



CNI

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Messages of condolence and prayers in response to Manchester bombing



Eight year old Saffie Rose Roussos is amongst those dead after the Manchester terrorist attack

The Queen

The Queen has offered her "deepest sympathy" to all those affected by the terrorist attack in

Manchester, saying that the incident has "shocked" the nation.

Her Majesty said in her message of support: "I know I speak for everyone in expressing my deepest sympathy to all who have been affected by this dreadful event and especially to the families and friends of those who have died or were injured.

She also thanked emergency services "who have responded with such professionalism and care" to the "act of barbarity".

The Queen added: "I would like to express my admiration for the way the people of Manchester have responded, with humanity and compassion."

Pope Francis

Pope Francis has expressed his sadness at the Manchester attack, calling it a "senseless act of violence".

A statement from the Vatican said:

His Holiness Pope Francis was deeply saddened to learn of the injury and tragic loss of life caused by the barbaric attack in Manchester, and he expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this senseless act of violence. He commends the generous efforts of the emergency and security personnel, and offers

the assurance of his prayers for the injured, and for all who have died.

Mindful in a particular way of those children and young people who have lost their lives, and of their grieving families, Pope Francis invokes God's blessings of peace, healing and strength upon the nation.

The Pope's words came as senior figures in the Church expressed their sorrow and anger at the attack.

Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols expressed his "shock and dismay at the horrendous killing of young and innocent people in the Manchester Arena", while Bishop of Salford John Arnold said the attack "can have no justification".

Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has this morning sent a message to Bishop David Walker, the Bishop of Manchester, expressing his sympathy to the people of the city following the bomb attack at the Manchester Arena last night. In it, Archbishop Clarke conveyed his deep sadness at the harrowing news of the bombing,

which will be shared by the membership of the Church of Ireland, and sent assurances of his prayers and those of people here for all those caught up in this terrible event – especially the bereaved, the injured and the emergency, security and support.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has offered prayers for those killed and injured in the Manchester bombing.

In a message to Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, Archbishop Eamon said, “I have sent a message this morning to Bishop John Arnold to express our shock and sorrow at the horrific bombing in Manchester last night. Such a violent and brutal attack inflicts terror and long-lasting trauma on children and families and leaves a wound that can only be healed by compassion, love and solidarity.

Archbishop Eamon went on to say “We are praying for the dead, the injured and for all affected by the bombing. Such an awful attack challenges us all to resolve personally to build peace, solidarity and hope everywhere. Only in this way can the hearts of those who plan and

perpetrate such violent and pointless attacks be changed.”

Concluding his message to Bishop Arnold, Archbishop Eamon said, “I will remember the victims of this attack and their families in my Masses and prayers, and I know that the prayerful solidarity of people across Ireland goes to the people of Manchester at this sad time.”

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, has offered his prayers and heartfelt sympathy to all those who have been caught up in last night’s suicide bombing in Manchester. In his statement Dr. Sellar said:

“We can little comprehend the searing pain and loss that so many families are experiencing and coming to terms with today, following yesterday evening’s atrocity in Manchester.

“Wicked deeds deliberately inflicted on innocent people, especially where children and the young are involved, seem to cut the deepest, and I offer our support and heartfelt sympathy to everyone mourning the loss of loved ones and those hoping for good news.

“Today we pray for every family devastated by this outrage and uphold all in Manchester,

police, emergency services and hospitals at the front line of care in our prayers.

“I hope everyone will find comfort today in God, who the Psalmist calls ‘...our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’”

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin

Our hearts go out to the people of Manchester this morning as we learn the details of a devastating attack which has taken the lives of so many children and young people and injured many more.

Through our sorrow we pray for those whose lives have been changed utterly as a result of this callous act, for those who have lost loved ones, who have been injured, who have witnessed things they should never have to see and who have fought to help others. We pray also for the emergency services and for those who will help others come to terms with what happened last night.

Manchester is a city many of us will know intimately whether we have lived, worked or been educated there or visited to enjoy the highs and lows of sporting endeavour.

The children and young people affected by this attack were living their lives and enjoying a concert, as many children and young people like

them did in Dublin over the weekend when the same artist performed here. We pray that they can find the peace of God in the midst of this tragedy.

We pray also that, while the aim of these people is to divide and make us fear 'the other', that there will be leaders in every community who can reach out to the other to seek truth and understanding.

Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Books of condolence have been opened in both Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Belfast Cathedral

Candles are burning in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, Special prayers are being said, and people wishing to take time out to pray and light a candle are welcome to call into the Cathedral today and over the next few days. The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: "It is with deep sadness that we awoke this morning to the news from Manchester. So many lives lost and injured, the likelihood being that many are children.

“Our hearts go out to all the families involved and our prayers are with them today, and will be in the coming days as this devastating attack brings such sorrow to so many.

“We also remember in our prayers the members of the emergency services and all whose trauma at these events must be acute, even as they seek to assist others.

“In the communities, schools, churches and other faith centres, whose prayers and concern for those of their members will be deeply felt, may they know the support that is being

