

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

**Weekly Report – 2020-05-03 through 2020-05-09**



## **Australia**

Cardinal George Pell (aged 78, charged with multiple child sex abuse crimes in Melbourne in [June 2017](#), the police had opened a case against him a year before a complainant was found, most charges were then dismissed for "fundamental defects in evidence"; reported on [December 11, 2018](#) to have been convicted on five counts despite the trial having been held in secret, a previously unreported trial had ended in mistrial after 10 jurors voted to acquit, trial witnesses anonymously reported extensive prosecutorial misconduct; verdict announced on [February 27, 2019](#) after prosecutors decided to drop the remaining charges, taken into custody; sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment on [March 13, 2019](#); appeal denied on [August 21, 2019](#) on a 2-1 vote, the dissenting judge wrote that his guilt had not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt; found not guilty in an [April 7, 2020](#) unanimous verdict by the High Court in Canberra, immediate release ordered; **UPDATE:** subjected to an implied threat of re-investigation and possible re-arrest by police after the Royal Commission issued a report that concluded without evidence that he lied to the Commission when he stated that he did not know of the sexual crimes against minors of two priests before he became a bishop)

Date: [May 7, 2020](#)

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pell-surprised-by-royal-commission-findings-33510>



## **Belgium**

Br Rene Stockman FC (superior general of the Brothers of Charity, reported on [April 28, 2017](#) to have objected when the mostly lay board of directors of the psychiatric hospitals operated by his order voted to allow euthanasia, said "We deplore this new vision...as general superior we cannot accept this decision, because it is going totally against our charism of the charity...Yes, there was a lot of pressure, but pressure doesn't mean that we have to capitulate. All those who were against us are now singing that finally the group of the Brothers of Charity capitulated and came into their camp...[secularization is] poisoning the congregation"; issued a statement opposing his hospital board's [September 12, 2017](#) vote in favor of euthanasia "where does a board of directors of an organization that

specializes in mental health care, but made up of jurists and economists, and without a single expert in the field, get the knowledge to give its opinion on such a matter? Some of them, with all due respect for their person, have never had first-hand experience with a psychiatric patient, let alone cared for one or treated one. And have they listened to the many objections that were raised exactly by these experts in the field, and which they continue to raise, or are they stuck in their ideological discourse, supported by a few enlightened ethicists and caught up in social trends...When those in charge of the Organization now openly claim to follow Jesus while distancing themselves from the vision of the Vatican, the Belgian bishops, and the General Administration of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity because, supposedly, in their eyes, they 'live far removed from reality', then they are sadly mistaken and this is more about pride, arrogance, and ideologization at the expense of the lives of those most in need of care. Let us call a spade a spade: euthanasia is still killing a fellow human being, even if it happens with the utmost due care. How in the name of God is this supposed to be compatible with our charism of charity, the charism of life?"; along with his congregation removed two monks from the board of director [at the end of September 2018](#) for failing to oppose the euthanasia policy; **UPDATE**: stated he was determined to see the name of his congregation removed from the name of the hospital chain after the Vatican ruled the chain could no longer claim to be Catholic, accused by the hospital board chairman of an attempt to claim the assets of the hospitals to pay for missionary work in Africa)

Date reported: May 8, 2020

Source: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/belgian-brothers-of-charity-fight-for-their-name-after-cdf-decision/>



## China

Pastor Yang Xibo (**UPDATE**: nine parishioners arrested for having met for prayers in a private home)

Date: May 3, 2020

Location: Xiamen, Fujian province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-arrest-and-beat-Protestants-in-Xiamen-49995.html>

Bishop Emeritus Joseph Zhu Baoyu (aged 99, underground bishop, sentenced to a forced labor camp in 1964, released by 1967; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on counter-revolutionary charges in 1981; ordained a bishop on [March 19, 1995](#); **UPDATE**: **died of natural causes**, had contracted a SARS-CoV-2 infection in February and recovered, recovery publicized by national media)

Date: May 7, 2020

Location: Nanyang, Henan province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Joseph-Zhu-Baoyu,-bishop-emeritus-of-Nanyang,-has-passed-away-50019.html>

## **Today's Martyrs**

*For more information please visit our web site at <https://todaysmartyrs.org/>*

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