



NIGERIA: ACN RESOURCE

GUIDE FOR SESSION:

Please use this resource to raise awareness about the situation for Christians in Nigeria.

IDEAS

1. Organise a 'Nigeria Night' in your young adults' group, chaplaincy, parish or even with a group of friends and family.
2. Use the presentation for information, links and videos.
3. Find the information below and on the second page of this guide to provide further details about Nigeria from those who have experienced the atrocities first-hand.
4. Decide what your group can do to help.



Archbishop Matthew Ndagoso of Kaduna, in northern Nigeria, gave Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) a glimpse into life in his diocese in northern Nigeria.

He said that eight of his priests had been kidnapped in just three years – three were killed, one is still missing and the others were freed. He added that one of the murdered priests showed tremendous courage.

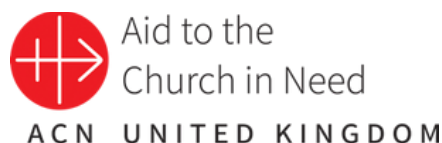
The archbishop said: "While they were pointing an AK-47 at him, he told his attackers that they should repent of their evil, so they killed him." Life is increasingly dangerous for Christians in many parts of Nigeria, as highlighted in ACN's 2022 edition of *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith*.

Between January 2021 and June 2022, Islamist extremists fuelled the killing of more than 7,600 Nigerian Christians and abducted 5,200, according to ACN's findings. Archbishop Ndagoso said that priests in many regions of Nigeria must weigh up the risks carefully before travelling.

He added: "We often pass by vehicles on the road which have been attacked, and it is a reminder that it could happen to us at any moment."

The archbishop said: "Faith doesn't fall from the sky. It needs ministers, but we know that we run risks whenever we send somebody somewhere. We are returning to the first days of the Church."

Archbishop Ndagoso said Islamists and others seeking to incite division and conflict in the country are constantly trying to pit Christians and Muslims against each other. But he added: "Religion should unite us, not divide".





NIGERIA: PENTECOST ATTACKS

5TH JUNE 2022



More than 50 people, including children, were killed during a savage attack on a Catholic church on Pentecost Sunday. Armed men entered the church in Owo during Mass, firing randomly into the congregation.

Father Abayomi was just finishing Mass, when the unknown gunmen opened fire on the parishioners.

'As bullets fired through the air, I thought of only how to save my parishioners' he recalls.

'Some of them managed to lock the entrance door and I urged them to move into the sacristy. I couldn't move: children surrounded me and adults clung to me. I shielded them just as a hen shields her chicks.

There were three or four more explosions... it was a well planned attack which lasted about 20-25 minutes.

Once the message came that the attackers had gone, we left the sacristy.



Dead bodies were strewn across the church and there were many injured.

With the help of parishioners who could drive, we immediately began to take our injured brothers and sisters to St Louis Hospital.

Since then, I have visited the wounded, praying with them, administering the Sacrament of the Sick and encouraging them to keep hope alive.'



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

FROM 'PERSECUTED AND FORGOTTEN? A REPORT ON CHRISTIANS OPPRESSED BY THEIR FAITH 2021-2022' ACN