



**Image of the day**  
**Mexico City Metro collapse**

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## **Church leaders offer prayers after Mexico City metro crash**

**Mexican church leaders offered prayers for the victims of a metro line collapse that left at least 23 dead and more than 70 people injured.**

Bishop Andrés Vargas Peña of Xochimilco — which serves three southern boroughs in Mexico City — offered condolences to the victims, while announcing each priest in the diocese would celebrate Mass three times May 4 “for the deceased, the injured and their families.”

The bishop asked parishioners to pray for the victims and also asked diocesan priests in the affected area and hospitals treating the injured to provide spiritual support.

An elevated portion of a metro line in Mexico City collapsed at around 10:30 p.m. May 3, sending two train cars crashing onto a busy thoroughfare below and crushing at least one vehicle. Rescuers worked through the night to free trapped passengers and search for victims.

Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said the cause of the tragedy remains unclear. Line 12 of Mexico City Metro, where the accident occurred, has been plagued by construction problems since being inaugurated in 2012.

Half the stations in Line 12 were closed in 2014 due to construction issues. A strong earthquake in 2017 also damaged columns on the metro line, but Sheinbaum said repairs were made and the inspections occur daily.

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“Absolutely nothing will be hidden,” President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said at his morning news conference May 4. “The people have to know the complete truth.”

The Mexico City Metro serves 4.6 million passengers daily, carrying armies of workers from far-flung suburbs to jobs in the Mexican capital.

## **Bishop of Clogher speaks of importance of connections**

**The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis, has spoken of the importance of staying connected with each as society moves forward during the easing of lockdowns from the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Bishop Ellis, giving his first address at a Service of Holy Communion in St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen, on Sunday, 2nd May, said if they are



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to have a healthy church, then the members should relate to one another.

Recalling how people had used the internet to keep connected during the lockdowns of the past year, Bishop Ellis wondered if people were really having proper connected lives.

“Might we be able to be better connected?” he asked, “and are people talking to their neighbours?”

He felt the lockdowns had caused people to become more atomised and fragmented.

Bishop Ellis said fewer social contacts had led to increased isolation and loneliness for some, yet at the same time the pandemic had brought out some good things in human nature such as more volunteering for foodbanks.

He said that in rural areas such as Clogher Diocese, they were quite well-connected and they had neighbourliness values but they must still continue their duty to their neighbours and learn again to invest more time in those who are near them.

“Spending time with people as we open out of lockdown will be so important. As those restrictions ease, as people of faith, we should resolve to do better to develop sustained caring relationships and to find new ways of connecting with communities in authentic and relevant ways. It is about being connected to Christ and about being connected to others,” said Bishop Ellis.

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He continued: “Sometimes we have to discipline ourselves to produce growth in our faith and that will mean perhaps more time in Bible study, in prayer, in a creative use of silence and how we reflect upon our lives. These things we can do to cultivate our closeness and our abiding in Jesus Christ.”

He said God did not create people to live isolated and individual lives. They were the branches of a vine and not individual shoots or stems and needed to be connected together. They needed the strengths of one another, to be part of the universal church and connected to those who are equally connected to Christ.

Bishop Ellis continued: “As churches begin to rebuild, rebuilding our connection with one another is going to be so important and we must put a high priority on getting our people to come back to corporate worship again when they are ready to do that.

“We should be encountering Christ in every experience we meet, seeing him in the needy, the poor and bearing witness with him in every context by our words, actions and attitudes.”

## **Conversations about Mission – Helping churches reach out to those experiencing domestic violence**

**Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission is holding a number of Conversations about Mission on zoom**

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**starting on Wednesday May 19. They would love you to join them.**

The conversations will focus on enabling churches to reach out into their communities in a Covid /Post Covid Society. Each month practitioners will speak briefly about their area of expertise and participants will have the opportunity to explore how they can take action in their own contexts.

The first Conversation about Mission, on May 19 at 8pm, will focus on domestic violence: 'When Home is not a Safe Place – Reaching those experiencing domestic Violence during Covid'.

Contributors will be Jacqueline Armstrong the Mothers' Union's Faith and Policy coordinator and Kelley Bermingham, the Community Officer of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Jacqueline Armstrong will talk about the All-Ireland Mothers' Union activities in highlighting gender based violence, and, in particular, domestic abuse. Kelley Bermingham will talk about the work of CritiCall, an initiative to support people emerging from domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jacqueline and Kelley will also answer questions from participants who seek to understand how they can take action locally.

To join the conversation and book your place, please email [ [dgcouncilformission@gmail.com](mailto:dgcouncilformission@gmail.com) ] and you will receive a link to the meeting.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

The second Conversation about Mission will take place in June when the Council for Mission will explore: ‘Hidden Pain – how to reach out to those experiencing grief during Covid–19’.

## **Markets need regulation; poor need protection from fallout, pope says**

**Financial speculation is unsustainable and dangerous, therefore, markets must be regulated and the poor protected, Pope Francis said.**

“We still have time to start a process of global change to put into practice a different, more just, inclusive, sustainable economy that leaves no one behind,” he said.

In a video message released by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network May 4, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of May, which is dedicated to the world of finance.

While the “real economy, the one that creates jobs, is in crisis,” he said, noting the large number of people who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, “financial markets have never been as bloated as they are now.”

The world of big finance is so far removed from most people’s lives, he said, and if finance is not regulated, then it becomes “pure speculation driven by monetary policies.”



“This situation is unsustainable,” the pope said. “It’s dangerous.”

“To prevent the poor from paying the consequences again, financial speculation must be strictly regulated,” he said.

Finance is a tool meant to serve people and to take care of creation, humanity’s common home, Pope Francis said.

At the start of each month, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention.

Reciting his intention, the pope prayed “that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate financial markets and protect citizens from its dangers.”



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The Pope Video was first launched in 2016 to encourage people to join an estimated 50 million Catholics who already had a more formal relationship with the prayer network — better known by its former title, the Apostleship of Prayer.

The prayer network is more than 170 years old.

## **Washington National Cathedral adds stone carving of Elie Wiesel to Human Rights Porch**



**Washington National Cathedral has announced that the cathedral has added a stone carving of Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel to its Human Rights Porch, honouring Wiesel's legacy as a lifelong human rights defender dedicated to combating indifference and intolerance.**

A survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps, Wiesel told his story to millions through his autobiographical novel "Night," bringing the horrors of the Holocaust into stark focus for the world. The carving was done in place by the

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cathedral's stonemasons and has been conceived with the involvement of the Wiesel family.

Wiesel joins the likenesses of, among others, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, Jonathan Daniels and Eleanor Roosevelt on the cathedral's Human Rights Porch, which is dedicated to individuals who have taken significant, profound and life-changing actions in the fight for human rights, social justice, civil rights, and the welfare of other human beings.

Throughout his life, Wiesel used his voice to try to confront gross human rights abuses and prevent genocide, understanding that taking action early could prevent others from suffering the same fate that befell millions of Jews during the Holocaust.

“Elie Wiesel’s life is an extraordinary testimony to the indomitable human spirit and the triumph of love of thy neighbor over hatred and fear, even amidst the darkest and most devastating periods of human history,” said the Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, dean of Washington National Cathedral. “From the depths of cruelty inflicted on him, his family and so many millions of Jews and others during the Holocaust, Elie Wiesel went on to dedicate his life to the pursuit of human rights, and to heed the lessons of history. We are humbled to welcome his likeness to the cathedral and pray that his example and legacy will be a blessing and an inspiration to all who enter.”

The announcement of Wiesel’s inclusion in the cathedral’s Human Rights Porch comes during a time of rising antisemitism in the United States and around the world. The presence of Wiesel’s likeness alongside other prominent human rights defenders from multiple faith traditions



underscores the cathedral's commitment to standing up against hatred, bigotry and antisemitism. Inspired by Wiesel's life's work and legacy, the cathedral is committed to sustained interfaith dialogue and action to ensure the progress that he fought for in life is protected.

“Throughout his life, Elie devoted himself tirelessly to preserving the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and working to ensure that other communities do not suffer the same fate,” said Marion Wiesel, widow of Elie Wiesel and vice president of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. “Not only does his presence in the National Cathedral memorialize his life and honor his commitment to human rights; it also ensures that new generations will learn from his teachings and carry the lessons of his life forward into the future.”

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The dedication of the bust will take place in fall 2021. In conjunction with the dedication, the cathedral, in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, will present a program celebrating Elie Wiesel's enduring legacy. More details on this event will be shared in the months to come.

“Like millions of European Jews, Elie suffered unimaginable horrors. But he responded to that suffering by devoting his life to writing, teaching, and above all as a moral leader and tireless advocate for our common humanity,” said Sara Bloomfield, director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. “That his likeness is now included with others, from many backgrounds, who share these ideals is a fitting tribute to his lasting legacy.”

While there are many representations of biblical figures from the Hebrew scriptures represented in the cathedral, Wiesel is the first person from the modern-day Jewish community to be added. His inclusion represents the cathedral's mission to be a house of prayer for all people and a sacred space for the nation to gather. And his place on the cathedral's Human Rights Porch will serve as an indelible reminder of the necessity of speaking out against hatred in all its forms—the same cause that Wiesel dedicated his life to.

Wiesel was born in Romania in 1928, and in 1944 his family was sent by the Nazis to the Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps, where his father, mother and sister were killed. After the camps were liberated, Wiesel went on to a prolific career as a writer, ultimately authoring 57 books, including “Night,” about his experiences during the Holocaust. He was a vocal

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advocate for human rights causes around the world and served as a professor at Boston University, which created the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies in his honor. He was the founding chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and won numerous awards throughout his life, including the Nobel Peace Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal. Wiesel died in 2016 of natural causes.

Using medieval techniques, the depiction of Wiesel was hand-carved by cathedral stone carver Sean Callahan, who also carved the depictions of Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Jonathan Daniels and other sculptures throughout the cathedral. The Wiesel model was sculpted by North Carolina artist Chas Fagan, a member of the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts whose other works include several carvings at the cathedral, as well as the official White House portrait of First Lady Barbara Bush; statues of Ronald Reagan and Billy Graham at the U.S. Capitol; and a statue of Pope John Paul II at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

## **Opinion - Exercise plays such an important role towards mental wellbeing - Bishop Libby Lane**

**I love sport. I was very active when I was younger, especially through dance training, and then rowing as a young adult, writes Bishop of Derby the Rt Rev Libby Lane.**



It's not just the taking part, I enjoy watching all sports and I relish the fact that I am the fourth generation of my family to support Manchester United (though not the failed European Super League proposal).

Now, I am the Church of England lead Bishop for sport and strongly believe that physical activity and exercise can help us find the strength, stamina, flexibility and resilience we need to emerge healthily and safely from the experiences of the past year.

Even during the toughest pandemic restrictions we have always been encouraged to exercise. It has been lovely to see how people have kept going, adapting where necessary - their stories of outdoors pilates classes wearing coats, hats and gloves against the chilly winter air or aqua-aerobics in

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the snow; the joggers and cyclists reappearing onto our roads in the spring sunshine.

Physical activity plays a hugely important role in our lives - for individuals it contributes towards our mental wellbeing, helps us sleep or control our weight, and provides opportunities for socialising. In the wider community, it provides jobs and can create strong feelings of togetherness and shared endeavour - something seen very powerfully in the recent fan protests against the European Super League proposals.

The threat to tear up football's traditions and roots in our communities by the billionaire owners of our richest clubs may have been self-interested but it is certainly true that sport and exercise at every level play a huge role in our economy - just think of all the gyms that have popped up in our towns and cities in the past decade. A recent study of the economic impact of Covid-19 on the sport sector in the UK suggests that it has lost £8.6 billion in revenue over the past year causing the loss of direct jobs and also a broader, indirect negative impact on tourism, transport, accommodation and media.

I still marvel at the brilliance of God's creation - to see the human machine in all its infinite variety striving towards such extraordinary feats of skill and athleticism, the years of practice and sheer bloody-minded determination of athletes to show the very best of themselves, whatever their ability.

Exercise and physical activity aren't just for elite athletes. Even if we're not keen on organised sports, we can all

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benefit from the proven benefits of fresh air and exercise, however modest our goals.

The Bible tells us that we are all ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’, and encourages us to look after ourselves and one another. As you begin reimagining what life will look like post pandemic, why not try incorporating a new activity or revisiting something you loved in your youth but have grown out of?

While I no longer take part in the dance training of my youth, when I do have a little spare time I relish getting out for a walk in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside. Stretching my legs helps clear my mind and improves my mood as I move through the sunshine, listening to the birdsong, admiring the flowers along the way or watching the lambs in the fields.

## **Media review**

### **Paratroopers acquitted over murder of Official leader Joe McCann after trial collapses**

Belfast Newsletter

Former defence minister Johnny Mercer has called on the government to introduce legislation to end prosecutions of veterans who served in Northern Ireland.

Mr Mercer spoke out after the trial of two former soldiers over the death of Official IRA leader Joe McCann in 1972 collapsed on Tuesday afternoon.

Prosecutors offered no further evidence at Belfast Crown Court. Mr Mercer said he was “delighted for the soldiers who



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can now hopefully go and live the rest of their lives in peace”. However, he added it was time for the prime minister to deliver on “legislation to end the relentless pursuit of those who served their country in Northern Ireland”.

Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Michael Agnew said the decision to prosecute was taken in 2016 after the evidence received was subjected to a “very thorough and careful examination by a team of experienced lawyers”.

### **NI 100: 'Peace in Northern Ireland is credit to people' BBC News:**

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56966270> ]

### **People on both sides of the Irish border are ‘not prepared to foot bill for a united Ireland’**

Belfast News Letter

People on both sides of the border are not prepared to foot the bill for a united Ireland, with most in Northern Ireland also fearing it would hit them in the pocket, a poll has revealed.

### **Covid-19 pandemic memorial in St Paul’s Cathedral**

Reports on launch of campaign by St Paul’s Cathedral in partnership with the Daily Mail to raise £2.3 million to build a memorial in St Paul’s Cathedral for those who have died as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be the first build of its kind at St Paul’s for nearly 150 years and is part of the Remember Me project, the online book of remembrance launched last year by the Cathedral. BBC Radio 4 Today

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programme interviewed Oliver Caroe, Surveyor of the Fabric to St Paul's Cathedral and the Dean of St Paul's, David Ison  
[[ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56951552?utm> ]

## **Names of mothers of brides and grooms on marriage certificates**

The Times

Reports that mothers of brides and grooms in England and Wales will now be added to marriage certificates for the first time. Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission and Public Affairs for the Church of England, is quoted.

[[ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/end-to-written-marriage-certificates-77v52n8p2> ]



## **Pointers for prayer**

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,

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we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.  
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his  
resurrection,  
teaching them to love all people as neighbours.  
As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbours with whom we share it....

Petitions... concluding with:

Open our hearts to your power moving

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and  
enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

Holy God,  
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,  
and to care for those who are our companions,  
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.  
Seeking to be true friends of all,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.  
Petitions... concluding with:  
Guide us in the path of discipleship,  
so that, as you have blessed us,  
we may be a blessing for others,  
bringing the promise of the kingdom near  
by our words and deeds. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it  
all for the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 NLT

Life throws up many challenges for us in the 21st Century,  
and it was no different in Paul's day. One of the issues that  
he had to face was that sometimes meat was taken to  
pagan temples as an act of worship before being sold by the  
butchers. Paul is quite clear that pagan gods were not true  
gods and so it really didn't matter if the meat had been  
waved in front of them. But if someone were to point out that

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they had been presented in the temple then he concluded that it would be better not to eat it, out of respect for the informant's conscience. It was a tricky issue but clearly a live one in Paul's day and he had to find a careful way of handling it. The key principle in all of this was that whatever you do it needs to be done for the glory of God.

Every day we have to make decisions. Most of them are simple and straightforward but, like Paul, we need to be clear about the guiding principle. We need to ask the question whether or not our actions will bring glory to God. It may be a question about a purchase, or a holiday, or a new job. There may be any number of possible ways forward but the key question is, "What will be most beneficial and pleasing to God?" On the face of it this might sound restricting and limiting, but because of the nature of God it is in fact the opposite of that. As we discover God's will for our lives, we find true liberty. God's desire is always to enable us to be more alive.

## QUESTION

As you make decisions today how will you test whether the outcome will be for the glory of God?

## PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you want to bless every part of my life. Help me to share every decision with you so that I might bring glory to you today. Amen

