

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal
Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem*



المطران حسام الياس نعوم
رئيس الأساقفة الأنجليكاني في القدس
الأسقف الخامس عشر لمطراينة القدس الأسقفية العربية

19 October, 2023

The Right Reverend Shane Parker
Members of the Diocese of Ottawa Synod

Dear Bishop Shane and Members of the Diocese of Ottawa Synod,

Grace to you and peace in the name of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I send greetings to you from Jerusalem as you gather in your diocesan synod for worship, fellowship, and deliberations over the shape of your Christian mission in the coming year.

As you know, the relationship between our dioceses dates back several decades. In the most recent manifestation of that, we were pleased to have Bishop Shane here with us at St. George's Cathedral this past March. During our Sunday Eucharist, he read the mandate appointing me as an Honorary Canon at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa in the Seat of James the Jerusalemite, the First Bishop of Jerusalem. While I am personally honored to have received this appointment, I'm even more pleased because it further binds together the already close partnership between our companion dioceses.

Although I am sorry that I am unable to reciprocate Bishop Shane's visit this year, I am nevertheless glad to have Dean Richard Sewell of St. George's College represent me before you while I remain in Jerusalem in order to deal with the repercussions of the devastating Gaza War that erupted here nearly two weeks ago.

As I am sure you are aware, the hostilities of this tragic war have resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, mostly of innocent civilians. We are particularly devastated by the attack this past Tuesday night on our Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, where hundreds were killed or severely wounded just as we were concluding our Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace, Reconciliation, and an End to the War.

I trust that you will join with us in praying for all the victims and their families, even as we also lift up those who remain in harm's way, asking the Almighty for his holy protection upon them. We pray especially for an end to the violence, as well as for a renewed movement of all parties towards working together for a just and lasting peace throughout the Land of the Holy One.

Let me conclude by assuring you of our continued prayers for you here in the Diocese of Jerusalem, that the coming year may be a fruitful time of mission and ministry within your churches and institutions. May God bless our partnership in the weeks and months ahead as we continue to face the many difficult challenges that confront us each and every day.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
Primate and President Bishop
The Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East