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Priest held after lover made false rape claim

A ROMAN Catholic priest was falsely accused of rape by a married woman church official after he ended a secret affair.

By [DAVID PILDITCH](#)

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Father Patrick Udoma was arrested as he conducted a parishioner's funeral after Emma Templeton made the allegations.

But police later discovered the mother-of-four invented the story in an act of revenge.

Templeton, a chaplain at a Catholic sixth form college had earlier threatened Father Udoma she could not be held responsible for her actions if he "hurt" her.

The scandal was revealed as the 44-year-old mother was given a 10-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, by a judge at Birmingham Crown Court.

She admitted perverting the course of justice after making the allegations which led to the priest losing his job and his home.

Prosecutor Shenaz Muzaffer told the court Father Udoma was detained for 23 hours after arrest.

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During interviews, the priest told officers he had consensual sex with her on two occasions and the relationship was over.

Police later arrested Templeton after finding more than 200 text messages exchanged between her and the priest in which she declared her love for him.

She told police Father Udoma “had some kind of hold over her”, then went on to admit she had made the allegations up.

The court heard Templeton claimed she was the victim of a sex attack after visiting a rape crisis centre in January 2009.

Miss Muzaffer said she went on to make the same allegation to two other people – naming Father Udoma as her attacker and saying he had raped her at his home.

She repeated the claim in an interview with police last April.

Sentencing Templeton, Recorder James Burbidge QC told her: “You have committed a very serious offence and you are very much aware of that.

“Your counsel has said that your complaint was not malicious – that may be so.

But it was created when your relationship with Father Udoma appeared to be coming to an end, and from what you said to him you knew you could cause him trouble.”

Four days after she was interviewed, officers swooped to arrest him as he conducted a funeral.

One churchgoer said: “He did not deserve what happened to him. That wicked woman – his life was turned into torment.”

Sally Hancox, for Templeton, told the court: “She allowed herself to become embroiled in a situation which for many reasons was inappropriate.”

Peter Jennings, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, said: “The Archdiocese returned Father Udoma to public ministry in Coventry once it was satisfied that he would not be subject to any criminal proceedings.

“This decision was also taken on the basis of Father Udoma’s own assurances that he would be faithful to his promise of celibacy.”

Father Udoma refused to comment last night.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/228575/Priest-held-after-lover-made-false-rape-claim>