

## **PASTOR'S THOUGHTS**

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### **"In the Aftermath of Chaos: A Call to Prayer, Wisdom, and Peace"**

A 53-year-old man has been charged following a serious incident during Liverpool FC's Premier League victory parade on 26 May 2025, where a car drove into a crowd of fans on Water Street, injuring 79 people.

The suspect, Paul Doyle from West Derby, Liverpool, faces seven charges: two counts of wounding with intent, two counts of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, two counts of attempted grievous bodily harm with intent, and one count of dangerous driving.

The victims range in age from nine to 78, with seven individuals still hospitalised in stable condition.

Doyle, who tested positive for drug use, appeared at Liverpool Magistrates' Court on 30 May. There, he confirmed his name, date of birth, and address but did not enter a plea. He was remanded in custody until a plea hearing scheduled for 14 August, with a provisional trial date set for 24 November.

The incident occurred shortly after 6 p.m. as thousands gathered to celebrate Liverpool's title win. Witnesses reported the driver arguing with pedestrians before accelerating into the crowd. The vehicle stopped briefly, but when bystanders attempted to intervene, it accelerated again, striking more people.

Authorities have stated that the incident is not being treated as terrorism. Merseyside Police are conducting an extensive investigation, reviewing CCTV and footage from various sources. They have urged the public to refrain from speculation and to allow the legal process to proceed.

The Crown Prosecution Service has indicated that the charges may be updated as the investigation continues. Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Sims acknowledged the community's shock and assured that detectives are working diligently to uncover the full circumstances of the event. The incident has cast a shadow over what was meant to be a celebratory occasion, leaving the city grappling with the aftermath of an unexpected tragedy.

Friedrich Nietzsche states, "In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule." It is easy for the masses to become insane with a vengeance and embroiled in anger, but it is necessary to have calm amid this trial.

We ask for calm and peace for all parties involved and God, and we pray against any acts of foolishness and outbursts. As Proverbs 29:11 states, "A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back." This week, let us call for peace and prayer amongst and for all parties affected and for the glory of God.