Love France

France in Turmoil

A prayer guide for a nation in unrest · 2 November 2026

THE SITUATION

France is now in its seventh week of unrest. What began in late September as lycée protests over teacher shortages, crowded classes and crumbling school buildings has become a nationwide movement against the cost of living, joined by university students, trade unions and the 'yellow vests'.

On 17 October around 550,000 people marched; after dark, rioters looted shops, burned Limoges' historic town hall and broke into churches in Marseille.

Turnout has since fallen, to 320,000 on 31 October. Most marched peacefully, many in Halloween costume, but marches ended in tear gas and clashes in Paris, Lyon, Toulouse and Marseille. A firebomb thrown at a gendarme is being investigated as attempted homicide.

Students say the government's offers, including fuel-price cuts from 1 November, fall short. As schools return, blockades are under way, with more planned for 3 and 5 November, when unions hold a nationwide strike. The minority government also faces a crucial budget vote on 3 November.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for... Leaders

Pray for President Macron, Prime Minister Lecornu and a deeply divided National Assembly as it votes on the budget on 3 November. Ask God to give them wisdom, humility to hear legitimate grievances and courage to seek a just way forward that protects the most vulnerable. 1 Timothy 2:1–2

Pray for... Protection

Pray for police, gendarmes and firefighters facing firebombs and missiles, and for restraint and integrity in their use of force, especially at school blockades. Pray for healing for the injured on every side, including teenagers with life-changing wounds, and for peaceful marches this week. Psalm 121:7–8

Pray for... Young people

Pray for lycéens and students as classes resume amid fresh blockades. May their concerns be heard and acted on, may they be kept safe and turn from those who would exploit their anger, and may they find a hope that does not disappoint, in Jesus. Jeremiah 29:11

Pray for... Restoration

Pray for families stretched by rising prices, and for shopkeepers and towns still counting the cost of the riots. Ask for fair solutions, practical help and neighbours coming together, so streets marked by fear become places of welcome again. Isaiah 61:4

Pray for... Peacemakers

Pray for churches across France as they answer their leaders' calls to prayer: may believers be peacemakers in their streets, serving neighbours, building bridges between divided communities and pointing people to the Prince of Peace. Matthew 5:9

More information

- Third weekend of protests and clashes across France (France 24)
- Blockades and the 5 November nationwide strike (Sortiraparis)
- French Church leaders urge peace among protests (Aleteia)