



Anglican Diocese of
Grafton

15 December 2025

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the shootings at Bondi Beach in Sydney.

Acts like this have no place in any society. They have their beginnings in ignorance, prejudice, arrogance and bigotry – all of which are seen in the rise of fascist groups in Australia and elsewhere - normalised and tolerated by some political leaders. We each have a part to play in confronting prejudice and bigotry, including anti-semitism, wherever we see it.

I have assured Archbishop Kanishka Raffel of our prayers for his people and city. We pray for the Jewish community in Sydney and around the country. I am grateful that the people of Bondi Anglican Church, in the very midst of the crisis, were able to offer refuge and safety to those in immediate danger.

Hopefully this tragedy will inspire us to redouble our efforts to make the Advent message of peace and goodwill a reality in our time. The prayer by The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith (below) cries out to the Lord for a community where all people can live in safety, dignity and peace.

+Murray

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

**We cry out to you, O God,
in shock and grief
in the wake of the violence at Bondi Beach.
Hold in your eternal love the people who were killed.
Surround their families and friends with compassion
in the depths of their sorrow.
Hold in your care the survivors, the injured,
and all who witnessed the attacks.
Guide the authorities responsible for investigating
what happened,
and how to prevent such devastation
from ever happening again.
Have mercy on all who are afraid.
Give courage.
Have mercy on all who are in grief.
Give comfort.
Have mercy on all who are in pain.
Give healing.
Stir up Australians of all faiths and none
to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbours.
Make us builders of a community
where everyone has safety, and dignity, and peace.
Amen.**