

Become a Pilgrim of Hope!

URGENT CALL FROM THE CHRISTIANS OF PALESTINE

"Return to the Holy Land as Pilgrims of Hope and show solidarity with the Christian community. Come back! We're waiting for you, and we need you!"

"Come back to Jerusalem and bring joy to the Christian families who wait anxiously for the pilgrims to return!"
"Peace begins with encounter - when we meet each other as human beings, as children of God. This is the vocation of the Church in the land of the Resurrection."

Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, 2025



In the darkness that has covered the Holy Land for the last 18 months, occasional lights of Hope still flicker. One source of light has always been the Christians of Palestine. But as the conflict continues, their presence is growing weaker. Without urgent support, even this source of light may vanish from the land of Christ's birth. Their future is insecure and without them the region will only grow darker as one more voice for peace and reconciliation is lost.

Our brothers and sisters - the Living stones of the Holy Land - call out to the Church for a radical act of love and solidarity. How we respond will shape the future.

In January of this year, before the ceasefire, I visited Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Despite travelling alone through a country in conflict, I felt safe.

It was a life-changing experience.

I didn't realise, however, just how precarious life is for Palestinian Christians, or how desperately they need pilgrims to return. How pilgrimage is an act of love and solidarity as well as a deeply personal experience. The past eighteen months have devastated the Christian community financially - but emotionally, too. Many feel the rest of Christendom has abandoned them.

They've lived in the land for 2,000 years and resisted displacement for 80. Now, many are leaving - never to return. Their loss would be a tragedy for the region and for any hope of a just peace.

As a community they reject violence and work for reconciliation, while recognising that without justice, there can be no peace. Their schools, hospitals and universities serve all, and their very existence challenges those who wish to portray the conflict as one of Islamism vs. the Judeo-Christian West.

They are the Body of Christ in the land of His birth - and we are one Body with them. The Holy Land needs the Christians and the Christians need us.

Please visit the website below and consider joining a Pilgrimage of Hope.

Pilgrimsofhope.co.uk

Let us get up, therefore, and set out as pilgrims of hope because, just as Mary did with Saint Elizabeth, we too can bring news of joy, generate new life and be artisans of brotherhood and peace." - Pope Francis

