



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

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Prot: 24284:MMsp\_1102

2 October 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

This morning, I received an email from Brother Jack Curran, a De La Salle Brother and member of the community and lecturer at Bethlehem University. I attach the email for your perusal.

Bethlehem University was an initiative of Pope Paul VI as a Catholic presence in Bethlehem and to educate the young people from the Lands of the Bible. The University gives new life and hope to generations of young people, as the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem has given us all new life and hope. I have visited Bethlehem University many times during the Diocesan pilgrimages and study visits to the Holy Land and enjoyed meeting with the De La Salle Brothers, and the staff and students. Their email highlights the fragile environment within Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon; some of the Lands of the Bible.

The Bishops of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference are inviting all Christians of this land to pray for peace in the Lands of the Bible and in the Middle East.

I would ask that all our communities and people of the Diocese pray for peace. Next Monday, 7th October, it is the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary which was instituted by Pope Pius V.

I have attached a prayer Pope Francis used at the end of his talk in October last year. May I suggest that this prayer becomes a part of a Diocesan novena for peace in all the troubled sites of this world, especially the Middle East and the Ukraine.

A novena would begin on Monday and go for nine days.

We ask that Mary, Queen of Peace, may bring peace to all those living in the Lands of the Bible.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Michael McCarthy  
Bishop of Rockhampton

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**Bishop Michael McCarthy**

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## Missiles at Bethlehem University!!!

From Bethlehem University <BethlehemUniversity@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>

Date Wed 02/10/2024 05:12

To Bishop Rockhampton <bishop@rok.catholic.net.au>



# News Alert

1 October 2024

Dear Michael,

It's happening NOW, unfortunately!

I write to you this evening with a heavy heart and a sense of unease. Just 500 meters from the birthplace of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, where our beloved Bethlehem University is located, we are experiencing a moment of unrest - serious unrest!

Missiles have flown over and around our University, disrupting the peace that usually graces our skies. Thankfully, it seems the missiles were intercepted and exploded in the air, but we are uncertain if any reached the ground.

At this moment, we await further news, as we have been informed there could be another barrage of missiles within minutes.


We are praying fervently for the safety of all. As of now, there are no reports of injuries among our students, faculty, staff, alumni, or their families. The Brothers Community and the Sisters Convent are safe as well, for which we are deeply thankful.

We ask for your prayers - especially for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their friends and families - as we continue to navigate this uncertain situation.



May our good and gracious God bless us all with peace and safety, and guide us toward a future where swords are beaten into plowshares.

With hope and prayers for peace,



Brother Jack Curran, FSC, PhD, KHS  
Vice President for Advancement

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Bethlehem University

Bethlehem, Palestine

Web: [bethlehem.edu](http://bethlehem.edu)



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