



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

First woman bishop preaches in Manchester

Bishop Pat Storey was guest preacher at a special service at Manchester Cathedral to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. The Most Revd Pat Storey is the first female Anglican bishop in UK and Ireland.

Manchester Diocese has over 140 women serving as clergy in the Church. Some were among the first to be ordained priest in 1994.

Bishop Pat said: "It is such a privilege to be invited to speak at such an auspicious occasion as this. It is amazing how, twenty years later, we have taken so much for granted, and it is good on occasion to look back and see how far we have come.

"As we look back we give thanks, and as we look forward, we anticipate exciting times. I am often asked what women in particular bring to ministry and I never know how to answer that question- because women, just like



men, are all different! We are who we are as people, and I am never sure how much that is gender driven, and how much it is just our personalities and individual spiritual gifts, so I try not to get into the trap of generalizing. Women bring what men bring – compassion, leadership, wisdom, laughter, character – the strengths and weaknesses that make up who we are as people. I am a woman, and now I am a Bishop. But really, I am still just Pat."

Ireland can lead the world in 'abuse fight'

Ireland's 'missionary spirit' can lead the world in tackling child abuse, the Vatican's leading expert on the issue has said.

Irish Catholic - Fr Robert Oliver, the Church's chief prosecutor told *The Irish Catholic* that the guidelines to tackle abuse adopted by the Church in Ireland are "really quite fine". In fact, he said, "I've asked if they'd be interested in sharing these with countries who are not quite as far along.

"The missionary spirit of Ireland could be very helpful to us in bringing other parts of the world to where Ireland is," Fr Oliver said.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* during a brief visit to Ireland, Fr Oliver said: "It's very encouraging for me to come to Ireland and see the very effective work that has been and is being done.

"What I'm taking away with me is the fact that the good work which is being done here can be shared with the rest of the world...the phrase everyone is

TV REVIEW: Comedy at the expense of faith – Page 27

The Irish Catholic

Faith isn't just for Sunday mornings
John McAreavey
Page 4

Keeping kids busy during the summer
Some top activities
Pages 23 & 25

Housing policy is serving the developers
Lucinda Creighton
Page 7

Thursday May 22, 2014 €1.80 (day 01.30) The Irish Catholic Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.ie

Ireland can lead the world in 'abuse fight'

Humble Church can help others confront harm

Michael Kelly

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PP scoops a hit on 'Ice Cream Sundae'

Paul Keenan

The Church in El Salvador has urged Pope Francis to come to the Latin American country and beatify their hero-archbishop Oscar Romero.

Archbishop Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass by a death squad in 1980. Many Catholics consider him a martyr and say he was targeted because of his criticism of state-sponsored violence.

Archbishop Jose Escobar Alas urged the Pope to take up the invitation during a private meeting in Rome. Pope Francis assured the prelate that Archbishop Romero's sainthood cause is proceeding well, though he offered no timescale for completion.

"We ask the Lord for the speedy beatification of Archbishop Romero and that the Pope comes

Continued on Page 2

DAVID QUINN
Why the West ignores Christian persecution
PAGE 9

MARTIN BROWNE
Making our Masses more relevant
PAGE 12

MARY KENNY
The stigmatising of religious rolls along
PAGE 6

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Fr Robert Oliver

using is 'best practices' and Ireland has a lot of best practice in this field," he said.

Fr Oliver, who as Promoter of Justice in the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is responsible for dealing with abuse cases, said the Church "might even begin to take a role of leadership, certainly without any pride: we have to do so humbly, we have to do so in a way which recognises the real hurt that we've caused.

"Over the past 20 years in places like Ireland, the Church has done remarkable work to bring people together to see what is needed to respond effectively to this crime in our midst.

"Sexual abuse of children is an area that most people would prefer not to hear about; we've been forced to look at it. We can help others to see where abuse really happens, especially in the families. We have a role, you might even call it leadership where we can assist society as a partner to face this issue," he said.

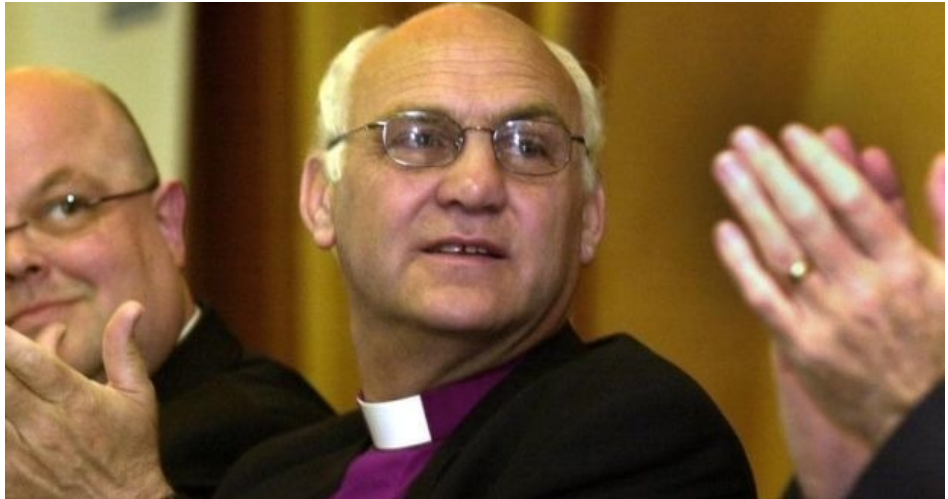
Fr Oliver also praised the media for its role in exposing abuse. "The notoriety that we have received in the Church is something that we can use. The notoriety is helping us keep the energy up.

"More and more, the Church can be a mirror to the wider society forcing people to face the issue of abuse," Fr Oliver said.

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/ireland-can-lead-world-abuse-fight#sthash.o31C47zJ.dpuf>

C of I bishop becomes Iona Institute patron

The Iona Institute has announced that former Church of Ireland Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Right Rev Ken Clarke (65) is to become one of its patrons.



The Rt Rev Ken Clarke, former Bishop of Kilmore, will join a panel of patrons of the Iona Institute, it has been announced.

Irish Times - He stood down as bishop at the end of 2012 after 13

years in the diocese and became full-time Mission Director of SAMS Ireland (South American Mission Society) in January last year.

On assuming the role he said he was “keen to develop and deepen links with Anglicans in South America and in other parts of the Anglican Communion. The development of leaders and the facilitation of missional opportunities will be amongst my priorities. My links with SAMS Ireland stretch over most of my forty years in ordained ministry and I have served as chairperson since 1993.”

On the evangelical wing of the Church of Ireland, he was educated at at Sullivan Upper School in Holywood, Co Down before attending Trinity College Dublin. Ordained in 1972, he served as curate in Magherlin and Dundonald in Co Down before serving as a missionary in Chile.

Later he was rector at Crinken in Dublin following which he was rector in Coleraine, Co Derry for 15 years before being consecrated bishop in 2001. He and his wife Helen have four daughters.

At the Iona Institute he joins other patrons, including psychiatrist Prof Patricia Casey, teacher and *Irish Times* columnist Breda O'Brien, former professor of moral theology at St Patrick's College Maynooth Fr Vincent Twomey, and Blackrock Clinic founder Dr James Sheehan.

Commenting on Bishop Clarke's agreement to become a patron, the chairman of the Iona Institute, and lecturer at Dublin's Mater Dei Institute, Dr John Murray said: "We are very pleased and honoured that Bishop Clarke has agreed to become one of our patrons. The Iona Institute's stances on issues like marriage and the family, denominational schools, the right to life and the place of religion in society are not specific to any particular Christian denomination and are in fact, inter-denominational. The fact that Bishop Clarke has agreed to be one of our patrons reflects this fact".

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/former-church-of-ireland-bishop-becomes-iona-institute-patron-1.1804257>

Magheramorne congregation building links with churches in Riga

Rev Neil Bingham, minister of Magheramorne Presbyterian Church, along with two members of the congregation are in Riga, the capital of Latvia for a short visit.

The main purpose of the visit is to strengthen links between the two Reformed congregations in Riga and Magheramorne congregation near Larne.

The relationship between the churches began when Rev Ivan Patterson visited Latvia when he was Moderator. Members of Magheramorne met with two ministers from Latvia when they visited PCI a number of years ago and they have corresponded since then and been praying for them. Neil and two members of the congregation first visited Riga in September 2013, and this is their second visit.

Neil will be involved in a number of speaking engagements with members of the two congregations in the next few days.

Armagh Presbyterians feature in BBC Series "City of Faith"

The focus for the series is Armagh, often viewed as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland since the fifth century when St. Patrick founded his church there.

From its earliest known history, Armagh is a place where people have searched for something greater than themselves. Now in a powerful new six-part series made for BBC Northern Ireland exploring life and faith in Armagh,

people from the city and the surrounding area share their stories of what faith means to them and why it matters in their lives.

The first programme features David and Claire Scott, members of The Mall Presbyterian Church. The Scott's young son Daniel was diagnosed with Exomphalos – a medical condition which means some of his main organs are outside of his body. The couple share their story and explain how this situation has brought them both closer to one another and to God.



Also featured is Jack O'Hare, a former primary school principal, who was very involved with the restoration of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral and was awarded the Papal Medal, the highest honour which can be bestowed on laity by the Pope.

Also interviewed is Gerry Gribbon, a recovering alcoholic, who moved to Armagh from Belfast over 30 years ago and has devoted his life to helping others. Cameras follow him from Armagh to Lourdes as he makes his annual pilgrimage with a local group, which he has done for the past 17 years. Each year the trip has an added poignancy for Gerry as it coincides with the anniversary of his son's death.

Brendan Byrne, series producer/director, said, "*City of Faith* has been an inspiring journey. I've had the opportunity of opening a window into the extraordinary life stories of so many ordinary people, people whom you couldn't fail to identify and empathise with.

"These programmes are about personal faith, rather than religion, and making them has strengthened my own faith in the goodness and decency of my fellow countrymen and women from all traditions, and all walks of life here. Armagh opened its arms to my team, and in return I hope our portrayal of this city's faithful is a tribute to that warm welcome."

City of Faith, made by Tern Television, begins on Monday, May 26th on BBC One Northern Ireland at 10.40pm.

Preacher who said 'Islam is satanic' is facing police probe over 'hate mongering'

A fundamentalist preacher who said “Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell” has been accused of “hate mongering” as the police confirmed they are investigating a possible hate crime.



Pastor James McConnell of Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle in Belfast

Daily Mirror - The PSNI launched an investigation after Pastor James McConnell branded Islam “satanic” at the Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle Church in North Belfast.

The church, which is attended by First Minister Peter Robinson, heard McConnell say he doesn’t trust Muslims.

Asked about the incident, a PSNI spokesman said: “Police are aware of an incident at premises at the Shore Road on Sunday, May 18. Enquiries are continuing and at this stage, police are investigating a hate crime motive.”

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said “this type of hate mongering must be condemned in the strongest possible terms”.

He added: “Coming in the wake of recent spate of disgraceful racist attacks against families in parts of Belfast and elsewhere, such inflammatory comments only serve to fuel hatred.”

He added that it is “essential that there is a full and thorough investigation of these comments and their potential to generate further racist attacks”.

Mr McConnell told worshippers on Sunday: “Islam is heathen, Islam is satanic, Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell.”

The firebrand also said former Conservative MP Enoch Powell, whose 1968 “Rivers of Blood” speech criticised immigration, was right.

He said: “Enoch Powell was a prophet, he called it that blood would flow on the streets and it has happened.”

The preacher also referred to the Troubles, saying: “Fifteen years ago Britain was concerned of IRA cells right throughout the nation.

“They done a deal with the IRA because they were frightened of being bombed.

“Today a new evil has arisen. There are cells of Muslims right throughout Britain, can I hear an Amen, right throughout Britain, and this nation is going to enter into a great tribulation, a great trial.”

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/preacher-who-said-islam-satanic-3584060#ixzz32SNUMOBi>

Second evangelical Christian minister joins James McConnell row as he compares Islamists to Hitler

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/second-evangelical-christian-minister-joins-james-mcconnell-row-as-he-compares-islamists-to-hitler-30294472.html>



Thomas Street Methodist Quilt Festival

Thomas Street Methodist Church in Portadown have announced plans for a major Quilt Festival in the church from Friday, May 23 to Monday, May 26, 2014.

In preparation for the festival, the church has started quilting classes each Wednesday at 10am in the Minor Hall. Everyone is welcome.

For further information on the festival and the quilting class contact the church office on 028 38 36 1213.

Event Date: Friday, 23 May, 2014 - 10:30 to Monday, 26 May, 2014 - 16:00

Venue: Thomas Street Methodist Church, Portadown. Email:

thomas.cardwell@irishmethodist.org

Choral Evensong to mark Ascension at Dundela

The Feast of the Ascension will be marked this year in St Mark's Dundela with a special Service of Choral Evensong on Thursday 29 May at 8.00 pm.



The service is the first in an occasional series of midweek choral offices being launched by St Mark's, as the Revd Adrian Dorrian (Rector of Dundela) explained:

“We are very blessed here in St Mark's that the wonderful choral services within Anglicanism are still part of our worshipping tradition. Indeed, we are blessed in Belfast with a number of Parishes (and of course St Anne's Cathedral) that are able to sustain these traditions. We are also aware that for some people, the opportunity to worship in the context of choral services in their own churches isn't always available Sunday by Sunday – sometimes there is no choir any more, and sometimes people from other denominations enjoy these offices.

Our Organist, Peter Hunter, came up with the idea of these occasional Thursday services, which we hope will become a monthly fixture, at will allow us to develop that tradition of choral worship here in St Mark's and at the same time allow people from other parishes and churches to come and sing with us or join the congregation, without having to miss Sunday worship in their own Church. There will also be a charity offering at each service; our present charity is Action Cancer.”

Director of Music in St Mark's, Peter Hunter would welcome singers from other churches for these one-off services. Contact details are on the Parish Website: dundela.down.anglican.org

Music Sunday reaches Cote d'Azur and crosses faith boundaries

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is inviting churches of all denominations to celebrate music in their worship by holding a *Music Sunday*. Already, several churches in the UK and abroad are holding a range of events including one inter-faith choral concert to be given jointly by choirs from a church and a synagogue. Another event will take place on the Cote d'Azur.

The RSCM itself has designated 22nd June as *Music Sunday*, though churches are encouraged to choose another Sunday if this is inconvenient to them. This will be the sixth year that *RSCM Music Sunday* has been held in its present form, when churches have held special concerts, services and collections to celebrate the importance of music in worship in churches large and small. Most occasions have included a fund-raising element, splitting the proceeds between themselves and the worldwide work of the RSCM in supporting church musicians.

For the first time, there is an inter-faith aspect to one RSCM Music Sunday event in north London. The church of St John the Evangelist in Friern Barnet will be holding a *Music Sunday* concert on Sunday 22nd June, teaming up with Alyth Synagogue's Choral Society to present a concert of well-known anthems and choruses. Among other *Music Sunday* events is a special *Come and Sing Choral Evensong* at St Mary's Parish Church, Finedon in Northamptonshire, when singers will be accompanied by a consort of viols. The service on Sunday 6th July will include music by Purcell and Orlando Gibbons. *Music Sunday* has even reached the Cote d'Azur; a choir concert will be held on 14th June at the church of St John the Evangelist, an English language Anglican church in St Raphael. On 22nd June RSCM Director Andrew Reid will be directing an RSCM Choral Festival in St Asaph Cathedral.

In the past, events ranging from special collections at services to choral concerts have raised anything from £30 to £1,000. "I am always thrilled, indeed honoured, to see such a wide range of *Music Sunday* events, as details come in," says Catherine Demetriadi, Head of Development at the

RSCM. “There is always plenty of enthusiasm and innovation shown by churches and choirs.”

Fota VII International Liturgy Conference, Cork

St. Colman’s Society for Catholic Liturgy has announced that His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Prefect of the Apostolic Signature, will officially open the Fota VII International Liturgy Conference to be held at the Clarion Hotel, Cork, Ireland on 5-7 July 2014.

His Eminence will also deliver the key-note address at the conference. The title of this year’s conference is “Agens in Persona Christi: Aspects of the Ministerial Priesthood.” ([Click here](#) for the provisional list of speakers.)

Registration for the Fota VII International Liturgy Conference is now open. ([Click here for registration form.](#)) Those intending to participate in the Conference are asked to complete registration forms and return them by e-mail: colman.liturgy@yahoo.co.uk Text Ends. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary of St. Colman’s Society for Catholic Liturgy at the same address.

Contemplative Prayer Annual Retreat

The Fellowship Of Contemplative Prayer Annual Retreat will be held in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin 14 . The Weekend Retreat runs from Friday June 13 until Sunday June 15 while the Midweek Retreat takes place from Monday June 16 until Thursday June 19.

The Witness will be the Revd Canon Raymond Fox, an experienced witness and valued member of the Fellowship. Full details of the programme are available on request from the Secretary.

Contemplation is about



growing in love, about knowing and loving God perfectly in the depth of our being. It is about being still in the presence of God, listening deeply to the Word of God and being exposed to its penetrating power.

The Retreat, led by the Witness, is conducted in silence with time for rest, worship, personal prayer and reflection. The Witness is also available for interview during the retreat. Participation is open to everyone and all will be made welcome.

For Booking Forms or further information please contact the Secretary: the Revd Canon David Ferry 115 Drumsurn Road, Limavady, Co. Londonderry BT49 0PD, Tel: 028 77765806, Email: hdjferry@hotmail.com. The closing date for booking is Monday June 2.

Proposals to restore Ardagh Church

A public meeting to discuss the renovation works proposed for St Brigid's Church in Ardagh will take place on Tuesday, May 27 at 8pm in the church.

Longford Leader - The facility first opened on October 23, 1881, and retains most of its original features. Proposals for works expected to be carried out the church have gone to public consultation and include a number of controversial changes.

It is proposed that the altar rails be removed from their present location to be resized and refitted elsewhere within. There are also plans to expand and lower the altar, which will require the removal of the first four pews; rearranged seating plans and the relocation of the historic baptismal font.

"As part of a period of public consultation being held with regard to the proposed changes, indicative building plans are currently on display at the church and there will be a public meeting held on May 27 when a diocesan representatives will be present," a committee member added.

"All are welcome and indeed we would encourage people to attend this important meeting regarding one of Co Longford's most significant spiritual and architectural buildings. The late Cardinal Cathal Daly, former Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, described the church as 'one of the more imposing examples of neo-Gothic revival church architecture in Ireland in the 19th century'."

The construction of St Brigid's Church in 1881 involved expert craftsmen, including the well respected architect, Cavan-born William Hague, who designed several churches throughout Ireland during that time. The builder was Patrick Callan of South Frederick Street, Dublin, and local tradesmen employed included John Fee of Crieve and Thomas Nally - a carpenter.

Gay minister wants Church rethink



A gay minister whose appointment

Reverend Scott Rennie said the term 'marriage' will cover gay and straight couples within five years

came close to causing a damaging rift in the Church of Scotland says he now hopes the Kirk will rethink its position on same-sex marriage.

Evening Express - Rev Scott Rennie set out his hopes for the future one day after the Kirk's General Assembly moved a step closer to the ordination of ministers in same-sex civil partnerships.

"I have no doubt that in the next while the Church will have some reflection on marriage and marriage as regards same-sex couples," he said.

"I have no idea how soon or how long, but before the Church makes any move or change, it has to have time and space to think about it, and I've no doubt that reflection will be done sooner or later."

The term "marriage" will cover gay and straight couples within five years, he said.

"I hope that in time, and it's up to the church how long it takes, I hope the Church will just come to see 'marriage'," he added.

The Kirk was opposed to the recently-approved same-sex marriage legislation, which changes the law in Scotland.

When it was passed by MSPs in February, Alan Hamilton, convener of the Church of Scotland's Legal Questions Committee, said mainstream Christian belief is that marriage is "properly between a man and a woman".

Mr Rennie, 42, of Aberdeen, said the decision on gay ministers shows a general shift in tone.

Since discussion began in 2009, 13 parish ministers from the Kirk's 1,389 congregations have left over the issue.

"I thought the debate was much more moderate and understated than it has been in years gone by, and I think that's a sign of changing times and changing moods in the Church. I really was pleased with the whole debate," he said.

"It's sad that some people have felt they've had to leave the Church, that they've felt like that, I really am.

"But there has not been the exodus that was predicted at all. Far from it."

He said the experience has been challenging but he was helped by a strong network of support.

"I'm proud of the Church and I'm proud of what has been achieved for lesbian and gay people within the Church because the truth is they have served for decades, centuries probably," he continued.

"It's only in our lifetime that's been able to be recognised. That's true across society, beyond the Church."

He urged those who remain opposed to give him a call.

"I would love them to phone me and ask to meet for lunch or a coffee and talk about it," he said.

More at -

<http://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/gay-minister-wants-church-rethink-1.383524>

Sexism defies Kirk law, says former Moderator

MINISTERS and elders who discriminate against women should “get out” if they are not willing to adhere to the Kirk law, a former Church of Scotland moderator has said.



The Very Reverend Lorna Hood found her preaching restricted because of her gender.

The Scotsman - In a strongly worded attack, the Very Rev David Lacy branded those who refuse to accept women as elders and ministers as “grumbling grunTERS”.

His comments came as departing moderator, the Very Rev Lorna Hood, called on women members of the Kirk who feel they are being barred from office because of their gender to take a stand.

She has recently talked about her visit to the presbytery of Lochcarron and Skye last year, where she was told her preaching in Skye “was restricted to three parishes at the top of the island” because of her gender.

Accusing those who discriminated of “antiquated gangsterism”, Mr Lacy yesterday told the Kirk’s General Assembly: “There are certain individuals in the church, ministers and elders, and they by no means represent a majority, but they are powerful, grumbling grunTERS.

“I think they have to decide are they in the Church of Scotland or are they not in. If they are in the Church of Scotland, they should put their toe to the Church of Scotland’s line, and if they don’t they should get out. It’s as simple and honest as that.”

He claimed people who thought they could stop the Kirk’s moderator from speaking inside a church because she was a woman were “oddballs”. More at -

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/sexism-defies-kirk-law-says-former-moderator-1-3415820>

Methodist Agenda online

The agenda for the Methodist Conference for Great Britain is now online at -

<http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/agenda-2014>

Israel restricts right-wing Jewish activists for Pope's visit

Israel issued restraining orders against several Jewish right-wing activists on Wednesday, restricting their movements over concern that they could try to disrupt a May 24-26 visit to the Holy Land by Pope Francis.



A man walks past a poster for Jordan's King Abdullah and Pope Francis at the Amman International Stadium in Amman May 21, 2014.

Francis will visit Jordan, the Palestinian Territories and [Israel](#) during the trip, his first as pope to the region.

An Israeli police spokesman said police and the Shin Bet internal security service handed restraining orders to "a number of right-wing activists" whom they believed intended to cause "disruptions during the pope's visit and be involved in provocative illegal acts".

The spokesman declined to say how many activists received the orders. But he said they would not be allowed to enter certain areas "for security reasons" for four days.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper said three Jewish youths would be barred from Jerusalem starting on Saturday. Two of the youngsters, it said, were students at a seminary near the Cenacle in Jerusalem, the traditional site of Jesus's Last Supper where the pope will celebrate a Mass.

Haaretz reported last week that Israeli security services feared that Jewish radicals might carry out a major hate crime against the Christian population or institutions to drum up media attention during the Pope's pilgrimage.

Last week, "Death to Arabs and Christians and all those who hate Israel" was daubed in Hebrew on an outer column of the Office of the Assembly of Bishops at the Notre Dame Center in East Jerusalem.

Francis is due to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Notre Dame Center, which is Vatican property located just outside the walls of the old city, on the last day of his trip.

Chief Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said on Thursday he was not aware of any particular security concerns for any part of the visit. The pope, he said, would shun bulletproof vehicles during the trip and use a normal car so he could be as close to people as possible. The last papal journey to the Holy Land was by Francis's predecessor, [Pope Benedict](#), in 2009.

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