

March 23, 2026

Dear Friend,

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. We are living through a moment of extraordinary trial, where the promise of a peaceful tomorrow is shrouded by the brutal realities of war. Across the Diocese of Jerusalem, we are witnessing a profound crisis that has shaken the very foundations of our communities. Schools struggle to maintain a sense of normalcy, our hospitals are pushed to their absolute limits, and households navigate a daily landscape of fear and shattered security.

Despite these deeply challenging conditions, resilience shines through the generosity of friends 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.** Because of you, our schools remain open, our hospitals remain steadfast in their service, and the people who depend on these vital ministries continue to find open doors and helping hands. In this hour of darkness, your support provides the safety net that our people so desperately need.

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 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 imagine. The needs across our Diocese have intensified as escalating conflict deepens the wounds faced by those already living on the margins. Your commitment to AFEDJ allows us to respond when and where the urgency is greatest, providing the stability our leaders count on to sustain their life-saving 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 hospital's staff never hesitated.





This is the same unwavering resolve our teams show today, as they treat the sick and injured who come to us with nowhere else to turn. Every day, they prove that mercy is a necessity, not a luxury. Muna and her son were eventually discharged in good health, their survival made possible because AFEDJ donors ensure our institutions are 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 illuminating a landscape that has seen too much shadow—a reminder that even in a divided world, no one is truly forgotten. **Your gift to AFEDJ today ensures that even as the darkness deepens, the doors of our hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers remain open and accessible for everyone.**

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

This letter was finalized on March 23. Given how quickly conditions can change across the region, some details may have evolved since it was written. AFEDJ remains in close contact with the Diocese of Jerusalem and will continue to keep you informed as the situation develops.

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