Fr Aidan Troy said he was surprised to hear at the trial that senior IRA figures met a chief witness in his church.

Robert McCartney's close friend Brendan Devine said in his evidence that the meeting in Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne was one of four he had with the IRA after the killing.

Belfast Crown Court was

told that the paramilitary group had advised Mr Devine to “tell the truth” about what had happened on the night of the

murder. However, Fr Troy said he had no idea about the alleged meeting until it was revealed at the trial.

“I was driving in my car listening to the news report on the trial when I heard about it and that was the first time I knew of anything. I was quite surprised,” he said.

“I don’t know how the meeting happened and I had no hand in it. However, because we operate an open-door policy, I would not want to come across as being against it.”

Asked whether he was concerned about the alleged meeting, Fr Troy said that would de-pend on what was discussed.

“If they were meeting there for an illegal purpose I would be concerned but if they were meeting to sort it out that is different,” he said.


“I think it is history now so I won’t be investigating it.

“If a parishioner had come to me with concerns about it I would have looked into it but now it is before the courts, it is a matter for the courts.

“If the courts want to question me about it I would cooperate but I have no reason to start stirring things up.”

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