

April 2026

Dear Friends,

As spring arrives, I am mindful that for countless families across the Holy Land living under the daily realities of conflict, displacement, and uncertainty, this season of repentance, restoration, and renewal can feel painfully distant. Across the Diocese of Jerusalem, the weight of this year has been relentless. Schools struggle to maintain continuity, hospitals and clinics carry heavier patient loads, and households navigate hardship that can feel unending.

Despite these challenging conditions, resilience shines through the generosity of people like you who refuse to step back or look away. Your partnership with the **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)** keeps care and opportunity within reach for thousands of people each year. Because of you, our schools remain open, our hospitals and clinics remain steadfast in their service, and the people who depend on these vital ministries continue to find open doors and helping hands.

With Easter approaching, I reflect on the steady effort that carries the human spirit forward every day. Whether you are moved by the promise of the Resurrection or simply by a deep, human compassion for your neighbor, the truth remains the same: faithful action has the power to shape a future that the headlines cannot reveal. The needs across our Diocese remain profound as economic pressures deepen suffering faced by families already living on the margins. Your commitment to AFEDJ allows us to respond when and where the need is greatest, providing the stability that local leaders count on to sustain their essential work.





This commitment is best seen through the eyes of a young mother named Muna. Last year, after grueling hours trapped at an army checkpoint, she and her husband reached St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus just as their child was entering the world. Muna gave birth in their car only feet from the entrance, where the maternity team arrived instantly to stem life-threatening bleeding. Though the family was unable to pay for the emergency care they received, the staff never hesitated. Muna and her son were eventually discharged in good health, their survival made possible because AFEDJ donors ensure St. Luke's is ready to act when every second is a matter of life or death.

Together, as brothers and sisters in Christ and in humanity, we can uphold the people and institutions that refuse to let despair define the communities they serve. Walking alongside the Diocese and AFEDJ through the spring and beyond strengthens the very foundations of healing and hope in the Holy Land. Your support is the light that brings hope across a landscape that has seen too much shadow, a vital testament that even in a divided world, grace and dignity are realized when we stand as one. I pray that this same light you share with the Holy Land shines back upon your own life and home in all the days ahead.

May God's love be with you,



The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

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