Christian News | 15 November 2026 | English article

Suspected British Tourists Smash Golden Jesus Statue in Vilnius Church

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"- Or, in another account, shouting"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Two men believed to be British tourists smashed a gilded statue of Jesus in Vilnius on Wednesday 11 November 2026, tearing it from a wooden cross in the inner courtyard of the Divine Mercy Shrine on Dominikon? Street in the Old Town. The statue shattered into pieces across the cobblestones as the men laughed, and Vilnius police have opened a pre-trial investigation. The men's identities and nationalities have not been officially confirmed, and police are still trying to find them.

Picture the scene at about 9 p.M. On a quiet November evening: two English-speaking men, appearing intoxicated, wrench a golden figure of Christ from its cross and carry it into the street. One parades it through the road.

Then he hoists it by the arms, the arms break off, and the statue falls and breaks apart on the stones. One of the men was heard exclaiming "Oh my God" - or, in another account, shouting "praise the Lord!" - As the pieces scattered.

Vilnius Jesus Statue Smashed: What The CCTV Shows

The whole incident was caught on CCTV, and the footage is what turned a night of vandalism into an international story. The shrine's vicerector, Fr Elijas Anatolijus Markauskas, reviewed the cameras, shared the footage on his public Facebook page, and appealed for help identifying the men.

The cameras show the two men in the courtyard of the Church of the Holy Trinity, home of the Divine Mercy Shrine. One tears the gilded statue from the wooden cross. The other watches, then joins him in the street.

The statue is carried, lifted by its arms, and dropped. By the time the men walk away, the figure that had hung in the courtyard is in pieces on the ground.

Broken pieces of the statue and flowers have since been left at the foot of the wooden cross where it was taken from. Pilgrims and local people have come to the spot to pray, turning the place where the statue was smashed into a small shrine of its own.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment inside the police station itself -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-849.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(French) Le pape Léon XIV nomme Mgr Martin Boucar Tine évêque de Thiès
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/fr/news-857.html

(Portuguese) Líderes evangélicos buscam diálogo com governo Lula após eleição de 2026
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-856.html

(Spanish) Informe revela 33 ataques islamistas en España: 19 contra cristianos
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-855.html