

# 2 worshippers die, many injured during Church procession in Abia

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From **Okey Sampson**, Umuahia

**Two persons were on Sunday confirmed dead while many others were injured following an overflow of worshippers during a procession at the Christ The king Catholic Church (CKC), Aba, Abia state.**

The procession, titled, "Christ the King Sunday", is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, as a feast to mark Jesus Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creations.

It was gathered that during the procession organized by the Catholic Diocese of Aba, urban parishes within the City throng the CKC premises along Asa Road, to perform the yearly rites.

This year's procession it was equally gathered, recorded a mammoth crowd which overflowed the premises.

As a result of the overflowing crowd, two aged women slumped inside the premises and were rushed to a nearby hospital, where they died.

The women who were of the Holy Cross Parish, Aba, were believed to have died as a result of suffocation.

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Many others who slumped during the event, were rushed to a nearby private hospital.

A catholic faithful who spoke anonymously stated that the Catholic Diocese of Aba have been having the issues of people slumping during the yearly procession but that the Sunday experience was the first time people died.

He urged the catholic Diocese of Aba to find a way to decongest the population of faithful attending the “Christ The King Procession’ to avert future occurrences.

He urged that the Bishop of Aba Catholic Diocese to instruct all parishes to concentrate their procession in their own parishes without coming to the CKC where the cases of mammoth crowd are often recorded.

Another resident, David Onyeka ,alleged he heard that aside from the recorded deaths, that over 30 people collapsed during the procession.

A senior leader of the church’s laity told newsmen that the experience is the first and that efforts were on to meet the victim’s families.