



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

April 2011

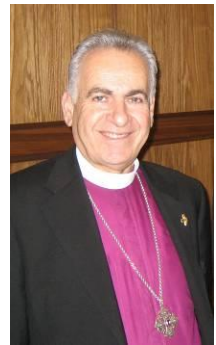
Salaam, Peace to you in the name of the Risen Lord

Easter Greetings from Bishop Dawani

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is always a time to renew our faith and commitment as faithful people. The mission of the Church here in the Holy City of Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land continues to be focused on building bridges of peace and reconciliation rooted in the love of God for all his children.



With the resurrection our faith is renewed to greater commitment to the mission of the Church as both a pastoral presence and as a faithful witness through which God's love may be experienced by all of our neighbors, no matter their religious beliefs. The mission of Christ is to love all people, not to condemn, but to love. The mission of the Church here continues to be a source of God's love shining the light of hope through our parishes, schools, hospitals and clinics.

The source of our celebration is and must always remain in the power of the resurrection faith of Easter morning. This is the day which defeated, once and for all, the power of death and grave to control the lives of faithful people. Our faith is renewed in the shadow of the empty cross. Our commitment finds new courage as we look into the empty tomb. Our hope for the future is strong for it is the love of God in Christ Jesus which fills our hearts.

+ Suheil Dawani

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Women's Workshop, Amman

The opening session of the workshop was a Communion Service in St. Paul's Church headed by Bishop Suhail Dawani and the Rev. Hanna Mansour. On the second day Deacon Iyad Ajji headed the service while Reem El Far gave the sermon on the roles of Martha and Mary. Members of the conference assisted in the readings and prayers. On the second day a visit was paid by the group to the Elderly Home in Ashrafieh where they were met by Canon Faiq Hadad, his wife Dua' and members of the Church's Committee and Ms. Farida Shatara, Director of the centre.



The workshop hosted around 50 women and some clergy between the ages of 25 - 55. Unfortunately, due to the situation in the Middle East our sisters from Lebanon were unable to attend. Members of the committee joined the group from the West Bank, Palestine and Israel. The title of this workshop was 'Training in Leadership' with specific emphasis on communication skills and networking. Susan Barhoum, a member of the committee, led the workshop on Friday morning leading the group discussions which concluded in presentations given by each of the six groups.



Each group chose a different topic on which to present and all presentations proved lively encouraging further discussion afterwards. Topics included: what is my identity as a woman, what is the role of youth in the Church and the challenges they face in contemporary society, what do I need to tell visitors about my Diocese when they come for a visit? How do I represent my Diocese when I travel abroad? All these topics were tackled very professionally and with confidence, sincerity and openness, and all participated in the presentations. In addition to the discussions, Mr. Nabeel Sawala, a Jordanian professional comic led a session on the value of laughter which greatly contributed to the communication skills workshop.

Easter Celebrations in Jordan

From the joy of Palm Sunday to the despair of Holy Week followed by the celebration of our risen Christ, Jordan marked the Easter season with prayer and song.

An Easter Sunday vigil was held at the Schneller Chapel led by the Rev Khaled Freij and Rev Hanna Mansour. The service began in candlelight after a procession to the church. Present were members of the Schneller Chapel and Saviour Church Zarka and it was encouraging to see many young people from the Schneller community present.

Also marked in Jordan was the annual international service at Mount Nebo on Easter Sunday.

The Church of the Redeemer, Amman, marked Easter with a joyous Palm Sunday service. The children brought flowers to a church beautifully decorated with palms. A programme of meditations had been scheduled for Holy Week including the traditional Maundy Service foot washing service which was accompanied by the singing of Mozart's Requiem by the Dozan w Awtar Choir.

St George's College Farewell Reception

This month St George's Cathedral and St George's College bid farewell to the College Dean, Rev Dr Stephen Need, and his wife Jill, as they move to the UK after six years at St George's College to embark on a new adventure together.

The Cathedral and College family marked their departure (at the end of this month) by holding a reception in the Bishop's hall in their honour. Also present were members of the St George's College Executive Committee among them Bishops Keith Slater, Robin Smith, and Allen Bartlett representing the Australia/New Zealand, British, and North American Regional Committees of the College respectively.



Bishop Suheil Dawani thanked Stephen and Jill for their service and dedication to the College and the life of the Cathedral community over the past six years and a short presentation followed.

The reception coincided with a three day meeting of the College Executive Committee which met to discuss the appointment of a new Dean of the College and to discuss other College affairs.

Following the meeting, members of the College Committee took part in a service at the newly re-consecrated St Paul's church joining the Arabic speaking congregation for the regular 11am communion service which will now take place each Wednesday morning presided over by the Rev Canon Hosam Naoum. The Arabic speaking congregation will however continue to worship in St George's Cathedral church for the main Sunday service.

Bishop Keith, Bishop Robin and Bishop Allen joined the Rev Dr Stephen Need and Bishop Suheil in a tour of the church following the service which concluded the College Executive Committee meeting.

Easter Celebrations at St. George's Cathedral



The Cathedral welcomed pilgrims from across the globe at the various services held to mark the events of Holy Week this year. The week began with **Palm Sunday** and the traditional procession, following the blessing of the palms in the Cathedral grounds, to the Cathedral with musical accompaniment by trumpeter Michael Flynn. The sun shone on the faithful gathered.

Maundy Thursday's Holy Eucharist service marked the final supper and Christ's washing of his disciples' feet. Bishop Suheil marked the event by washing the feet of all members of the congregation who came forward. The choir, led by Inna Dodakova, sang the traditional words of Ubi Caritas during the ceremony. The church was then ceremoniously stripped of the cloths and wrappings leaving the altars bare before the congregation and clergy left in darkness to begin a solemn procession to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Those present were led by Canon Bob Edmunds in prayers

and singing as we remembered Christ's visit here with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion two millennia ago.

Good Friday dawned with the annual pilgrimage along the stations of the cross which began at 6am joining the Lutheran German and Arabic congregations culminating in a service at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in the Old City. The procession was followed by the Good Friday vigil which began at noon in the Cathedral with the Veneration of the Cross and the unaccompanied singing of 'Faithful Cross' by the choir. Canon Hosam Naoum also sang a traditional Arabic tune following his sermon to the assembled congregation.



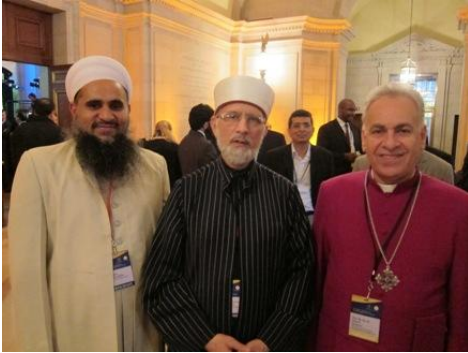
Holy Saturday marks the ancient miracle of the ceremony of the Holy Fire which takes place each year in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the old city of Jerusalem. The Holy Fire was brought back to St George's Cathedral in a symbolic service and was used to light the Easter Vigil candle during the 8pm Easter Vigil service at the Cathedral later in the day.



Resurrection Sunday proved a joyous occasion in the Cathedral continuing the musical tradition of the week with violin and trumpet accompaniment. Bishop Suheil preached on the joyous news of Easter Sunday and the hope and new life which comes with the Easter message. The Cathedral had been beautifully decorated to mark the occasion with flowers and an empty tomb beneath the altar.

The service was followed by a reception to mark the day and a festal lunch which also coincided with the Bishop's own birthday celebrations which also fell on this day.

Bishop Suheil attends the Islamic World Conference in Washington DC



Bishop Suheil Dawani travelled as a guest and panel member of the US Islamic World Forum held this year in Washington DC from 11th – 14th April.

In an effort to build bridges of peace and understanding between the US and Islamic regions, Christian and Muslim leaders from around the world gather annually at the Islamic World Forum. This is the third year that Bishop Suheil has attended.

Whilst in Washington DC Bishop Suheil also met with State Department Officials and Congressional Offices.

Bishop Suheil declares 'Japan Relief Sunday'

Sunday 10th April was declared Japan Relief Sunday across the entire Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. With parishes in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Israel, and Palestine, the Diocese of Jerusalem united to send their Sunday collection to the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Church of Japan.

'We are all one body' Bishop Suheil reminded us all and this time our brothers and sisters in Japan are in dire need of assistance. It was a powerful reminder of our responsibility as members of the worldwide body of Christ.



More stories and information are available at: www.j-diocese.org Email enquiries to: info@j-diocese.org
Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191



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.

Contributors: Canon Bob Edmunds, Leila Diab, Deborah Edmunds, Lydia Patmore, Ruth Sayers.
