

NEWS

King and pope pray together in Vatican

By Tony Jones
newsdesk@newsletter.co.uk
@News_Letter

The King and Pope Leo XIV made history when they prayed together in a symbolic moment of unity for Anglicans and Roman Catholics across the globe.

The pontiff led the prayer during the ecumenical service in the Vatican's famous Sistine Chapel, likely to be seen as another milestone in the journey of the two churches.

It was the first time a British monarch, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, had prayed at a public service with the pope, head of the Catholic Church, since the Reformation.

Charles and Camilla, making a two-day state visit to the Vatican, sat together a few metres from Pope Leo at the front of the congregation which featured ranks of cardinals.

At the end of the short service Pope Leo led the symbolic moment with the words: "Let us pray."

He went on to say: "God our Father, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to see your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children."

"Through Christ our Lord."

Charles and Camilla stood with the rest of the congregation who said "Amen" at the end of the prayer.

Immediately afterwards, in another moment of church unity, Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, who was also officiating during the service, said with Pope Leo another prayer.

The two senior clerics said: "The grace of our Lord Jesus



King Charles III and Pope Leo XIV in St Peter's Square (above) and (below) Charles and Queen Camilla with Leo in the San Damaso Courtyard

Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore."

And again the congregation said: "Amen."

The intervening centuries since Henry VIII broke with Rome to establish the Church of England in the 16th century had been marked by mutual distrust between the English state and the papacy.

But the ecumenical movement, a drive towards worldwide Christian unity which began early in the 20th century, has seen Anglicans and

Roman Catholics working towards this goal of togetherness.

The foreign secretary normally travels with the monarch on state visits, and Yvette Cooper gave a reading from the Letter to the Romans. Like the Queen, Ms Cooper was dressed in black – traditional attire for women when meeting the Pope.

Earlier, Charles and Camilla sat down at a desk for talks with Pope Leo when they met privately with the pontiff in his official residence.



Language strategy challenge go-ahead

A campaign group has obtained High Court permission to mount a further challenge against the Stormont administration's continued failure to deliver an Irish language strategy.

Conradh na Gaeilge was granted leave to judicially review both the executive and Communities Minister Gordon Lyons over alleged violations of a legal duty which came into force nearly 20 years ago.

Mr Justice McAlinden listed the case for a full hearing early next year.

Conradh na Gaeilge has been involved in a long-running legal battle over pledges to progress an initiative for the Irish language which dates back to the 2006 St Andrews Agreement.

The High Court has already ruled previously, in 2017 and again in 2022, that the power-sharing government is in breach of an obligation to adopt a blueprint.

The continued failure contravenes the 1998 Northern Ireland Act, successive judges held.

Lawyers representing the language campaigners are seeking an order of mandamus compelling implementation of a strategy.

In court yesterday, counsel for the Executive Committee, Philip McAteer, said he had no instructions to either resist or consent to the application for leave to seek a judicial review.

He set out how power-sharing arrangements require the first minister and deputy first minister to reach a joint position.

Mr Justice McAlinden described it as an open-goal for Conradh na Gaeilge to clear the first stage in its case against the executive.

Formally granting leave to seek a judicial review, he confirmed the challenge will be heard in January.

Dublin riots not fun and games: Garda

Irish police have appealed to people, in particular young males, not to engage in public disorder after two days of riots near a hotel housing asylum seekers.

An Garda Síochána said that public disorder is not "fun and games" and could adversely affect people's futures.

It made the appeal after significant damage was done

in Saggart in west Dublin after two nights of violent disorder.

The third night of demonstrations at Citywest Hotel took place on Wednesday, after an alleged sexual assault on a 10-year-old girl in the vicinity of the hotel in the early hours of Monday morning.

A 26-year-old man, who cannot be named because of legal restrictions that apply to all

sexual assault cases in Ireland, appeared in court on Tuesday charged over the alleged incident.

Reacting to the disorder, gardai appealed to the public to refrain from taking part in any riotous behaviour.

"An Garda Síochána is appealing to the public, in particular to young males; do not get involved in public disorder

incidents," it said.

"This is not fun and games and entertainment for social media. The choices and reckless decisions you may make, to get involved or caught up in these events may have serious consequences and adversely affect the course of your future."

"An Garda Síochána appeals to persons with the ability to influence younger people

(parents, family members, friends) or influence in the local community to engage with younger people and appeal for them not to get involved in this criminal activity."

In relation to the disorder, gardai said 31 people had been arrested, 23 of which, 21 males and two females, have appeared before the District Court.



Protestors throw fireworks at Gardaí officers on Wednesday