

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*

Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal



Message from CAFOD

We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. CAFOD's local partners in Gaza and southern Israel are now actively responding and providing urgent humanitarian aid to those in need.

We have sent £100,000 to our local partner, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) who are already supporting 10,000 families with cash vouchers. Families are using these to purchase essentials like food and water as well as mattresses and bedding from wholesale suppliers in Gaza.

We have committed £50,000 to our local partner, Culture and Free Thought Association, who are sheltering 300 people in their centres in Gaza and are supporting them with cash assistance, food, water and offering counselling to those dealing with losing their loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods.

We have released £10,000 to our local partner Sadaka Reut, working in southern Israel with local emergency support groups providing psychological support, basic humanitarian assistance and building emotional resilience.

Sadly, staff and volunteers in our partner organisations have already lost their lives and tragically news has just reached us that more local staff in Gaza have been killed. They tell us that your support and your prayers of solidarity for those putting their lives at risk to help during this crisis are needed now more than ever.

You can donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at www.cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030. Alternatively, you can give a donation to Fr Dave in an envelope marked 'CAFOD Holy Land'.



Message from Friends of the Holy Land

As violence rages in the Holy Land, the situation for our Christian family there has gone from very difficult to critical.

Caught in the middle of terrible conflict after a year of pressure, many more families from places like Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and Ramallah are thinking seriously about emigrating. We face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever.

Within a week of the start of the war, we managed to send funds to the Christian Committee in Gaza who are courageously sheltering 1,000 people in the Latin and Orthodox Church compounds. They immediately bought water, tinned food, medicines and other essentials from the scarce supply that was available. As international aid is only trickling in, we will continue to send funds as we can, especially for medicines.

'Friends of the Holy Land' – a non-political charity – is putting the love of Christ into action by reaching out to our Muslim neighbours in dire need. It is registered as a charity in the Holy Land as well as the UK, so it can operate its own bank account with the Bank of Palestine. Consequently, it can send funds directly into Gaza while that branch is still operating.

If you wish to help financially, you can donate online at www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk or by phone 01926 512980. Alternatively, you can give a donation to Fr Dave in an envelope marked 'Friends of the Holy Land'.

Many thanks.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

*“They will hammer their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into sickles.*

*Nation will not lift sword against nation,
no longer will they learn how to make war.”*

Isaiah 2:4

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of
history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen.

Linda Jones / CAFOD



Lord Jesus,
who walked the land you made holy
and blessed those who made peace;
look with compassion
on the people of your land today,
Jew and Muslim and Christian,
Israeli and Palestinian.
May peace come for all with justice,
may war cease and all live in harmony,
and be the children of the one God
who you made known,
now and always.

The Very Rev Andrew Nunn

We lift up those who have died as victims since
the start of this war, and pray for comfort for
their families and loved ones.

We ask God to heal those who have suffered
injury and trauma, both physically and
psychologically.

And we pray for God's holy protection on those
innocents still caught in the crossfire, especially
the staff of Ahli Hospital.

May God bless them as they minister tirelessly to
the wounded who are carried into their wards.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem—and security
for all who live within its lands.

Revd Don Binder, Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

O God, who cares for all,
let the whole of humanity who have one origin
from you,
form one family, without violence, without
absurd wars and with brotherly spirit,
live united in peace and concord for our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son who is God,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit for ever and ever,
Amen.

Cardinal Louis Raphaël Sako

يارب
تعبت نفوسنا وضقت آفاقنا
وتحطمت أحلامنا
لكننا نثق بك دائماً أبداً
نعلم أننا معك وبك سنجتاز الطريق نحو السلام
مهما بدا لنا بأنه مستحيل وبعيد عن التحقيق
إلا أننا نؤمن بأنك أنت من تعطينا السلام
سلام حقيقي عادل وشامل ونهائي
فأسرع يارب ولا تتأخر واستجب لنا

O Lord,
our hearts are weary, our prospects are narrow,
and our dreams are shattered, but we trust in you!
Forever we will put our trust in you.
We believe that only through you and with you can we make our
way towards peace.
Although it may seem impossible and unachievable in our eyes,
yet, we know that you alone can give us true peace:
A Just and final peace for all.
O Lord, do not delay, make haste, and answer our prayers!

www.lpj.org

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem