



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

March 2010

Holy Week Greetings from Jerusalem

City of the Resurrection

Our Orthodox brethren start Holy Week on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, honoring the raising of Lazarus from the dead, preparing for the resurrection of Jesus.

Christians, in all generations, face many challenges. Our current generation is no different than those who have gone before us. We, with you, have great responsibilities and many obstacles. The Christian Church faces struggles here in this land and yet we continue to be full of hope that we are at one and the same time the Church of Calvary and the Church of the Resurrection. Our faith is not in the power of death, but in the power of the sacrificial life of Christ. In Jerusalem, we live in the hope of the resurrection.

We know the power of the resurrection. We know the power of God to bring hope out of despair. We know the power of the gift of eternal life for all who believe. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



*With best wishes for a blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter,
+Suheil Dawani*

Holy Week in Jerusalem

In Jerusalem on Maundy Thursday, one has the opportunity to visit one Footwashing service after another, starting with the Greek Orthodox, then going to the Ethiopian, Coptics, Armenian, Syrian Orthodox, and finally the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr. After the Footwashing service on Maundy Thursday, the Cathedral community processes to the Mt. of Olives to 'stay awake' with Jesus for a time, being present with Him in the old olive trees.

On Maundy Thursday, as the drama of Holy Week unfolds, Jesus shows us a new understanding of what it means to be a king. To be a king means being a slave, a 'doulos', one who is willing to wash the feet of one's guest, even the feet of the one who would betray him, and probably the stranger as well.

At 6am on Good Friday, the Cathedral community gathers with our Lutheran and Presbyterian brethren to pray the Stations of the Cross' in the dawning light. We invite you to use the picture below, from last year's walk, to walk with us in spirit this year.



News from around the Diocese

(Full stories available on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

Welcome to Ruth Sayers



We warmly welcome Ruth Sayers to our staff. Ruth is a CMS volunteer missionary from England, who will provide extra support to the Bishop and the Diocese in Amman. Ruth is the Bishop's Assistant for Communication and Development with particular focus on the UK and Europe, and our ministries in Jordan, as well as assisting the Bishop with his Amman office work.

Ruth comes to us with over five years of experience in this region, having served over three years with the Diocese of Egypt, and most recently for two years as the Communication and Development officer for the Bethlehem Bible College in Bethlehem.

She will be managing two emails: communications.pr@j-diocese.org and bishop.amman@j-diocese.org and invites you to contact her at the first email for general use and the second for issues pertaining to the Bishop's office in Amman.

The Princess Basma Center MESF Medical Meeting and Workshop

Saturday, 20 March 2010 – Bishop Suheil Dawani welcomed over forty representatives from six countries and medical institutions to the MESF Conference in Jerusalem held McInnes Hall of St. George's School and the Cathedral Close. The Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children hosted the event with support from the diocesan Pilgrim Guest House catering services.

MESF, Middle East Stepping Forward, is a non-profit organization encouraging medical research and advancement in the Middle East. The current project focused on Cerebral Palsy is an international effort involving Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Moroccan, and Italian-Egyptian medical centers and the Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation (CPIRF) in the USA.



Dr. Hisham Nasser, Medical Coordinator for the Diocese of Jerusalem, attended the Saturday morning session to show his support and encourage future cooperative endeavors between medical professionals, particularly in Israel and Palestine.

Clergy of the Diocese gather for Conference



From 15 to 17 March, diocesan clergy from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, gathered for a time of worship, prayer and discussion at the Rosary Sisters Convent and Retreat Center near Amman.

Bishop Dawani convened the Conference and celebrated the Eucharist, including the annual blessing of holy oils and renewal of ordination vows. Included among diocesan clergy were the few priests from abroad who serve in the Diocese primarily as pastors to English speaking congregations in Beirut, Amman, Aqaba, and Jerusalem.

Bishop Dawani makes pastoral visit to Shefa Amr



Sunday, 21 March 2010 – Bishop Dawani traveled north to celebrate the Eucharist with the Reverend Fuad Dagher and the congregation of St. Paul's Church in Shefa Amr, located in the northern part of Israel between Haifa and Nazareth. With old buildings and archeological ruins dating back over a thousand years, the city is home to 35,000 Arab Israeli citizens. Christians represent twenty six percent of the total population of which another fifteen percent are Druze and the majority are Muslim. Youth and young adults under the age of thirty represent 60% of the residents.

FOR MORE STORIES AND INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.j-diocese.org



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.