

Daily media briefing

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Thu, 30 Nov 2023

[Cardinal Raymond Burke: Pope Francis to evict US critic from Vatican](#)

Pope Francis is evicting US Cardinal Raymond Burke, an outspoken critic, from his Vatican apartment and revoking his salary.

BBC

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[US says it foiled alleged plot to assassinate Sikh activist in New York](#)

The US has said it foiled an alleged plot to assassinate an American citizen in New York who advocated for a Sikh separatist state.

BBC

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[US congresswoman linked to Hamas group held liable for death of an American Jew](#)

US congresswoman Rashida Tlaib has been accused of associating with Hamas supporters, including Rafeeq Jaber – whose defunct charity was found legally liable for financing the Hamas murder of an American.

Daily Mail

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Australia: Damages tally for church's paedophile victim tops \$4 million

The damages payout for a sexual assault victim of former Albury priest and convicted paedophile Vincent Kiss has risen to more than \$4 million after the Catholic church failed in its appeal of a jury verdict.

Canberra Times

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Māori atheism on the rise: the legacy of colonisation is driving a decline in traditional Christian beliefs

Religious beliefs among Māori have shifted significantly over the past two decades, with those identifying as having "no religion" in the census between 2006 and 2018 increasing from 36.5% to 53.5%. Māori affiliation with Christianity has fallen from 46.2% to 29.9%.

The Conversation

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A religious revolution is under way in the Middle East

The fallout from the October 7th attacks shows that Muslims stand at a critical juncture in the evolution of their faith. Huge religious, political and social transformations are changing the Middle East and its 400m people. The question is whether Hamas's attack reverses this revolution by stoking Islamism's embers. Anti-Israeli and anti-Western fervour could agitate its grassroots anew.

The Economist*

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Wed, 29 Nov 2023

Scots pastor claims comments describing Humza Yousaf victory as 'scheme of Satan' were 'twisted'

A Scots pastor who was condemned for comments he made about Humza Yousaf has claimed his words were "twisted" and he was stating "facts".

The National

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University drops Gaza event due to speaker who defended Hamas terror

A London University has refused to host a Gaza fundraiser with British former world boxing champion Amir Khan after it was revealed it would feature a preacher who defended "armed resistance" against Israel two days after Hamas's attack on October 7.

The Jewish Chronicle

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CofE accused of marking its own homework over safeguarding review

Two members of the now disbanded Independent Safeguarding Board say they will not engage with the independent review into the circumstances which led to its closure.

Premier Christian News

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EU states can ban religious symbols in public workplaces

The top European Union court has ruled that member states can prohibit their employees from wearing signs of religious belief.

BBC

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Yoga sect leader Gregorian Bivolaru and followers arrested in France

French police have arrested a fugitive yoga sect leader called Gregorian Bivolaru and 40 of his followers.

BBC

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Pakistan: Woman killed after being seen with man in viral photo

Pakistani police are investigating the so-called "honour killing" of a young woman who appeared in a viral photo that police suspect was doctored.

BBC

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Taliban could be convinced to open girls' schools, says Afghanistan ex-education minister

There are many Taliban officials who would support reversing the ban on schooling for girls in Afghanistan, according to the country's last education minister before the takeover.

The Guardian

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'Join us in resisting the path to hatred'

"If we want to see an end to this conflict, we need to elevate the voices of moderates and those demanding a future in which both the Israeli and Palestinian people can live in security, freedom and dignity. We are choosing not to hate. If we, with all the pain and tragedy, can make that choice, others"

The Times*

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Tue, 28 Nov 2023

Charities that use 'inflammatory rhetoric' on Israel-Gaza could face crackdown

The charity watchdog has warned that organisations that allow "hate speech" regarding the Israel-Hamas war will be dealt with "robustly." The NSS' letter to the Charity Commission is quoted.

The i

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Watchdog to crack down on charities hosting anti-Semitic extremists

The charity regulator has pledged to crack down on bodies that host anti-Semitic extremists amid "serious concerns" about activities linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict. The NSS' letter to the Charity Commission is referenced.

The Telegraph*

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Medics quitting jobs over 'distress caused by rightwing Christian group'

Medics treating critically ill babies are reportedly quitting their jobs owing to "considerable moral distress" caused by a rightwing Christian group behind a series of end-of-life court cases.

The Guardian

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Concerns over Harrow GP exposed as leading member of Hizb ut-Tahrir

A leading Jewish doctor has expressed concerns that an NHS colleague known to be a leading member of extremist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT) is still free to treat patients in north London.

Jewish News

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French teenagers on trial over beheading of teacher Samuel Paty

A teenager whose lies led to the beheading of a teacher by an Islamist terrorist is overwhelmed by guilt, according to court documents.

The Times*

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Australian Christian group fights claim it was linked to leader of Kenya starvation massacre doomsday cult

A Christian doomsday cult responsible for the deaths of more than 400 people from starvation and beatings in Kenya was influenced by an Australian religious group, a parliamentary committee report in the east African nation has found.

The Guardian

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Ghana Cardinal: It's time to understand homosexuality

Homosexuality should not be a criminal offence and people should be helped to understand the issue better, a top cardinal from Ghana has said. His views are at odds with Roman Catholic bishops in Ghana, who say homosexuality is "despicable".

BBC

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Mon, 27 Nov 2023

Soul Survivor victims fear Mike Pilavachi review could protect his 'enablers'

Victims of Soul Survivor's Mike Pilavachi have raised concerns that an independent review into his abuse could "throw him under the bus and protect those who may have enabled him".

The Telegraph*

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Former ISB members cut links to review

Two former Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) members have announced that they have ceased to co-operate with the independent review of the ISB's demise. They have concerns about the reviewer's remit.

Church Times*

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Thousands march against antisemitism in London

Tens of thousands of people have marched through central London at a demonstration against antisemitism.

BBC

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Police probe as preacher at city mosque reportedly calls for 'indiscriminate killing of Jews'

Police are investigating allegations of anti-Semitic hate speech reportedly made in Birmingham. A dossier of leaked footage reportedly showed preachers calling for Jews to be killed and Israel to be destroyed in sermons at mosques in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Northampton.

Birmingham Mail

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Oxford University union recognises 'caste' characteristic

The largest trade union for Oxford University has passed a resolution which recognises 'caste' as a protected characteristic.

Bicester Advertiser

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Teenagers go on trial for alleged role in beheading of Samuel Paty

The killing of the teacher, who showed caricatures of the prophet of Islam to his class, led authorities to reaffirm France's cherished rights of expression and secularism.

Associated Press

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A Catholic crisis: why priests in Ireland are fading into history and not being replaced

In what was one of Europe's most religious countries, mass attendance has dropped severely, Irish priests find themselves working far past retirement age, and only a small number of apprentices are committing themselves to the church.

EuroNews

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Iranian regime denies responsibility for hijab 'horror tunnel' in Tehran

Iran's interior minister denies having authorized hijab enforcers at the capital's subway stations, claiming they are "citizens' groups" carrying out a religious duty.

Iran International

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Australia: No jury for religious group charged over death of eight-year-old girl

A group of 14 people charged with killing an eight-year-old girl by denying her medical care will stand trial without a jury present due to the "notoriety" and complexity of the case.

The Guardian

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Fri, 24 Nov 2023

Antisemitism at four mosques is investigated by police

Footage of preachers calling for Jews to be slaughtered and Israel to be destroyed has been handed to detectives.

Daily Mail

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'Dark money' fuelling 'retrograde' anti-abortion activity in UK

Concerns have risen among rights groups that the ADF is ramping up spending in an attempt to bring US-style abortion politics to the UK.

EuroNews

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Plans for new 'religious' entrance at South Kensington station turned down

The proposed entrance would have been used by a group of Orthodox Jews who will not use the entrance of the Science Museum because it holds human remains in its collection.

London News

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Bishop of Oxford's son will not return to senior pastor role

The Church of England's investigation into safeguarding failures at Soul Survivor revealed that Croft failed to act on three separate occasions where allegations had been made.

Premier Christian News

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Bristol Airport defends multi-faith cabin in car park that was likened to bus shelter

'Pilgrims will visit from all over the world' mocks one social media post – but Bristol Airport defends its new facility.

The Telegraph*

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Antwerp rabbi files police complaint against 6 circumcisers who suck blood by mouth

Moshe Aryeh Friedman, whom many in Belgian Jewish community consider a gadfly, says that the custom known as 'metzitzah b'peh' is dangerous and unnecessary.

The Times of Israel

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The FGM survivor ending abuse and giving a voice to girls in Senegal

Woppa Diallo's work to end FGM and keep girls in school has saved others from being cut.

The Guardian

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Iran secretly executes man over 2022 anti-government protests - sources

The protests erupted in September 2022 following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was detained by morality police for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

BBC

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Thu, 23 Nov 2023

Five global regions to have reps on panel for Welby's successor

Diocesan representatives on the Crown Nominations Commission for the see of Canterbury reduced to three while Anglican Communion representatives increased to five.

Church Times*

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'Jihad' chants can be prosecuted as encouraging terrorism

The report said current guidelines gave police sufficient powers but further changes could damage free speech.

The Telegraph*

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Dutch election: Anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders wins dramatic victory

Veteran anti-Islam populist leader Geert Wilders has won a dramatic victory in the Dutch general election, according to the latest results with almost all votes counted.

BBC

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'Will Marine Le Pen defend French Jews?'

"Antisemitism in France has taken a radical new turn", writes David A. Bell.

UnHerd

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Ex-Obama aide held over anti-Muslim abuse at NYC halal cart vendor

Police have held an ex-US state department aide who allegedly spewed anti-Muslim abuse at a New York City food vendor.

BBC

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Spain: Buddhist leader arrested after trying to control followers' minds with mercury-laced 'medicines'

José Manuel Cánovas, 50, was known to followers as 'Total Transcendence' and is accused of 'coercive manipulation'.

The Telegraph*

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Bhagwa Love Trap: A new Indian online trend causing real-world harm

Now a reverse theory - that Hindu men are deliberately trying to seduce Muslim women - is going viral online.

BBC

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Closing arguments in Vatican trial seek to expose problems in the city state's legal system

Lawyers for a once-powerful cardinal accused Vatican prosecutors of being "prisoner to their completely shattered theory" in a trial that has raised fundamental questions about the rule of law in the city state.

Independent

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Pope Francis accuses Israel and Palestinians of terrorism

Pontiff says Gaza conflict has 'gone beyond war'.

The Times*

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US warns India over plot to kill Sikh separatist in New York, report says

Assassination attempt said to have targeted Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a leader of the Sikhs for Justice movement, on US soil.

Independent

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Wed, 22 Nov 2023

Soul Survivor safeguarding review into Mike Pilvachi expected in spring 2024

Pilvachi used his spiritual authority to "control people," leading to "inappropriate relationships, the physical wrestling of youths, and massaging of young male interns".

Premier Christian News

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Safeguarding is not yet on the agenda for many Churches, Anglican commission warns

The perception that safeguarding is a "foreign concept" being imposed by the West is among the challenges facing the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission.

Church Times*

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- ...
- [9](#)

- [10](#)
- [11](#)
- [12](#)
- [13](#)
- [14](#)
- [15](#)
- [16](#)
- [17](#)
- [18](#)
- [19](#)
- ...
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