



Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Communications/Social Media
4000 St. Joseph's Place NW | Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714
Leslie M. Radigan, Director
Voice: 505.831.8180
lradigan@archdiosf.org | archdiosf.org

STATEMENT

Archbishop John C. Wester on the Massacre at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia

ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, December 15, 2025 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe made the following statement on the massacre at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia:

We in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters as they reel from yet another horrific massacre in Sydney, Australia. The atrocious attack on those beginning to celebrate Hanukkah at Bondi Beach is incomprehensible, shocking, and evil. Our hearts go out to our Jewish communities here in New Mexico and beyond, especially during these days when those of the Jewish faith celebrate the recovery of Jerusalem and the dedication of the Second Temple. This is a time to remember God's presence in His holy temple, a presence that leads to peace and harmony among all people.

We join in prayer with all people of good will, asking that God grant eternal peace to those so senselessly killed in Australia and that those who mourn their loss will be comforted.

May the lighting of the menorah during these eight days dispel the darkness of hatred and violence that has enveloped our world. And may the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reverberate in our hearts on hearing this tragic news: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

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