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## New book decries antisemitism and calls for a robust Australian Catholic response

Among voices raised on the first anniversary of October 7, a new book by Teresa Pirola offers a distinctive perspective through a Catholic lens.

In a slim volume titled, *October 7. A Response to the 2023 Massacre in Israel and Surging Antisemitism in Australia* (The Story Source, 2024), the author has published 23 of her written reflections, since Hamas' brutal attack on Israeli communities on October 7.

Release of the print edition of the book coincides with 28 October 2024, the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the Declaration of the Second Vatican Council that was a groundbreaking step in furthering interfaith relations.

Said Dr Pirola, 'This book's underlying message is that Catholic leaders are compelled, by their church's history, teachings and six decades of interfaith progress, to teach and model with clarity that antisemitism is the antithesis of the gospel and must be decisively confronted.

'There are many ways that people of faith and goodwill can speak and act, and not be bystanders, as the world's "oldest hatred" makes an alarming resurgence in our time,' she added.

Teresa Pirola, ThD is a freelance writer and faith educator who has been immersed in the work of Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and lay-led initiatives for over 40 years. She has a special interest in Catholic-Jewish relations and is the author of *Catholic-Jewish Relations: Twelve Key Themes for Teaching and Preaching* (Paulist Press, 2023).

Her latest book, *October 7*, includes a foreword by Archbishop Peter Comensoli of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, a city that has been particularly affected by the sharp uptick in antisemitic incidents.

It also carries an endorsement by Ms Jillian Segal AO, our nation's first Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia. She describes Pirola's writings as 'those of a person with moral courage and a true guiding north star — an educator who transcends form to find the substance that makes us all human.'

*October 7* is available in digital file format at the author's [website](#). A print edition can be ordered by contacting [admin@teresapirola.com](mailto:admin@teresapirola.com). In lieu of payment, purchasers are invited to make a [donation](#) to [Rozana](#) Australia, an organisation that builds peace through Israeli and Palestinian healthcare professionals working together for positive outcomes.

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