

Some here in the parish will know the Revd Canon Ken Letts, who returned to Melbourne in 2013. Many may not know that he was, for 20 years, the Rector of Nice, that city rocked by the devastating attack upon people celebrating France's national day on the Promenade des Anglais. In fact, the site of the attack was particularly poignant, as the road was built in the 19th Century by the Revd Lewis Way, the then Anglican chaplain in Nice, who raised the funds to build it to provide work for unemployed locals.

This week, Canon Letts preached at a special service in the Cathedral to remember the victims of that attack and to pray for peace throughout the world, and was among many to express condolences to the French Ambassador in Canberra and the Honorary Consul for France in Melbourne after the Bastille Day attacks in the capital of the French Riviera.

Canon Letts' successor in Nice, the Revd Peter Jackson, told BBC Radio that the French city was stunned by the attack, but that Nice was resilient and would recover. Fr Jackson said one of his church wardens saw the truck crush people who had been watching a fireworks display to mark Bastille Day and that witnessing it had been "highly traumatic" for her. "Other people are just stunned," he said. "If you go to the site where so many people died, it is extraordinary – almost surreally quiet."

Bishop Hamid and Bishop Pierre Whalon, of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, part of the US-based Episcopal Church, released prayers in English and French for people to use in the wake of the attack and a Collect for Peace. One of the prayers says:

God of infinite mercy, we pray for the victims of the Nice attack.
Remember them according to the favour you bear for your people.
Comfort those who mourn and give strength to the injured.
Deliver those whose hearts are hardened by hatred.
Grant to us all your understanding, and your persevering love,
for your mercy's sake. Amen

The parish is to host a public event as part of the upcoming GLOW Festival – the Stonnington Council's Winter Arts Festival. In conjunction with St. George's, Malvern and St. John's, Toorak (who will host their own events), the parish will host an evening focused on *The Art of St. Martin's*, on Friday 19th August, from 6pm until 7.30pm. Following a presentation on our Arundel Print collection and some of our key stained glass, we will provide refreshments, and an opportunity for those who attend to look further at our beautiful church. More details to follow, but please keep the date clear.

May James, Anne, Mary & Martha, William Wilberforce, and all the Saints walk with you this week... *Sam*