

# Gunmen kill Catholic priest, three others in Benue

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GUNMEN on Tuesday morning killed a Catholic priest, Reverend Father Fanem Nguban, and three other persons at a village called Agu Centre in Mbatyula/Mberek council ward in Katsina-Alla Local Government Area of Benue State.

The incident, according to residents of the area, occurred at about 7:00 a.m. when the church was closing for morning mass.

Several houses were said to have been set ablaze during the attack.

One of the residents who spoke with *Nigerian*

*Tribune* said the gunmen stormed the village at about 7:00 a.m. and demanded to see the parish priest.

"We directed them to go inside the church, but within some seconds, we heard gunshots and everyone scampered for safety. However, by the time we returned, the priest and many others were found dead.

"The gunmen were reported to have entered the community and set some houses ablaze.

The chairman of Katsina-Alla Local Government Area, Alfred Atera, confirmed that the gunmen invaded the community between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on

Tuesday morning and killed a priest and three persons, as well as burnt down the village.

He identified the other persons killed to include Mfave Tumachihi, Mbangohor Tsebo and Orlukaa Ulu.

Atera said: "On March 30, at about 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., gunmen came and burnt a village called Agu Centre in Mbatyula/Mberek council ward in Katsina-Alla.

"They also killed Reverend Father Moses Ngugban and three others by name, Mfave Tumachihi, Mbangohor Tsebo and Orlukaa Ulu."

Also confirming the attack

in a text message sent to Nigerian Tribune, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, said the attack was on St. Paul's Catholic Church in Kastina-Alla Local Government Area by bandits.

The text read: "Attack on St. Paul's Catholic Church, Sai, Kastina-Alla LGA by bandits is confirmed.

"Reverend Father Nguban Fanen and three others lost their lives during the attack. The corpses have been deposited at the General Hospital, Katsina-Alla, while a joint operation of police and other security agencies are on the trail of the hoodlums."

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