



Victorian State Vigil at St Paul's Cathedral on the National Day of Mourning for the Victims of the Bondi Terrorist Attacks



**Light will Win
A Gathering of Unity and Remembrance
22 January 2026**

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and throughout Victoria for this State Vigil on the National Day of Mourning for the Victims of the Bondi Channukah attacks on 14 December 2025.

We want to be a place of transformation for our city and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus. We are an international community and are delighted that you're here.

A particular welcome to Victorian, Commonwealth, Political, Community and Faith Leaders who share in commemorating the fifteen people who were murdered as they met to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Light, Channukah, on Sydney's Bondi Beach. We are privileged that you are with us for this solemn remembrance.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in the service. Please join in saying the responses printed in **bold type**.

We worship on the sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation, lands taken and not ceded. We acknowledge their continued custodianship of land and waterways, pay our respect to their elders past and present, and to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders here today.

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Louis Vierne (1870-1937), *Berceuse* Op. 31.19
played by Mr Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

Please stand for the arrival of the Official Party.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand as the procession enters and be seated for

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING REMARKS

The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne

We meet on land that was taken, not ceded—the Sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country, and pay our respects to all First Peoples here today or joining us online.

THE BIDDING

*The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne, and
The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne, pray*

Dear friends, we have come together in this Cathedral church as political and community leaders and people of faith to mourn the lives of fifteen people cut tragically short on Bondi Beach.

We come together to give voice to our distress and sorrow, to mourn those murdered, and to support the wounded, bereaved and traumatised. We stand side by side with members of the Jewish community here in Melbourne and throughout Australia, and with countless people the world over who, like us, condemn anti-Semitism, hate crime, persecution and violence.

Here, in this iconic Cathedral at the heart of Melbourne, we celebrate our city and our community, with its people's commitment to difference and respect for diversity. At the same time, we recall our own shortcomings and failings and ask for God's forgiveness.

We repent for those times when we have hurt our neighbours, failed to accept them equally, or shunned the strangers in our midst. We also pray that those who wish us harm would turn away from hatred and follow the path of peace.

Almighty God, creator and judge of all:
in your mercy you promised to bring in the time
when your people would live in peace and dwell in safety,
with no-one making them afraid:
fulfil now that promise in our own times and communities,
and grant us the will to fix our minds on you,
knowing that only in you
we find our perfect peace. **Amen.**

based on Leviticus 26.6 and Isaiah 26.3

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943), *Cello Sonata in G minor, op. 19, 'Andante'*
Zoe Knighton, cello and Laurence Matheson, piano

COMMITMENT OF TRUST

*introduced by Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM, AIJAC Interfaith Liaison
and Senior Rabbi of the Australian Defence Force*

As representatives of our of State, and its diverse communities, and as leaders of faith, we stand united in our determination to resist and overcome the evil of anti-Semitism, hate crime, terror and violence.

We belong to different faith traditions and share a common grief. We acknowledge with confidence our common values, and commit ourselves to foster mutual trust on the basis of respect and understanding. Together we seek to build a society where all people can work together in cherishing, not disfiguring, our common humanity.

Even in the darkness of death, the light of faith and the flame of hope burn strong: by our faith, love and hope light will triumph over darkness.

All say together

We pledge ourselves to work together to make this goal an enduring reality.

The Archbishop of Melbourne lights the Bondi candle and prays

May God, who calls us to life,
give us the will to do justice,
to love mercy,
and to walk humbly in his ways. **Amen.**

based on Micah 6.8

LIGHTS OF HOPE IN DARKNESS

*Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC,
lights a candle from the Bondi candle, and says*

In our sorrow and distress; with our tears and our lament;
in shared endeavour, and with the life that we can give:
With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, lights a candle and says

In our grief, in our hurt, and our loss;
in shared solace, and with the peace that we can give:

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Representing the Leader of the Opposition, David Southwick MP, Shadow Minister for Planning, Shadow Minister for Housing and Building, Shadow Minister for Tourism and Major Events, lights a candle and says

In our living and forgiving; in our love and mutual respect;
In shared thanksgiving, and the courage we can give:

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Ms Steph Ave MStJ, St John Ambulance VIC, representing First Responders, lights a candle and says

In our care and our compassion; in our striving and our help;
in shared service, and the care that we can give:

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Ms Batul Gulani, Chairperson of AMAFHH Federation, representing the Shia Islamic Community, lights a candle and says

I light this candle as a sign of the gift of life;
may we be led out of death into the abundance of life.

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Mr Makarand Bhagwat, Hindu Council of Australia, lights a candle and says

I light this candle as a sign of the gift of constancy and guidance;
may it empower us to work to make our land a land of peace.

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

Dr Diana Cousens OAM, Buddhist Council of Victoria, lights a candle and says

I light this candle as a sign of the gift of light in life;
may it light up the darkness of our grief.

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

*Mr Jasbir Singh, Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria
and Senior Practitioner of Anglicare's Parentzone, lights a candle and says*

*I light this candle as a sign of the gift of comfort;
may it lead us of our suffering into joy.*

With our lights, we remember them.

Silence is kept.

*The Revd Deacon Sandy Boyce, Executive Officer,
The Victorian Council of Churches, prays*

*Father of lights, with you there is no darkness at all:
in your mercy shine the bright light of your presence into our hearts,
and grant us the joy you promise.*

*By your grace, enable us to carry your light
into the dark places of our world,
so we may reflect here on earth
your everlasting light. **Amen.***

Based on Psalms 18.28, 97.11 and 112.4

*A representative group of political and community leaders light candles
on behalf of all Victorians during the performance of*

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*Max Bruch (1838-1920), Kol Nidrei (op. 47)
Zoe Knighton, cello and Laurence Matheson, piano*

*Bruch's Kol Nidrei is based on the traditional Aramaic chant Kol Nidre—**קָל נִדְרֵי**—sung
at the evening service on Yom Kippur, and Isaac Nathan's arrangement of Byron's 'O
Weep for Those who Weep on Babel's Stream'. This haunting composition reflects the
themes of contrition, recommitment and hope at the heart of the Jewish Day of Atonement.*

*Servers take the candles lit by the Governor and Premier to two prayer stations in the
Cathedral nave.*

*Following the service, members of the congregation are invited to light their own
candles from the candles lit by the Governor and Premier.*

Please stand as The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, introduces the Act of Remembrance.

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Confident in God's promises,
let us remember before him and commend into his hands
all victims of violence and of human hatred and inhumanity,
especially those who lost their lives on Bondi Beach last month.

EL MALEH RAHAMIM — אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים

sung by Cantor Michel Laloum, Temple Beth Israel

God, who is full of mercy and dwells on high,
provide a true rest on the wings of the Divine Presence
amongst the holy and pure ones who shine as brightly
as the brilliance of the sky to the souls of our loved ones.

They have gone on to their eternity,
the Garden of Eden will be their resting place.

We beseech the Merciful One
to shade them forever with divine wings,
and to bind their souls up in the bonds of life.

The Lord is their heritage,
and they shall rest peacefully on their beds.
And let us say: Amen.

Names of the victims are read by The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor of St Paul's, The Rt Revd Philip Huggins, and The Revd Canon Jane Window.

Edith Brutman, 68

Dan Elkayam, 27

Boris Gutman, 69

Sofia Gutman, his wife, 61

Alex Kleytman, 87

We give you thanks for the gift of life, O Lord:
Grant all who died eternal rest with you.

Rabbi Yakoov Levitan, 39
Peter Meagher, 61
Reuven Morrison, 62
Marika Pogany, 82
Matilda, 10

We give you thanks for the gift of life, O Lord:
Grant all who died eternal rest with you.

Rabbi Eli Schlanger, 41
Adam Smyth, 50
Boris Tetelroyd, 68
Tania Tretiak, 68
Tibor Weitzen, 78

We give you thanks for the gift of life, O Lord:
Grant all who died eternal rest with you.

A minute's silence is kept.

KADDISH — קדיש

read by Rabbi Allison Conyer, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Israel

The Precentor prays

God of hope,
we bring before you our shock and grief,
our horror and anger:
Help us to be open to your guidance now,
lead us from darkness to light, from suffering to joy,
from death to life forever in your presence
in the land of peace
you promise to all who put their trust in you,
O Lord, our God. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE READING

Read by Mr Saul Ryan

Co-President, Temple Beth Israel

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 31.13-17

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

‘A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more’.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

‘Keep your voice from weeping,

and your eyes from tears;

for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future, says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country’.

Here ends the reading.

THE PRAYERS

The Reverend Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor of St Paul’s, introduces the prayers

Let us pray for God’s mercy and compassion, grace and peace:

God of life and salvation, hear the prayers of your people as we remember in sorrow all those who died on Bondi Beach. As we commemorate the precious gift of their lives, we commend them to your embracing love and mercy. We remember too those people from other nations who have died through acts of violence and terrorism in past years.

God of mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Monsignor Stuart Hall, Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral, prays

God of welcome and love, we thank you that not one of those who fell were forgotten by God. We pray for all those in the Jewish community, whose hearts are broken and who feel in this tragedy the tide of anti-Semitism and racism, with its ripples of rejection, hatred and division. Grant them your love and your comfort, as we work towards a more equal and diverse society.

God of mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Rt Revd Genieve Blackwell, Bishop of the Marmingatha Episcopate, prays

God of all care and compassion, hear our prayer for the families who have been broken through acts of violence and terrorism. Hold them through the pain of grief, surround them with the gentle care they need and give them the strength to continue their lives in hope and peace.

God of mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Revd Canon Robert Vun, Canon of St Paul's Cathedral and Australian Defence Force Chaplain, prays

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for the leaders of the nations; for wisdom and courage in those who stand firm against hate, exclusion, violence and acts of terror; for patience and persistence in all who work to secure personal liberties, justice and peace as we pray, too, for all those throughout the world who suffer in innocence.

God of mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Revd Canon Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, prays

God of mercy and hope, we pray for peoples and communities bleeding still from the unhealed wounds of the past. Deliver them from violence and vengeance; nurture in them the wisdom of respect and mutual understanding, that your people everywhere may grow up free from fear and in fullness of life.

God of mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The Revd Canon Associate Prof. Bob Derrenbacher, Dean of Trinity College Theological School, and Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, concludes the prayers

God of time and eternity,
you travel with us through deep waters
yet never abandon us in the storm:
Renew our confidence, rekindle our hope,
deepen our faith, guide us in truth,
and grant us peace in our day,
now and always. **Amen.**

ENOSH KECHATZIR YAMAV — אֲנוֹשׁ כְּחַצִּיר יָמָיו

sung by Cantor Michel Laloum and the Choir of Temple Beth Israel

Our days are but as grass:
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone:
and its place will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord
endures for ever and ever
toward those that fear him:
and his righteousness
upon their children's children.

Psalm 103.15-18

OSEH SHALOM — עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹמִים

May the One who creates peace on high
bring peace to us and to all Israel.
And we say: Amen.

Please stand for

THE BLESSING

The Most Reverend Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne, prays

Unto God's mercy and protection we commit you:
The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up the face of his countenance upon you
and give you peace, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Numbers 6.24-26

Please stand as the Procession leaves the Cathedral, and be seated for the remainder of

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist
'Nimrod' from *Enigma Variations* – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Thank you for being a part of this solemn act of remembrance and commitment.

You are warmly invited to light your candles from the candles lit by the Governor and Premier which have been taken to two prayer stations in the nave.

Each light is a sign of our hope and commitment to work for light and peace in our cities and suburbs, State and nation, and the whole world.

Want to share this Order of Service?

View a copy online



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