



GB Press review

Reports and links

Press Coverage to 6th January

Mail/Ind/Tel/BBC/Eve Stan

Further coverage on the additional alternative baptism text being piloted in parishes which no longer has reference to the devil or sin, focusing instead on evil, with reference to comments by the former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2534375/CofE-removes-sin-devil-new-christening-rite-Rewrite-centuries-old-passage-casts-sin-ceremonies.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/church-of-england-is-dumbing-down-christenings-says-cleric-9040226.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10552285/Sin-People-think-its-about-sex-and-cream-cakes-says-Archdeacon-in-baptism-service-row.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25611288>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/church-of-england-accused-of-dumbing-down-baptism-services-9039702.html>

Tel/ Times

Priests and vicars face attacks from the public in their own churches and from stalkers, research obtained under a freedom of information request by the think tank Parliament Street shows. Includes comments from a Church of England spokesman.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10525676/Dog-bites-gang-attacks-and-beatings-in-church-all-in-the-life-a-21st-Century-vicar.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article3967030.ece>

Sun

The Roman Catholic Church has noticed a dramatic increase in exorcisms as

more people, particularly in Southern European countries, turn to black magic, with the Archbishop of Madrid claiming to have sent eight priests for specialist training.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5359857/Boom-time-for-exorcisms-says-Catholic-Church.html>

Metro

Report that a church in Bywell, Northumberland, initially contacted 141 homeowners and asked for payments towards the upkeep of the church under chancel repair liability, but the diocese later wrote to the people concerned to say they would not be liable.

<http://metro.co.uk/2014/01/06/villagers-facing-church-bill-from-henry-viii-time-4250751/>

Times

A Roman Catholic priest in Motherwell, Scotland, who claims that the church is run by a "gay mafia" and alleges sexual bullying, has been urged by his Bishop to accept his authority and leave the parish, following his suspension in November. Father Matthew Despard self-published a book which claims that sexual misconduct has been rife in the Catholic Church in Scotland.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3966999.ece>

Mail

Pope Francis telephoned a group of Carmelite nuns in Southern Spain to wish them a happy new year but was forced to leave a voicemail as the nuns were at prayer when he called. The prioress later told a radio station she "wanted to die" after realizing she had failed to pick up the Pope's call.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2533748/What-sisters-doing-Pope-Francis-telephones-Spanish-nuns-wish-happy-New-Year-leave-voicemail.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Ind

Janet Street-Porter, in the Independent, says the death after Christmas of Father Joseph Williams in a supermarket car park, which went unremarked by his parishioners and colleagues for days, tells a depressing tale of modern life.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/human-blindness-bad-education-and-outdated-gongs-9039079.html>

Guard/Ind

Pope Francis has confirmed that he will visit Israel, the West Bank and

Jordan in his first visit to the Holy Land.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/05/pope-francis-visit-israel-west-bank-jordan>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/pope-francis-announces-first-visit-to-holy-land-9039798.html>

Ind

The interim president of Egypt, Adly Mansour, has visited a Coptic cathedral to see Pope Tawadros, in what is seen as a symbolic visit, as many among Egypt's Christian minority have complained of discrimination.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/egypts-interim-president-adly-mansour-visits-coptic-cathedral-in-symbolic-move-to-see-pope-tawadros-ii-9039793.html>

Mail

Newcastle City Council, which publicly condemned payday loans, has an investment in Wonga via its pension fund, the Mail reports. The article refers to the holding in Wonga held by the Church of England through its endowment and pension fund.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2534063/Council-blocks-payday-lender-Wonga-com-library-computers-slams-sickening-sponsorship-deal-invests-company.html>

Letters

In a letter to the Financial Times, Elizabeth Todd says that Pope Francis is seeking to restore the Roman Catholic Church's credibility following the abuse scandals but will not change the church's fundamental moral doctrines.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4624db3873dd11e3a0c000144feabdc0.html#ftcamp=published_links%2Frss%2Fcomment_letters%2Ffeed%2F%2Fproduct&siteedition=uk#axzz2pauce97

Blogs

Bishop Pete Broadbent on why he doesn't like the additional baptism materials:

<http://bishopofwillesden.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/the-experimental-baptism-rite-baptism.html>

Cristina Odone on why we should keep the devil in baptisms. <http://>

blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/cristinaodone/100252884/dont-ditch-the-devil-hes-done-great-service-to-christianity/

David Pocklington in Law & Religion on Additional Baptism Texts <http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2014/01/05/sin-sound-bites-sales/>

Beaker folk of Husborne Crawley takes a satirical view of the Mail's baptism story:

<http://cyber-coenobites.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/new-daily-mail-baptism-promises.html?m=1>

Archbishop Cranmer meditates on theodicy and the nature of reward and punishment by God in the light of the recent storms.

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/>