

‘Absolutely Shocking’: Vandals Destroy Centuries of Christian History in Brazen Attack

A historic graveyard in Ireland has suffered extensive vandalism, with 18 graves damaged and centuries-old Christian monuments smashed or ripped from the ground.

The destruction occurred at Monachán graveyard in Taghmon, County Wexford, between April 20 and July 27, according to RTÉ. Some of the damaged gravestones date to the 17th and 18th centuries or potentially earlier.

Aontú Councillor Jim Codd described the destruction as “absolutely shocking” during an interview with RTÉ’s “Morning Ireland.”

“Tombs smashed up, granite plinths around certain graves pulled out, a cast iron Celtic cross smashed off a wall and various tombstones broken in pieces, if not pulled out of their place,” Codd said.



Photo: RTÉ News

Ancient crosses without markings were also pulled from the ground and scattered around the cemetery. Even stones from walls leading into the graveyard were reportedly removed and thrown around.

Codd called the vandalism an “attack on our history and culture,” condemning what he described as the “mindless destruction and desecration of our Christian heritage.”



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The cemetery represents centuries of Christian history in the community, with Catholics and Protestants buried alongside one another.

"They're heartbroken," Codd said of local residents. "You have stones here from the 18th, 17th, and possibly earlier centuries ... this history cannot be replaced."



Photo: RTÉ News

Local volunteers have already begun working to repair the graveyard, which community members have long helped maintain.

Gardaí are investigating the vandalism and have appealed for witnesses. Authorities are also asking residents, businesses and motorists with CCTV, dashcam or other footage from the area during the period when the damage occurred to contact investigators.

Codd also called for a greater Garda presence in rural communities, noting that Monachán graveyard has been targeted by vandals before.

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