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MailOnline

'Lured to her death by Vatican cardinal paedophile ring or kidnapped in revenge by Italy mobster?' Enduring mystery of girl, 15, who vanished on way home from flute class after Pope told family, 'She's in heaven'

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- Emanuela Orlandi, 15, vanished without trace in Vatican City in July 1983
- The enduring mystery of her disappearance still haunts the Vatican today
- Theories include that she was kidnapped by a cardinal paedophile ring
- Another claim she was taken by mobster who lost tens of millions of dollars when Vatican-linked bank collapsed
- A Turkish anti-Christian group claimed they took Emanuela to secure release of Mehmet Ali Agca, who tried to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981
- Now case is closed and Pope Francis told her family: 'She's in heaven'

By HANNAH ROBERTS IN ROME FOR MAILONLINE

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The mysterious disappearance of the 15-year-old daughter of a Vatican official is Italy's most enduring cold case.

Emanuela Orlandi vanished while on her way home from a flute lesson in July 1983, and was never seen again.

It sparked an international intrigue that has pointed to the Stasi, the Italian mob and even a Satanic sex cult among the cardinals.





 +13
View gallery

Vanished: Emanuela Orlandi (pictured), the daughter of a Vatican official, was 15 when she disappeared on her way home from a flute lesson July 1983, prompting one of Italy's great unsolved mysteries

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The teenager, the fourth of five children in a devoutly Catholic family, was enticed to meet her abductors with the offer of some work distributing leaflets at a fashion show for Avon cosmetics.

In reality, the Avon job did not exist. No one has ever been convicted of her disappearance and no body has ever been found.

The original theory followed by investigators was that she was kidnapped to secure the release of the would-be assassin who tried to kill John Paul II.

But Vatican insiders have claimed that she died under the influence of drugs at a satanic sex party with prelates.

Others insist she was still alive and living secretly in a convent with the knowledge of the Vatican.

In the latest investigation, prosecutors worked on the premise that Emanuela was kidnapped and killed by extreme right Italian mobsters who had lost tens of millions of dollars after they invested it in the troubled Vatican Bank.

A witness claimed she saw the teenager's body, wrapped in a bin-bag, thrown into a cement mixer, in a seaside resort near Rome.

But now judges in Italy have controversially closed the decades-old case in what will seemingly remain one of the country's greatest unsolved mysteries.

Despite fierce opposition from the Orlandi family, investigators said there was not enough evidence to go to trial.

Today, in an exclusive interview Emanuela's brother Pietro told of his astonishment at the decision to bring to an end the family's 32-year quest for justice.

'We want to reach the truth, whatever it is,' he told MailOnline.

'There are still so many indications to investigate. I ask myself how, after so many years have passed, it is possible that there is no one on this earth with the courage to say what happened.'

The family has always hoped that Emanuela is still alive somewhere and have appealed to Pope Francis to open the Vatican files, shedding light on a shadowy hour in its history.

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Peculiar: Emanuela's family has never given up hope of one day finding her alive. Newspapers were contacted days after her disappearance by a Turkish anti-Christian group who said they were holding her to negotiate the release of the man who tried to assassinate Pope John-Paul II in 1981

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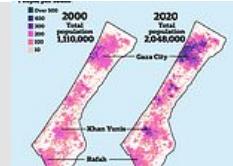
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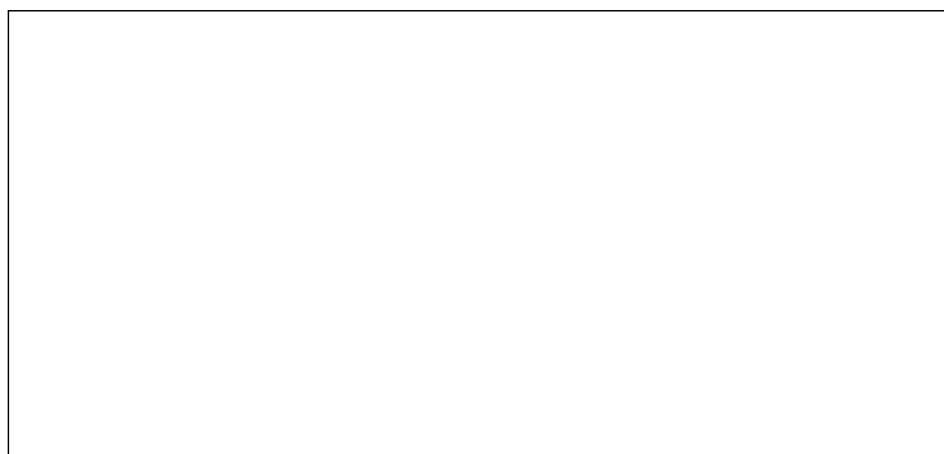
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Heartbroken: Now judges in Italy have closed Judges have decided to close the 32-year unsolved mystery of Emanuela's disappearance, much to the disappointment of her family (pictured, her parents)





Anger: Following the decision to close the case, Emanuela's brother Pietro (centre) told Mail Online: 'We want to reach the truth, whatever it is'

But while Francis appears to have cleaned up the Vatican bank and promises to bring transparency to the church, he has refused to provide the family with the answers they need.

When the newly minted pope met the schoolgirl's mother Maria at a mass in 2013 he shook her hand and said: 'Emanuela is in heaven.'

Her brother Pietro, surprised, told the Pope: 'Until there is proof to the contrary, I live in hope that she's alive. And I hope you will help me find the truth.'

But the Pope repeated: 'She's in heaven.'

Since then, Pietro says, he has repeatedly tried to get an explanation from the Vatican but has not received a reply. 'I want to understand if she is dead or alive. He says she's dead now? How does he know?' he said.

The truth 'must come from the Vatican,' he said. 'She was a Vatican citizen. But they have never collaborated with investigators. They have always obstructed the investigation. They have behaved in

It must be a secret that weighs heavily on the church. I think that the case has been closed after 32 years because they still don't want to open the Pandora's Box

Pietro Orlandi, Emanuela's brother

CONTINUE READING...

A month after Emanuela's disappearance, Pietro Orlandi sent a letter from the Italian Prime Minister's office to the Vatican recommending that they 'do not - with the Orlandi's case - open a Pandora's Box that would be difficult to close'.

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► Britney Spears seen for first time since explosive details about Justin Timberlake urging her to have an ABORTION were revealed from new book

► Liam Gallagher ticket prices slammed by furious fans as spots for Oasis star's tour sold for QUADRUPLE the value on resell websites

► New parents Neil Jones, 41, and fiancée Chyna Mills, 24, look loved up at The Baby Show just a fortnight after she gave birth to their first child

► Kelsey Parker dons matching leopard print with daughters Aurelia, 3, and Bodhi, 2, at Lidl's baby show
The mother-of-two looked radiant

► Lewis Capaldi praised for 'heroic' actions as he rushes to help an elderly woman after she collapsed on Hampstead Heath

► Paloma Faith reveals she's SPLIT from boyfriend Andrew Soar and admits she has to be 'careful' voicing her thoughts on ex-husband Leyman Lahcine

► Rebecca Romijn, 50, smiles like she doesn't have a care in the world at LA event... after ex-husband John Stamos said he 'hated' her during divorce

► Binge-worthy Netflix show announces a major casting swap with

another hit drama in exciting shake-up

► **MAFS UK** star Matt Jameson reveals how Nathaniel Valentino 'broke the reality show's protocol'
Weighed into the argument

► **Dua Lipa** debuts fiery red locks as she enjoys an outing in Paris while bundled up in a cosy padded coat

► **Deadpool 3** starring Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman 'will likely delay its May 2024 release date' as it is only halfway done thanks to actors strike

► **Kerry Washington** details her parents telling her she was conceived via a sperm donor as she admits: 'I had no idea before they told me'

► **Jessika Power** parties with fellow controversial *Married At First Sight* bride Nikita Jasmine amid rumours she's dating *TOWIE* star

► **Dakota Fanning** and **Gabrielle Union** look glamorous in silk as they enjoy a fancy dinner to celebrate LA boutique launch

► **Strictly's** Karen Hauer steps out without her wedding ring as she heads to rehearsals after 'split from husband Jordan Wyn-Jones'

► **I'm A Celebrity 2023 FIRST LOOK** trailer: Countdown begins as Ant and Dec promise to welcome stars to their 'five star' Jungle Retreat with creepy crawlies

► **Big Brother** fans SLAM 'vile' **Kerry** for branding **Matty** 'sensitive' over his historic relationship with food - after being reprimanded for gay slur

► **Taylor Swift** looks giddy as she gathers squad including **Selena Gomez** and **Zoe Kravitz** for girls' night out in... amid hot new romance with **Travis Kelce**

► **Amber Le Bon** looks chic in a black midi dress with an olive blazer as she leads the glamour at restaurant bash

► **Britney Spears** breaks silence on fling with **Colin Farrell** which she likens to a 'street fight' and says they were 'all over each other' after **Justin Timberlake** split

► **Cheryl Burke** claims she was NOT INVITED to the **Dancing With The Stars** special tribute to the late **Len Goodman**: 'I'll be there in spirit'

► **Rylan Clark** proves he's the ultimate **Big Brother** superfan as he buys his **THIRD Diary Room** chair and recreates iconic scene from series five

► **Travis Kelce** and **Taylor Swift** are 'all in' and **Chiefs** superstar 'plans to travel to South America to join her on the next leg of her **Eras Tour** next month'

► **Danny Dyer**, 46, leaves little to the imagination in **VERY** short pink shorts with a deep golden tan as he is spotted on set of his new **Sky** series

► **Amanda Holden** wows in a chic nude knit dress while leggy **Ashley Roberts** goes retro in a Seventies-inspired mini as they leave **Heart FM**

► **Joan Collins**, 90, recalls her own 'difficult' experiences in Hollywood after being forced to meet a producer in the **BATH**

► Strictly judges **Shirley Ballas** and **Craig Revel Horwood** risk the wrath of BBC bosses by flogging personalised video messages for £100

► **David Walliams** looks pleased as he arrives at radio studio after **Britain's Got Talent** bosses claimed he was 'warned about his behaviour'

► **Lupita Nyong'o**'s split statement in full: Star details the 'magnitude of her pain' and 'a love extinguished by deception' as she announces break-up

EXCLUSIVE **Taylor Swift** was 'blown away' by the way **Travis Kelce** 'courted her' like a 'gentleman' and is already 'falling in love' with the **NFL** star

► **Was James Haskell's late night encounter with**

a blonde PR executive just a stunt for wife Chloe Madeley's new reality TV show?
So many questions

EXCLUSIVE **Kourtney Kardashian** looks like she is due any day as she displays her **HUGE** baby bump while holding hands with **Travis Barker**

► **Victoria Beckham** joins **Lionel Messi** and **Tom Ford** for a night out after **Inter Miami** match
The fashion designer, 49, touched down in Florida

► Charming debutante's diary of **Princess Diana**'s great-great-grandmother sells at auction as part of £250,000 clear-out

► **Paul O'Grady** smoked a joint in his final moments before passing away peacefully in his chair, his husband reveals at star-studded memorial

► **Charli XCX** is mobbed by fans as she cuts a casual figure in branded T-shirt and shades ahead of **BBC Radio One** interview

EXCLUSIVE **Britain's Got Talent** bosses claim **David Walliams** was 'warned about his behaviour' as he moves to sue show after his remarks about contestants revealed

► **Hairy Bikers** **Dave Myers** and **Si King** reveal how their deep bond saw them through the darkest days of **Dave's** cancer battle

► **King Charles** shares his surprising regret about the Coronation concert at Buckingham Palace reception held to thank hundreds of people involved in his historic crowning

► **Lady Gaga** has a dance off with **Mick Jagger**, 80, as she makes a surprise cameo on stage of **Rolling Stones**' star-studded album launch party

► **Outlander** star **Sam Heughan** issues grovelling apology for 'inadvertently' signing controversial luvvies letter on Israel-Gaza conflict

► Once a byword for fun, **Victoria's Secret** has recently been proving the adage: **Go Woke, Go**

Broke. Now bosses have done a screeching U-turn

► Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon* is branded a 'dud' by critics as they lambaste 'tiresomely long' three-hour film

► Perrie Edwards' fiancé Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain details their similarities to the Beckhams... including pop stardom and being torn apart by work

EXCLUSIVE Newly-single Joshua Jackson puts on a cosy display with Lupita Nyong'o at LA concert - one month after shock split from Turner-Smith

► MAFS UK viewers are mortified by 'mean girl' Tasha's behaviour after she hurls offensive insult at Erica during explosive argument

EXCLUSIVE Lupita Nyong'o announces SPLIT from beau Selema Masekela after cozying up to newly-single Joshua Jackson at concert - after his marriage split

► Sheridan Smith enjoys a picturesque meal out with boxer Dave Ryan as the pair share snaps from sun-soaked getaway together

► Prince William is praised for 'heartwarming' appearance on ITV's *Pride of Britain* special as he plays cricket with Windrush passenger

► Ellie Goulding, 36, puts on a leggy display in fishnet tights after ending 'friendship' with Tory peer Zac Goldsmith to focus on marriage

► Could Kate be England's lucky charm? Princess of Wales, in patriotic white, has seen her team win both Rugby World Cup matches she's attended

► Sir Mick Jagger admits he still thinks about his late bandmate Charlie Watts 'a lot' and says loss 'doesn't get easier' as you get older

► *Married At First Sight* star Shona Manderson finds new love with co-star Matt Pilmoor - after revealing what REALLY happened off camera with husband Brad

► **Annabel Croft** can't stop giggling as she leaves Strictly rehearsals alongside pro dance partner Johannes Radebe

► **Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins** looks sensational in a red bodycon dress as she shows off her new sleek hairstyle

► **EDEN CONFIDENTIAL:** Princess Margaret's older lover Peter Townsend encouraged a romance... 'which he shouldn't have done' according to devoted Lady-in-Waiting

► Queen Maxima of the Netherlands stuns in a floral print dress as she joins King Willem-Alexander on the last day of their South African tour

► **Emmerdale** star Samantha Giles reveals she's a Wicca witch - and says she used a love spell to woo her husband

► Sophia Bush had AFFAIR with Chad Michael Murray while we were dating, claims Erin Foster... amid One Tree Hill star's lesbian romance scandal

► Vick Hope flashes her lingerie in an unbuttoned blouse and leather trousers as she attends the Intimissimi x Jennifer Lopez collection launch

► Dolly Parton drops cover of Wrecking Ball with her goddaughter Miley Cyrus as part of promotional push for her first-ever rock album Rockstar

► Hilary Duff wows in a white ensemble as she enjoys mother-daughter day out with Mae, 2, in Los Angeles
The actress was spotted out and about

► **Neighbours** producer reveals what you will never hear in the rebooted soap now that it's moved to Amazon

► Lady Gaga looks every bit the rocker chick in a sexy sequin jumpsuit and a neck scarf as she heads to star-studded Rolling Stones concert in NYC

► **INXS** REUNITE for first time in six years and

reveal plans to replace
'talented and dynamic'
late frontman Michael
Hutchence 26 years
after his death

► British-Iranian Omid
Djalili cancels
Shropshire comedy gig
after receiving 'personal
threats over the Israel-
Palestine situation'

► Christie Brinkley and
Christy Turlington take
their daughters Sailor
and Grace to The Rolling
Stones' secret concert
in New York City

► Married At First Sight
UK viewers share their
concern for Bianca as
she breaks down in
tears after lashing out at
'cheating' JJ and Ella
Dramatic

► Alec Baldwin and wife
Hilaria show strain of
stress after actor vowed
to fight in court if he's
charged again in fatal
Rust shooting almost
two years after tragedy

► Aussie radio host
claims Jared Leto hit on
his girlfriend: 'I'll always
be bitter about that'

► Justin Theroux, 52,
steps out with rumored
girlfriend Nicole Brydon
Bloom, 29, for workout
session in NYC... as
romance appears to be
heating up

► Jamie Redknapp, 50,
gushes over his wife
Frida in a sweet birthday
tribute as the model
turns 39: 'Have the best
day because you
deserve it'

► Kim Zolciak, 45,
reveals she's getting
laser vaginal
rejuvenation amid
financial woes and ugly
divorce from husband
Kroy Biermann

► Linda Evangelista, 58,
looks fantastic in all-
black as arrives at
Vogue's Forces of
Fashion event in NYC
She strolled the sidewalk
in sexy thigh-high boots

► Gigi Hadid is flanked
by security as she
heads to grand opening
of her clothing brand's
NYC store... after
'receiving death threats'
over Palestine support

► Priyanka Chopra
dazzles in metallic
emerald gown with a
thigh-high slit as she
leads stylish arrivals at

the DKMS Gala at Cipriani Wall Street in NYC

► Jennifer Lopez playfully flashes her UNDERWEAR as she takes a bow at runway show for her collaboration with lingerie brand Intimissimi

► Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's rumored date restaurant in Connecticut is flooded by singer's fans ... but it's unclear if they were there

► Bridget Fonda's husband Danny Elfman is accused of sexual abuse by a second woman in new lawsuit... five years after the first accusation

► Kim Kardashian shows up for JURY DUTY to California courthouse... after getting called up as potential juror in murder case
Reality star wasn't selected

► Riley Keough is casual chic with husband Ben Smith-Petersen as they run errands together in the celebrity enclave of Calabasas, near LA

► Law & Order: SVU star Mariska Hargitay cuts a chic figure alongside a stylish Jane Fonda ahead of being honored at the Women's Media Awards in New York

► Keith Urban wears a faux Gucci T-shirt as he heads 'home' to Nashville with his two daughters, Sunday, 15, and Faith, 12 - leaving wife Nicole Kidman behind in Australia

► Whoopi Goldberg reveals the hate she got for her 1993 Oscars look stopped her from dressing up for many years: 'It hurt my feelings I'm not going to lie'

► Justin Timberlake said he would 'not be able to fight the urge to write every dirty thing about' Britney Spears in resurfaced 2006 interview

► James Haskell steps out WITHOUT wedding ring on walk with daughter Bodhi - as wife Chloe Madeley shares cryptic post about 'showing her real face'

► Tom Brady's ex Bridget Moynahan makes rare comments about husband Andrew Frankel... and even shares love note he sent

her on eighth wedding anniversary

► **Ashley Benson** is pregnant! *Pretty Little Liars* alum, 33, is 'expecting baby No. 1' with mid-2000s party boy fiance Brandon Davis, 44

► **ALISON BOSHOFF**: It's a no from Amanda... *Britain's Got Talent* star quits top talent agency Power blondes Amanda Holden and Emily Atack have both quit agency

► **Linda Evangelista**, 58, shares health update after revealing 2018 breast cancer diagnosis - and admits she's still on 'horrible' medication that makes her 'feel old'

► **Big Brother** fans poke fun at Henry after he tells Trish she has changed his views on immigration: 'He got nominated and he's changed his stance!'

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