

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
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26 April 2019

SYDNEY ARCHBISHOP HOSTS MASS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF EASTER BOMBINGS IN SRI LANKA

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is hosting a Mass of Remembrance on **Friday 26 April at 5:30pm** at St Mary's Cathedral to pray for the victims of the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka.

Hundreds of people were killed after deadly blasts at churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, including many Christians attending Catholic masses and church services on one of Christianity's holiest days.

The St Mary's Cathedral Mass will bring together members of the Sri Lankan Catholic community in Sydney, led by their chaplain, Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, a Sri Lankan community choir and Sri Lanka's Consul General in Sydney, Mr Lal Raj Wickrematunga.

Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator The Hon. Marise Payne, Federal Labor's Deputy Leader, The Hon Tanya Plibersek and the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon John Sidoti will be among those attending the Mass.

A collection will also be taken up during the Mass with all proceeds to be sent directly to the Catholic Archdiocese of Colombo to support families of those killed or injured in the bombings.

Following the Mass, there will be an interfaith candle vigil in the St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt, allowing the different faiths from Sri Lanka to unite in prayer for the victims.

Archbishop Fisher says he hopes the Mass and vigil can offer comfort to those still grieving after the Easter Sunday attacks.

"Our Easter joy has been tempered by sorrow and even anger at the deliberate targeting of Catholics and other Christians as they gathered in prayer", Archbishop Fisher said.

"We will come together on Friday, calling on God's loving care for the families of the victims, the people of Sri Lanka and the Catholic community worldwide during this difficult time".

For those unable to attend the Mass, the ceremony will be live-streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiXjMG5ms48>.

Members of the media wishing to attend the Mass of Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil are asked to contact Michael Kenny on 0438-046-406.

Media attending the event should meet Michael Kenny at the College St entrance to St Mary's Cathedral on Friday 26 April at 5pm.

ENDS

For further information: Michael Kenny Manager Communications & News Media Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney tel: (02) 9390 5348 mobile: 0438 046 406