



## The News

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm ©**

*by Sarah Heath*

A new initiative is being launched by the government to encourage 16-25 year olds to train towards getting into full employment. The 'Youth Engagement Contract' has been announced by President Macron as a form of allowance of up to €500 intended for those under the age of 25 who are without a job or training. The objective of the 15 to 20 hours training and support is to facilitate new employment and professional engagement of this younger generation of whom there are around 400,000 in France.

Employees from France's blood banks are going on strike today until Friday over a promised pay rise of €183 which has not yet materialised. Workers are unhappy that those working in hospitals and nursing homes are already receiving additional pay. The knock on effect is that it is increasingly difficult to recruit new staff.

Denis Payre has had to withdraw his candidature for the Republican congress due to a lack of sponsors. He has blamed his failure to reach the requisite 250 on the party denying him the right to campaign. Party boss, Christian Jacob has stated that the rules have been the same for everyone. Candidates have until six o'clock this evening to submit their list of sponsors.

Just a month after the shocking revelations of child abuse committed by members of the Catholic Church in France over the past decades, a Bishops Conference is opening today in Lourdes. Victims of the abuse are expecting strong action from the Church and that full accountability is taken.

The conflict between France and Great Britain over fishing rights goes on although retaliatory measures by Boris Johnson have been temporarily suspended. France wants to allow a window for negotiations to take place. The issue stems from Brexit and the number of licences Britain grants to French fishermen to fish in British waters.

And finally to football news and the fourth day of the Champions League. Lille, who are third in their group, play Seville. PSG will need to play without star player Lionel Messi tomorrow in their match against Leipzig after the Argentinian fighting against a muscle strain.