



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

There have been new developments in the case dubbed the Bétharram case, referring to the Catholic school Notre-Dame-de-Bétharram in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques region, where violent and sexual assaults are alleged to have taken place during the period from 1957 until 2004. Today, the public prosecutor for Pau announced that three men had been taken into police custody as part of the investigation into the assaults.

Richard Ferrand is set to become head of the conseil constitutionnel after a parliamentary vote today. He will therefore succeed Laurent Fabius. The decision came down to one vote. Despite the far-right party Rassemblement National abstaining from the vote, Mathilde Panot, president of leftwing party La France Insoumise, said that Ferrand's appointment had been "sponsored by the RN head, Marine Le Pen".

Emmanuel Macron has called a meeting tomorrow with the heads of France's political parties to discuss European security to follow up on this week's meetings with foreign leaders. At the top of the agenda is the situation in Ukraine.

Vladimir Putin has praised US-Russia talks as a "first step" in restoring ties between the two countries. Talks between the Russian president and Donald Trump took place today in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. Putin said that he thought it would be "impossible to solve many issues, including the Ukrainian crisis, without increasing the level of trust between Russia and the United States". Meanwhile, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said that real "security guarantees" were needed in order to end the war.

Pope Francis is now breathing on his own and resting well. The news comes from the Vatican that the pontiff had spent a "peaceful night" yesterday after being hospitalised for pneumonia. This is the fourth time that the 88-year-old pope has been hospitalised in less than four years.

And finally, France's Eric Perrot has taken gold in the 20-kilometer individual biathlon event at the World Championships in Austria. Meanwhile, Quentin Fillon Maillet won bronze.