

## Muslims join Catholics for Fr Hamel's funeral

*French Muslims have attended masses across France in solidarity with Catholics following last week's attack*



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Thousands of people joined the funeral service at Rouen cathedral for murdered 85-year-old priest Fr Jacques Hamel, who was beheaded by two jihadists while celebrating mass in his parish church, La Croix reports.

During his homily at the Mass, Archbishop Dominique Lebrun appealed to all baptized to visit a church during the next fortnight, particularly on the Feast of the Assumption on August 15.

Representatives of various religious confessions, including Protestants, Orthodox, Jews and Muslims all joined the service.

Mohammaed Karabila, president of the Regional Council for the Muslim Faith (CRCM), represented his community,

Total silence reigned throughout the ceremony as Fr Hamel's casket was covered with a white alb and a red stole – "the color of the blood of martyrs" – chosen specifically by Archbishop Lebrun.

Another red stole was placed on the wooden cross near the altar "to show that the death of Fr Jacques was like that of Christ."

Roslyne Hamel, niece of the deceased priest, recalled childhood and youthful memories.

During the Algerian war, when he did his compulsory military service, Fr Hamel refused to be made an officer.

"He would have had to order his men to kill others and he categorically refused," Roslyne Hamel said.

Fr Hamel's assailants, Abdel-Malik Nabil Petitjean and Adel Kermiche, both 19, were shot dead by police. They had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, USA Today says.

On Sunday, Muslims in several French cities attended masses in solidarity with the Christian community, SBS adds.

In Nice, where another jihadist killed 84 people in a truck attack, local imam Otaman Aissaoui led a delegation of Muslims to the Sunday service.

"Being united is a response to the act of horror and barbarism," Aissaoui said.

