

Ad Clerum 2.3

TERRORIST INCIDENTS

It is in the nature of terrorism to be random and unpredictable. It follows that trying to make any predictive suggestions about how to react, should any terrorist incident occur, is very difficult. However, there are a number of actions that should be taken, related to terrorist incidents:

1. Obviously, if you have any suspicion that individuals you know might be involved in terrorist activity, you should inform the police immediately - but do keep your archdeacon and bishop well informed and seek their advice.
2. If you are parish are caught up in the aftermath of a terrorist incident, you will need:
 - a) To ensure that pastoral, practical and spiritual care are offered to all victims and to the emergency services (though be aware that the latter also have their own chaplains).
 - b) To contact immediately the relevant clergy Major Incident Co-ordinator for your area:

Herts: The Revd John Williams
The Vicarage, 69 Havers Lane, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3PA
tel: 01279 656546

Beds: The Revd Sheila Morton
The New Rectory, High Street, Wilden, Bedford, MK44 2PB
tel: 01234 772895

- c) To contact immediately one of the bishops and archdeacons, and your rural dean.
- d) To contact immediately the diocesan communications officer, Arun Kataria (tel: 01727 818110), and seek advice about how best to handle and deal with media interest.
- e) If the terrorist incident is related to religious beliefs and practice, please also seek immediate help from the diocesan interfaith adviser, the Revd Jay MacLeod (tel: 01234 266945).

It only remains to say that these kinds of incidents are bound, by their nature, to be very confusing in the initial stages - but to remain steady, pastorally astute and to keep everyone informed who needs to be informed, is of the essence.

The wisdom to know how to react will be being created as you pray, as you offer pastoral care and as you go about your daily vocation of helping create community in everyday parish ministry in Christ's name. It is in the ordinary that we are made ready, should it be necessary, for the **extra**ordinary.

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