



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Archbishop of Adelaide

25th March 2025
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

RE: Archdiocese of Adelaide's response to anti-Semitism

Grace and peace, I hope this note finds you well.

In recent weeks, the resurgence of anti-Semitism expressed in several violent and troubling ways has become increasingly evident around the world.

In a landmark teaching, the Second Vatican Council proclaimed, *"Furthermore, in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone"*.

Here in Adelaide, we are deeply conscious of the suffering endured by the Jewish people in the face of anti-Semitism. The Jewish Holocaust Museum, located alongside St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, stands as a testament to our enduring connection with the Jewish community in Adelaide. Through its exhibits, the museum bears witness to the harrowing experiences of Jewish individuals under Nazi persecution during the Second World War. The pain and lasting impact of the Holocaust must never be forgotten, nor allowed to be repeated.

Since 7th October 2023, this building has been the target of multiple anti-Semitic attacks, including graffiti and threats of violence against the Jewish community, often necessitating heightened security measures.

We pray for victims of the ongoing conflict in Israel and the Palestinian territories. We pray too, for the many families of those who have been killed, kidnapped or displaced. The Catholic community in Adelaide unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism. Hatred and violence have no place in our society.

Australian Jewish people, like all members of our community, have a right to feel safe and respected. Let us advocate for an end to violent anti-Semitic attacks, as well as racist attacks on individuals and institutions of all faiths, beliefs, and those with none.

Here in Adelaide, let us dedicate ourselves to being messengers of peace, symbols of hope, and lights of love in a world longing for healing.

In Domino,

+Patrick O'Regan

Archbishop of Adelaide