



Dear Friends,

## A Time to Watch, Pray, and Turn Our Hearts

December 2025

These past days have weighed heavily on our city. The violent loss of life in Bondi has shaken many of us—leaving grief, fear, and unanswered questions in its wake. We grieve with the families, we honour the lives lost, and we pray for those who carry wounds seen and unseen. Moments like this confront us with a sobering truth: something is deeply broken in our world.

Scripture tells us that *“the whole creation groans”* (Romans 8:22 NKJV), and at times that groaning becomes impossible to ignore. Violence, confusion, and despair are not merely headlines; they are symptoms of hearts and systems separated from God’s peace. Jesus warned that in the last days lawlessness would increase, and the love of many would grow cold—not to frighten us, but to awaken us (Matthew 24:12).

Yet prophecy is never given to paralyse us with fear. It is given to **call us back to God**.

Even in the darkest moments, the Lord speaks a better word: *“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more”* (Romans 5:20 NIV-UK). The same Scriptures that warn of shaking also declare that God is establishing a Kingdom that **cannot be shaken** (Hebrews 12:26-28).

This tragedy is not a sign that God has abandoned us. It is a call to return—to compassion instead of indifference, to prayer instead of outrage, to light instead of darkness. The Church is being summoned to stand as a living witness of Christ:

**Calm in the storm, courageous in love,  
and anchored in truth.**

Jesus remains the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**—not roaring in rage, but reigning with justice, mercy, and authority. He alone can heal what violence destroys. He alone can restore what fear fractures.

Now is a time to watch our hearts, to pray for our city, and to be carriers of peace in anxious spaces. If you are troubled, weary, or searching for meaning in the midst of all this, know this: God is near to the broken-hearted, and His light still shines in the darkness—and the darkness has not overcome it.

May the Lord comfort those who mourn, steady those who are shaken, and awaken many hearts to the hope found in Jesus Christ.

### Prayer

Lord God,

We come before You with heavy hearts,  
grieved by violence and loss,  
and longing for Your peace.  
Comfort those who mourn,  
heal those who are wounded,  
and surround our city with Your mercy.  
Where fear has entered, release Your perfect peace.  
Where darkness has tried to take ground,  
let Your light rise.

Turn our hearts back to You, O Lord.  
Make us people of compassion, courage,  
and hope—carriers of Your love in a shaken world.

We place our trust in Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace, who reigns now and forever.

Amen.



## A Moment of Quiet Reflection

In the midst of noise, fear, and unanswered questions, we invite you to pause.

*To be still.*

*To breathe.*

*To hold in your heart those who have suffered loss,  
and those who carry hidden wounds.*

We also invite you, if you wish, to light a candle — in remembrance of the lives lost, and in quiet support of the Jewish people, standing against hatred, violence, and fear in all its forms.

Scripture reminds us:

*"The LORD is close to the broken-hearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

(Psalm 34:18 NIV-UK)

Whether your prayer is spoken, silent, or simply a longing for peace, may this moment be one of gentleness and compassion. May light rise where darkness has pressed in, and may our city — and all our communities — be covered with mercy.

*"Be still, and know that I am God."*

(Psalm 46:10 NIV-UK)

## Testimony

A Jewish woman from Randwick, Sydney—Australia (who lives near where the Bondi massacre took place), shared how fear briefly dimmed a light that had long stood as a symbol of faith. After the violent Hanukkah attack at Bondi, her children, frightened for their safety, begged her to turn off the menorah that had shone openly outside their home. Wanting to protect them, she agreed.

The next day, a neighbour noticed the darkness where the light had been and expressed quiet sorrow to the Jewish woman. That moment stirred her heart.

After fear briefly darkened a light in our city, it was relit as an act of faith. In the wake of violence, a family chose courage over retreat, reminding us that light is not meant to be hidden when darkness grows. As followers of Christ, we hear the call: to stand with those who are afraid, to pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, and to refuse fear its victory — for the light of God shines on, and the darkness will not overcome it.

**Fear may silence faith for a moment,  
but light is strongest when darkness  
tries to extinguish it.  
True witness is choosing to shine anyway.**

## Blessing

May the light of God's peace guard our hearts,  
comfort the grieving, and lead us  
in compassion and hope.

## Visit to the Bondi Pavillion Memorial Site



Keeping you in our prayers,  
and encouraging one another  
to let God's light shine in the midst of darkness,

*The Evangelical Sisters of Mary*