

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Province of the Episcopal Church in  
Jerusalem and the Middle East



The Right Reverend Sean Semple

Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of  
Cyprus and the Gulf

5<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Archbishop Hosam, clergy, and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem

Every day now the news out of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran grows more distressing, and it seems that the ominous clouds of a wider conflict are gathering.

As your sister diocese we pray daily for "the peace of Jerusalem"; for an end to the war in Gaza; for the return of hostages and release of those in administrative detention; for justice, political solutions, peace and wellbeing for all.

We pray too for you, our brothers and sisters, bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a situation of immense pain, anger, and complexity. We are reminded of the Psalmist's lament,

Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.  
I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

(Psalm 120.6-7)

In the event that people may need to come to Cyprus or Gulf countries for refuge, please know that we would do all we could to offer welcome, spiritual sanctuary, and support to them.

Yours in prayer, and in the love of Christ

+ Sean Cyprus and the Gulf

**The Rt Revd Sean Semple**

Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf

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