



CNI

May 24 - Evening News briefs



Omagh bombing families pledge support to Manchester victims

"Don't concentrate on the individual who committed this atrocity because that is exactly what they want you to do"

Scots bishop visits families from Barra hit by Manchester

The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles has travelled to Barra off the north-west coast of Scotland to offer support to the families of two teenage girls who were caught up in the Manchester terror attack. Eilidh MacLeod, 14, remains unaccounted for but her friend Laura MacIntyre, 15, is said to be in a "serious condition" in a

Manchester hospital. Bishop Brian McGee joined local priest Fr John Paul MacKinnon in visiting relatives and then saying Mass for the families. They later visited Castlebay High School, where both girls were pupils, to speak to teachers and staff.

Birmingham Cathedral closed following raised terror threat

Birmingham Cathedral has shut its doors to the public in response to the national terror threat level which was increased to critical following Tuesday's terror attacks in Manchester. The Cathedral, known as St Philip's, on Colmore Row, announced the closure in a statement on its website on Wednesday.

The Cathedral's Acting Dean, Canon Nigel Hand told Premier's News Hour the Church already had a policy in place "put together with advice from counter-terrorism" detailing what to do if the threat level was raised to critical as it was back in 2007. "[The policy states] that we should shut and then reassess, which is exactly what we are going to do," he said. He rejected the idea that the decision to close was done in fear and said: "The decision up to now has been with a heavy heart, I don't think it's anything that

most of us want to do but if you have a policy you need to adhere to that policy."

Enniskillen Cathedral joining in global prayer movement

Christians of all denominations from around the world are being encouraged by the Archbishop of Canterbury to join in a focused time of prayer known as "Thy Kingdom Come" from Ascension, Thursday, 25th May until Pentecost, 4th June. St Macartin's Cathedral parish, Enniskillen, is joining with other Christian communities and will be opening their new Iona Prayer Room in the Cathedral Hall between 9am and 9pm each day for formal, focused or private prayer.

More than 300 lay assistants commissioned in Cork

More than 300 lay people received training recently in Cork, Cloyne and Ross and, at Services during Easter, were commissioned in their parishes to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. At a short ceremony during Sunday Service in each parish they committed themselves to this ministry before they were commissioned by the local clergy. They were then presented with their certificates from the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton.

Commissioned lay assistants serve for three years.

Decision on earthquake hit New Zealand cathedral deferred to September

The Anglican Church in New Zealand has said the future of Christchurch Cathedral, which has been derelict since an earthquake six years ago, will be decided this September. The Synod of the Diocese of Christchurch will rule on whether the Cathedral should be restored – or demolished and replaced with a contemporary building. Local officials involved with the city's regeneration have been pressing for a resolution and campaigners have called for immediate government intervention to restore the iconic Cathedral. The diocesan property division has defended itself over allegations that it has dragged its feet.

Muslim extremists abduct Catholic priest and churchgoers in Phillipines

Muslim extremists abducted a Catholic priest and more than a dozen churchgoers while laying siege to a southern Philippine city overnight, burning buildings, ambushing soldiers and hoisting ISIS flags, officials said on Wednesday.

President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law in the southern third of the nation and warned he would enforce it harshly.

