

**All seven continents unite in prayer for Myanmar**

Jesuit Mission Australia and the Taizé Community extend heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of people who joined the *Light in the Darkness: Global Prayer Vigil for Myanmar* on Thursday 29 May.

Together, participants from 31 countries around the globe stood in prayerful solidarity with the people of Myanmar, who continue to endure unimaginable suffering caused by war, displacement and natural disaster. Remarkably, the vigil brought together voices from every continent, including a participant joining from Antarctica.

The online vigil was led by Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia, alongside Br Ghislain of the Taizé Community, and featured deeply moving testimonies from those affected by the crisis in Myanmar. Through Taizé music, scripture, and shared prayer, the vigil offered a space of compassion and reflection in the face of immense suffering.

*"This vigil has shown the profound power of united prayer and global solidarity. I am deeply grateful to everyone who joined us—from every corner of the world—to lift up our shared hope, to stand with those who are suffering, and to renew our collective call for peace,"* said Helen Forde.

Participants were deeply moved by personal stories from those on the ground. One testimony recalled a heartbreaking encounter:

*"Last month, I met an 8-year-old girl who had fled conflict with her family, arriving just days before the earthquake. On 28 March, the building collapsed, and her best friend and her friend's parents lost their lives. She doesn't fully understand why. She just knows her friend is no longer there to laugh with, to play with, to dream with. She told us she looks at the night sky and says the three twinkling stars are her friend and her friend's parents. She prays they are in heaven."*

*"Now, in a place far from home, she holds onto one dream: to return to her village. She wants to learn. She wants to play. She wants to live in peace. She is just a child, but her heart carries a prayer for a better world."*

Another speaker described the harsh realities of life in Myanmar:

*"I have seen many people suffering. Homes destroyed by the earthquake. Families crying in the streets. As if the earthquake wasn't enough, the civil war is still ongoing. I saw villages attacked, homes burnt, people running for their lives."*

*"I saw mothers crying because they had no food for their children. Their faces stay with me. Please pray for Myanmar. They need to know they are not alone. The suffering is not over."*

Since the military coup in February 2021, Myanmar has become one of the world's most urgent humanitarian crises, with over 3.5 million people displaced and nearly 20 million in need of emergency aid. Jesuit Mission's partners remain embedded in affected communities, offering vital support and spiritual care.

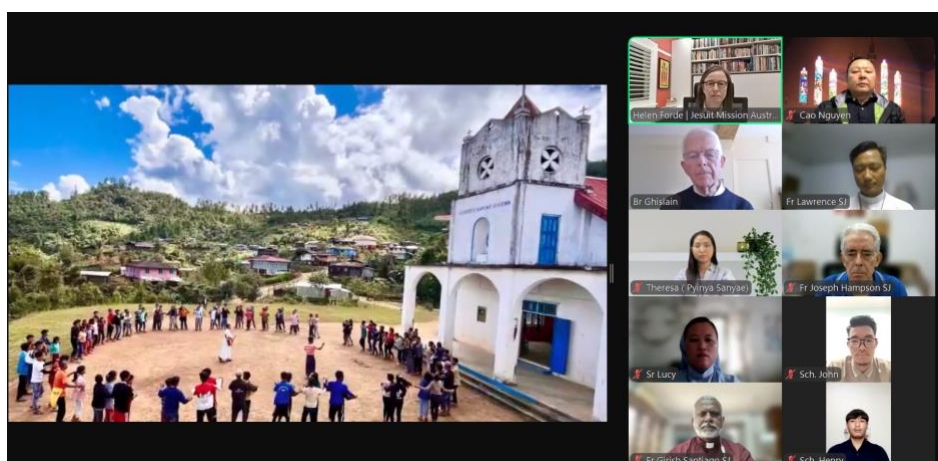
Jesuit Mission Australia and the Taizé Community thank all who joined this vigil for standing in solidarity and for continuing to keep Myanmar in their prayers.

The Prayer Vigil was recorded and is available online at <https://jesuitmission.org.au/prayer-vigil-2025>

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Caption: The Global Prayer Vigil was led by spiritual leaders—priests, nuns, and lay panelists—from across the world.



Caption: A women digs a bomb shelter in Myanmar.



Caption: A monastery hosting internally displaced people, collapses after the earthquake.



Caption: Flood-affected communities in Myanmar receive urgent supplies.

### **Supporting Links:**

Prayer Vigil Recording

<https://jesuitmission.org.au/prayer-vigil-2025>

### **About Jesuit Mission**



Jesuit Mission works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.