

MERCY – New Single from Irish Singer-Songwriter Pete Kavanagh

RELEASE DATE: 15th October 2021

OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/SK0goFYjEFo>

PRESS KIT: <https://petekavanagh.com/epk>

DOWNLOAD WAV & MP3: <https://bit.ly/3vaeMZd>

SPOTIFY: <https://open.spotify.com/track/7yskOGmkxrId1MoGELUH?si=91c5743307e0478d>

“We didn’t want to face up to it... You cannot say people didn’t understand what was going on. There was a colluding silence. And that colluding silence supported a state that didn’t want to intervene and assisted this institutional regime.”

- President Michael D Higgins*



“The **Americana-infused track** tackles one of the countries most stigmatised issues, **supporting victims of clerical and state abuse.**” - [Hot Press](#)

“This is a **powerful film** for a **powerful song** and an important message. Musicians find immovable objects inside people's pain and this is an important work.” – [Holly Csigá](#)

Irish singer-songwriter **Pete Kavanagh** releases his new single, **Mercy**, on Friday 15th October. The single is paired with a powerful video directed by **Mary Duffin – DannyBoy the feature film** (2020) with cinematography by well-known music photographer **IrishMJ**.

Mercy is an alternative rock song harking back to the **dark grunge days of the 90s**, think **Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds...**, with a strong melodic, musical delivery underpinning dark lyrics that deal with **Clerical and State abuse in Ireland**.

The track features Pete on double track lead vocal and acoustic guitar, **Graham Hopkins** on drums (**The Frames, Therapy?**), **Hally** on lead guitar and backing vocals (**Peeling Onions**) and **William McCormack** on bass (**Arc Waves, Kill City Defectors**).

Mercy is the third single to be taken from Pete’s debut album "Join Up the Dots" which is set for release on **November 5th**. Soulful and captivating, the album combines **alt-country, folk** and **rock** with an overriding **Americana** feel.

ABOUT THE SONG

Mercy is a testament from an Irish working **man in support of the victims and survivors of clerical and state abuse** in Ireland, and indeed worldwide.

Pete says: “I attended primary school in Ireland in the late 1970’s, a school with an obligatory Catholic

ethos. I witnessed daily displays of physical and mental abuse. There was also sexual abuse. The Christian brothers, nuns, priests, teachers and community at large, collectively created an environment where this behaviour became the norm.

By the mid 90's, I was an angry young man with a guitar. I wrote songs to vent my anger and express my emotions. Music was a healing force, a form of therapy. It was during this period that I heard **Christine Buckley (Dear Daughter)** recount her horrific experience of life at St. Vincent's Institutional School in Dublin (**Goldenbridge**). Her story moved me to tears and it inspired "Mercy". I feel now is the right time for this song to be heard.

MUSIC CREDITS:

Music & Lyrics by Pete Kavanagh © Pete Kavanagh 2021

Musicians: Pete Kavanagh, Hally, William McCormack & Graham Hopkins

Recorded, Mixed, Mastered & Produced by Hally at Arthouse Studios

ABOUT THE VIDEO

The beautifully filmed video portrays **the story of a survivor** (played by Pete Kavanagh and his son) who has returned to his hometown to confront his former oppressor. It is an emotional journey that will leave you thinking about it long after the video ends. Actors **Brian McCabe** and **Mary Power Cooney's** captivating performance brings the **stoic, arrogant stance of an institutional regime to life**.

VIDEO CREDITS:

Director and Story Editor - [Mary Duffin](#)

Cinematographer – [IrishMJ](#)

Editor - Pam Kavanagh

Produced by Pam and Pete Kavanagh

Starring - Mary Power-Cooney, Brian McCabe, Pete Kavanagh and son.

ABOUT PETE KAVANAGH

Pete Kavanagh is a singer-songwriter, musician and storyteller from **Co. Kildare, Ireland** who has an **old-world sound** but **with modern twists** that are all uniquely his own. His sound invokes the vintage quality of musical influences such as **Bob Dylan, Nick Cave, Johnny Cash, David Bowie** and **Leonard Cohen**. He weaves dark themes in his songwriting, exploring psyche and despair of human nature while wryly holding onto hope for something better.

CONTACT DETAILS:

See more at petekavanagh.com. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Pete by email on petebkavanagh@gmail.com or phone [+353 871775754](tel:+353871775754).

LINKS:

Facebook – <https://facebook.com/petekavanaghmusic>

Instagram – <https://instagram.com/petekavanaghmusic>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/petekavanagh7>

YouTube – <https://youtube.com/petekavanagh1>

Spotify - <https://open.spotify.com/artist/4veGu1QjrqP8hvPROeNWXo>

Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/petekavanagh>

*Taken from the Book "[The Best Catholics in the World](#)" by **Derek Scally**. Published 2021.