



The News

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by Sarah Heath

Tens of thousands of students can take off their face masks as of this morning. A further 21 départements join the list of areas where wearing a face mask in primary school is no longer compulsory. These are départements where the incidence rate of Covid-19 has fallen below the alert threshold in recent days. In total, there are now 68 départements where this is the case.

Anti-covid vaccines have been proven effective against the virus as confirmed by the results of a French study in news announced this morning. People aged 50 and over who have been vaccinated are 9 times less at risk of being hospitalized or dying from Covid-19 when compared with those who have not had the jab. The study was carried out on more than 22 million people.

A call for the collective resignation of Catholic bishops has been launched today. Three key people, including the co-founder of the association of victims "La parole libérée", have asked for a review 6 days after the publication of the work of the Independent Commission on Sexual Abuse in the Church – a report which counted no less than 300,000 victims.

There are new developments in the Marc Machin case as the 39-year-old, known to have been wrongly convicted of murder in the past, is being tried again in court today. This time a Paris judge will hear evidence for a rape committed on a woman in 2018. If found guilty, he faces a sentence of 20 years in prison – the verdict is expected on Thursday. Marc Machin spent 6 years behind bars before being released in 2012 after a judgment was made on a miscarriage of justice.

Tensions are high between Paris and Algiers after the Algerian President accuses Gérald Darmanin of having created a fake impression over the expulsion of illegal immigrants. The Minister of the Interior had affirmed that 7,000 Algerian illegal immigrants are to be

expelled from France. This figure has been disputed by Abdelmadjid Tebboune who states it is 94.

And finally, huge numbers of French fans tuned in last night to follow the Blues in the Nations League final. More than 8 million viewers enjoyed watching the victory in the final as the French team won, 2 goals to 1 against Spain.