



Townsville Ministry Unit



January 2026 Parish News

Dean

**The Very Rev'd
and Venerable
Dr Kenneth Lay
0422 148 952**

Assisting Clergy

**Rev Vic Hall
Rev Christine Readman
Fr Mitchell Porter
Fr Kevin Bourke**

Wardens:

**Owen Stanley
0419656816**

**Leigh Kennedy
0473974282**

Phone 0432 833 451

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Facebook

/townsvillecathedral/

[Instagram@cathedral.tsv](#)

Our Ministry Unit

DIRECT DEBIT

Church Wardens of
St James Cathedral General Account
BSB 034 222
Acc 250713

ANONYMOUS DONATION (ANFIN)

A full brochure & information can be found at

ANFIN – Anglican Church Southern
Queensland (anglicanchurchsq.org.au)



Thanksgiving

If you use either method you may pick up a laminated card from the table on entry to deposit in the offering plate

Services

Sundays:

7.15 am St Marks Belgian Gardens

9 am St James

Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday St James:

8.30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday St James:

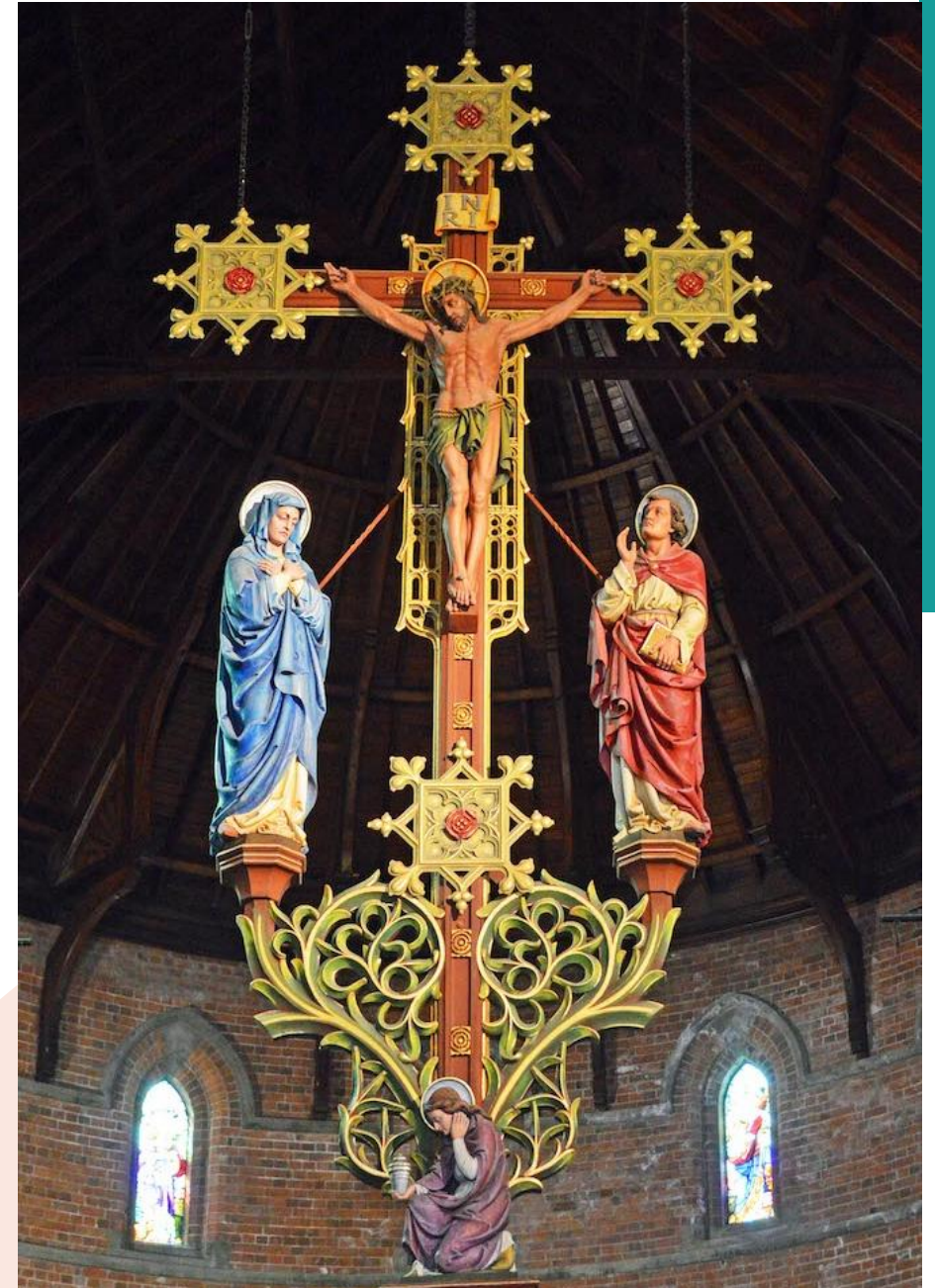
Eucharists 12 noon & 5.30pm

Saturday:

5 pm St Margarets Magnetic Island

St James is open most weekdays

8am-noon (except in Jan)





What's Happening

in January

January, 2026 **The Townsville Ministry Unit**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 THE NAMING OF JESUS 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	2 ELIZA HASSAL 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	3 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
4 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	5 8.30 Morning Prayer	6 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	7 8.30 Morning Prayer 12.00 Ext Comm at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	8 all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers	9 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	10 WILLIAM LAUD 8.30 Morning Prayer 10.00 Baptism at St James 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
11 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	12 8.30 Morning Prayer	13 HILARY OF POITIERS 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	14 SAVA 8.30 Morning Prayer 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	15 all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers	16 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	17 ANTONY OF EGYPT 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
18 2ND SUN AFTER EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James 10.45 Ministry Unit Council Mtg	19 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	20 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	21 AGNES 8.30 Morning Prayer 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	22 VINCENT all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers	23 9.00 Staff Opening Service All Souls St Gabriels	24 COMPANIONS OF ST PAUL 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
25 3RD SUN AFTER EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	26 AUSTRALIA DAY 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	27 JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	28 THOMAS AQUINAS 8.30 Morning Prayer 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	29 all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers	30 CHARLES, KING OF ENG 6.00 Induction at Ingham	31 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's

8.30am January 1st
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Special Eucharist

We will give thanks for the year that was, and commit ourselves to being Christian witnesses in our community for the year ahead.

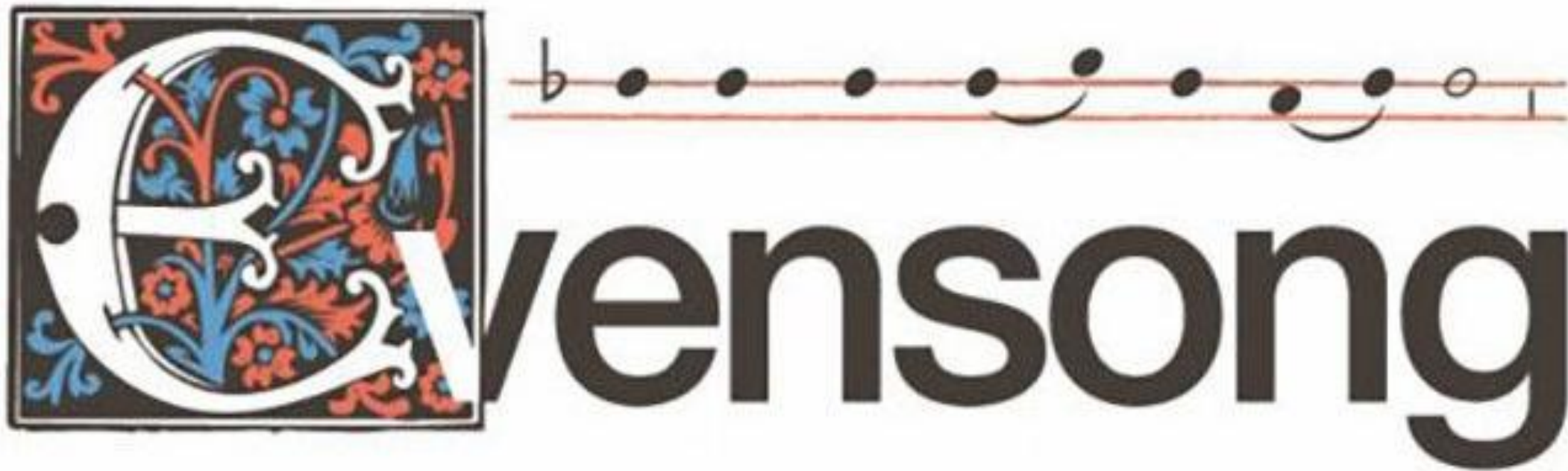
BIBLE STUDY

Will begin again on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18th) with a Lenten Study



**Please Note:
for January, the Cathedral will not be
open weekdays.**

**Morning Prayer will continue as usual,
as will the Wednesday Services
(12 noon & 5.30pm)**



NO Evensong in January



**Bernice
Goon Chew
January 19th**

**WHAT
HAPPENED**

**in
December**

Bishop Keith at the Cathedral School Senior & Middle School Awards Evenings





We welcomed the Rev Mandy Wheatley. She gave a presentation about the Third Order of St Francis

Rev Wheatley recommended the movie, ***Brother Sun, Sister Moon***, a 1972 historical drams based on the life of Saint [Francis of Assisi](#)



Christmas Eve

St James

5pm Eucharist with Children's Talk (building the crib)

9pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

St Margarets, Magnetic Island

5pm A service of Lessons & Carols

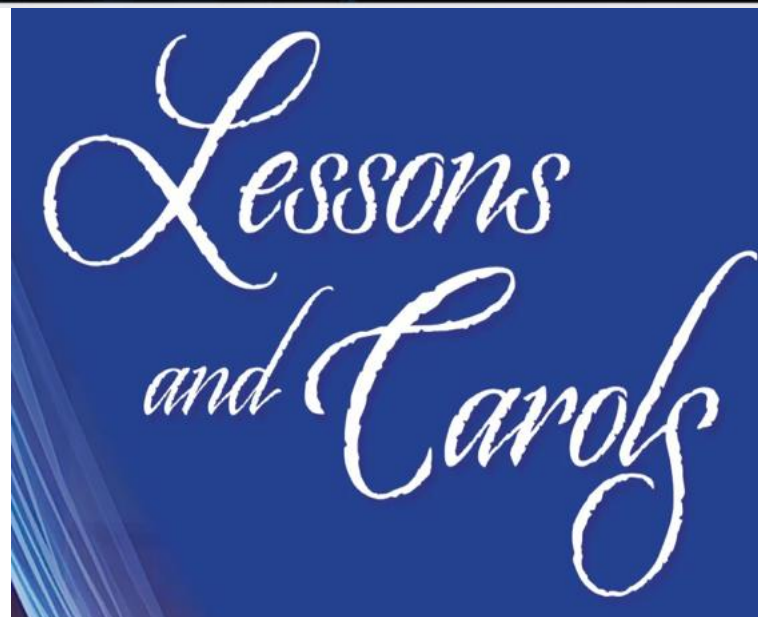
Christmas Day

St James

9am Christmas Eucharist

St Marks, Belgian Gardens

7.15am Christmas Eucharist



We come to you with heavy hearts, grieving the lives lost and the many injured in the appalling and senseless attack at Bondi Beach. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and the entire community shaken by this horrific act of violence





Live Stream Funerals & Memorial Services

Please contact us if you would like to come into
St James Cathedral
for a quiet place to view your loved one's funeral.





MISSION OF THE MONTH

Chappies

Central SS, West SS, South SS

School Chaplaincy is a program that provides **pastoral and practical support** to students. More than 3000 schools across Australia choose to engage a school chaplain as a part of their student wellbeing team.

School chaplains are qualified youth workers who support young people in the schoolyard. They are positive role models who deliver compassionate pastoral and practical support to school communities. They promote social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing through role modelling, mentoring, pastoral care, structured activities and programs leading to social, emotional and spiritual support, wellbeing outcomes, and educational outcomes.

**For more information on School chaplaincy –
SU Australia in QLD (suqld.org.au)**

**Donations can be made
through the envelopes or
direct debit, marked with
the name of Mission
BSB 034 222
Account Number
250713 250713**

You returned

47.69% MORE

than last year.

Pat yourself on the back!



You're in the top 6% of
depot users.

Out of your 31 total returns,

DEPOTS

were your go-to!

This year, you made some
serious change!

You traded

5,618

Bitcoin,

earning

\$561.80

- cha-ching!

The planet thanks you (and so does your
wallet).



I traded

5,618

Bitcoin in 2025 and

ALUMINIUM

topped my returns!



Queensland, together we
returned 1.73b Bitcoin in 2025!



Holy Baptism

Bradley Charles Rasch
Charlie Edwin Solomon
Maggie Violet Solomon

We welcome into God's Family

THIS JANUARY START THE YEAR
WITH AN EMPTY JAR.

EACH WEEK ADD A NOTE WITH
A GOOD THING THAT HAPPENED

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE EMPTY THE
JAR AND THANK GOD FOR ALL
THE BLESSINGS THAT YOU HAVE
RECEIVED FOR 2026





- to all those who, gardened, mopped, swept, dusted, wiped, vacuumed, cooked, served coffee, read, counted, cleaned toilets, welcomed, mowed, and kept the doors open in 2025.



1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

What gifts do you have to share in 2026?



Until January 13th



- Don't waste your points.
- Redeem the glasses for Althea



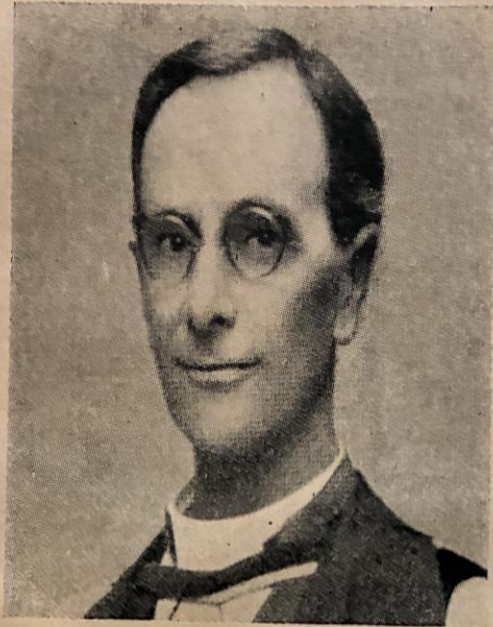
Warrior Chapel Mosaic *portraying our Lord and the twelve Apostles*

- *Memorial to Ethel Mary Green dedicated on 24th August 1980.*

In the central panel are the crests and insignias of Jesus, James and John, Peter and Andrew. These are supported by two further panels, which carry the crests and insignias of the other eight Apostles.

- Ethel Mary Green was born in Charters Towers in 1893 where she spent her early years. She died in Townsville on 4th October 1977. A faithful member of the Cathedral congregation, her abiding interests within the Diocese were the Church Schools, the work of the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent, the Brotherhood of St Barnabas and St James Cathedral. She spent many years of her life involved with the newspaper industry. She and her sister Marjorie checked and proofread the paper due to a lack of manpower during World War II and she was a director of the company for many years.

Miss Ethel Green and Miss Marjorie Green were also editors of "The Northern Churchman" the news sheet of the Diocese of North Queensland. They were appointed to this position by Bp. Wilfred Belcher in 1948.



Dr. J. O. Feetham, Fourth Bishop of N.Q.

Frodsham was followed by one whose episcopate was so long, whose vision so splendid, and whose sanctity so true, that he has become one of the legends of the Australian Church, **John Oliver Feetham.**

Feetham was a graduate of Trinity Hall, who was appointed head of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd in 1907. He was the first Bush Brother Bishop in North Queensland and continued to love the Brothers and help them throughout his episcopate which began with his consecration on S. Mark's Day, 1915, in S. John's Cathedral, Brisbane.

Writing of his call to the north he says "Townsville was not unknown to me, since I had been there in 1910, at Bishop Frodsham's invitation to conduct a Retreat for the clergy, and I had retained many friendly memories of them." Townsville in 1910 had eleven thousand people, in 1913 it had sixteen and in 1928, thirty-one thousand.

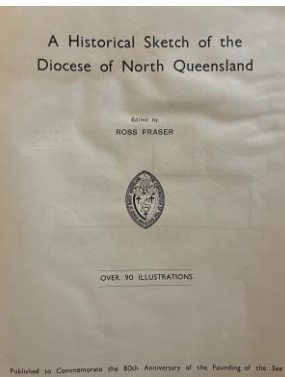
He loved the people of the West and said of them, "I think there is not a finer element to be found in the British race than the people of the Queensland bush." It was for the education of their children that he undertook the tremendous task of establishing four boarding schools and it was through his deep knowledge of the spiritual elements which underlie true education, that he was led to invite the Sisters of the Sacred Advent to come to North Queensland to conduct three of the schools with such outstanding success.

All Souls' School for boys at Charters Towers was his particular delight, and his prize day addresses are still prized by many as original contributions to scholarship and true piety.

During his episcopate a beginning was made in erecting permanent churches which would withstand the cyclone and the white ant. On his arrival only half the Cathedral stood and it was his earnest hope that it might be completed. But during the 20's a new beginning was made. A new church at Mackay costing £15,000, a new church at Cairns costing £10,000, and a smaller brick church at Victoria, costing about £3000 were erected together with the nave of the Church in Bowen.

His greatest work was with people, and in those days Bishop's Lodge became a great meeting place for young men and maidens, Bush Brothers and clergy, a place where there was always a bed and a meal, a good story and a deep spiritual understanding for the wayfarer.

John Oliver Feetham was the first Bishop of North Queensland to die at his post. His ashes are interned beneath the altar of the Cathedral, and an Episcopal Throne and Screen have been erected in the Cathedral in his memory. It is not without significance that he is the first Bishop of the Diocese to have a memorial in the Mother Church.



Excerpts from

Hundreds of Christians in China will likely spend Christmas in jail this year, according to a recent report. Starting on December 13, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mobilized “more than a thousand police officers, SWAT units, anti-riot forces, and firefighters” in the Zhejiang Province’s Yayang Town in Wenzhou City, raiding churches and conducting mass arrests of Christians, ChinaAid reported Friday.

“Belongings of relevant individuals were illegally confiscated, roads leading to the church were completely blocked by police, and Christians in Yayang Town were unable to enter the Yayang church. The operation lasted nearly five days, yet no public statement was issued by officials,” the outlet noted. “Within just the first two days, several hundreds of people were taken away for questioning. On December 16 and 17, at least four more individuals were detained.”

Two local Christians, 58-year-old Lin Enzhao and 54-year-old Lin Enci, were labeled “principal suspects of a criminal organization” by the CCP, with locally-posted wanted posters charging the two with “picking quarrels and provoking trouble,” which ChinaAid noted is a “commonly used charge” by the CCP against religious and political dissidents. Over the past several years, CCP officials in Yayang Town have attempted to forcibly destroy church property, including symbols such as crosses, and install CCP propaganda and imagery, such as the five-star Red Flag and the CCP’s constitution. Enzhao and Enci were key figures in opposing the CCP’s efforts.



Chen Yixin, director of China's Ministry of State Security, is a native of the province and has led efforts to demoralize the Christian community there, including by initiating a program to destroy crosses in 2014 and install the national flag, the Constitution, laws, and socialist core values in Christian spaces and promote the "localization" and "politicization" of religious activities. However, the Christians of Yayang Town have resisted the CCP's efforts for over a decade, hosting rallies and demonstrations and even confronting state police when necessary.

Following the mass arrests this month, the CCP hosted an "Elimination of Six Evils" demonstration, with SWAT officers and riot police deployed en masse "to demonstrate force, intimidate local Christians, and create an atmosphere of fear, framing the earlier law enforcement actions as 'results of the anti-organized crime campaign,'" by which the government means the crackdown on Christians. According to ChinaAid, police have stationed vehicles at the homes of known Christians, "disrupted" communications among Christians in the area, and have even gone "door-to-door" questioning church members and asking them to denounce Enzhao and Enci.

"Government-driven public opinion campaigns are spreading defamatory rumors portraying Christians as 'unpatriotic' or belonging to a 'cult,'" ChinaAid reported. "This approach aligns with China's recent trend of criminalizing certain religious activities. On September 29, China's leader reiterated in a speech the need to 'systematically advance the Sinicization of religion.' Earlier, mass arrests at Beijing Zion Church saw pastors and church members detained on fabricated charges of 'fraud.'"



In comments to The Washington Stand, ChinaAid founder and Senior Fellow for International Religious Liberty at Family Research Council Bob Fu said, “The massive pre-Christmas assault on churches in Wenzhou is a chilling reminder that the Chinese Communist Party fears the light of Christ most when it shines brightest. To raid churches days before Christmas is not only an attack on Christians – it is an assault on human dignity, conscience, and the hope that faith brings to a wounded world.” He continued, “History teaches us that no regime has ever succeeded in extinguishing faith through force. These pre-Christmas attacks will only strengthen the resolve of China’s house churches and further expose the moral bankruptcy of state-sponsored persecution.”

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and other religious liberty watchdogs have repeatedly warned that China’s totalitarian regime is enacting human rights abuses against religious groups within the nation’s border. A USCIRF report late last year detailed mass arrests and the destruction or removal of church property, part of CCP President Xi Jinping’s “sinicization of religion” policy. Religious groups and leaders who do not register with the official government-approved religious organizations are often arrested, imprisoned, and forced into “anti-cult” programs to “de-program” Christians. Earlier this year, USCIRF called on President Donald Trump to designate China as a “country of particular concern” (CPC) due to the CCP’s brutal oppression of Christians and other religious dissidents.

Written by S.A. McCarthy. Published by The Washington Stand

