News 19 November 2026 | English article

# Notre-Dame and Sacré-C?ur Glow Red on Red Wednesday for Persecuted Christians

*A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.*

**KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY**

*"Notre-Dame de Paris and the Sacré-C?Ur Basilica glowed red on the night of Wednesday 18 November 2026, as churches around the world were lit crimson for Red Wednesday"*

*(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)*

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

## The Story - Part One

Notre-Dame de Paris and the Sacré-C?Ur Basilica glowed red on the night of Wednesday 18 November 2026, as churches around the world were lit crimson for Red Wednesday. At least 130 cathedrals and thousands of churches, monuments and public buildings were illuminated to mark Christian persecution, the central day of Red Week, which runs from 15 to 22 November. The red light symbolises the blood of Christian martyrs, and on the night itself it turned some of the most famous skylines on earth into a single, silent protest.

In London, the heart of the evening was a Mass at St George's Cathedral in Southwark, marking the 10th anniversary of Red Wednesday in the United Kingdom. It was celebrated by Fr Firas Lutfi, a Franciscan from Syria, a country where Christians have lived through years of war. There he stood, praying for people who cannot worship freely in the land he came from, while cathedrals from Paris to Sydney burned red for exactly those people.

The scale of the night was extraordinary. In Paris, the Sacré-C?Ur Basilica on Montmartre was illuminated on 18 November itself, and Notre-Dame de Paris will stay lit red until midnight on 22 November. Around 80 sites across France turned red, including the obelisk at the Place de la Concorde, the July Column at the Bastille, and the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris.

More than 250 sites were lit in Spain, around 350 parishes in Austria, more than 200 churches in the Netherlands including all of its cathedrals, and around 200 in Germany.

### Red Wednesday 2026: 130 Cathedrals Lit Red Worldwide

The lights were not only in Europe. Croatia's parliament building in Zagreb was lit red, and the country is hosting a religious-freedom conference on 20 November. The European Parliament in Strasbourg is to be lit red on 23 November.

In the Philippines, Red Wednesday falls on 25 November, with all 87 dioceses taking part. Around 125,000 people were expected to take part overall.

## The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

### PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

## READ THE FULL STORY

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