

Mission for the month of February Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

It has meant a lot to me that our diocese of Exeter is linked both to Cyprus, where I taught for 10 years and was ordained Deacon at the Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, Nicosia, in 2005, and that both our dioceses are also linked to the diocese of Thika in Kenya, again a country that I spent some time teaching in during 2002. Interestingly, Archbishop Michael, the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, was also the training incumbent for our Vicar Chris. So here are just three extracts of recent news from Cyprus and the Gulf.

There is an Anglican presence in Iraq at St George's Baghdad who welcomed regulars and visitors at a Christmastide Eucharist on 27 December 2020.



Diplomats from the British embassy led by Mr James Downer, Deputy Head of Mission, joined local communicants. Several tribal leaders were also present, and one of the sheikhs delivered a speech praising the role of Christians in Iraq's past and the need for their continued presence now. The state-affiliated television channel Al Iraqiya, which afterwards interviewed Canon Faiz Jerjes, the parish priest, along with Dawlat Abouna, churchwarden, and Sa'ad Hazzim, musician, recorded the service for transmission.

The diocese also has a presence in the war torn country of Yemen, both a church and a hospital which was recently honoured by The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) in Aden, and has honoured Ras Morbat Eye Clinic with a plaque. Dr Nasser Al-Antari said CCSW, a partner of UNHCR, made the award in recognition of Ras Morbat’s humanitarian work and distinguished medical service.

The citation in full reads: CCSW Aden, a partner of UNHCR Aden, offer thanks, appreciation and fellowship to the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic and to all those attached to it for their noble humanitarian efforts and their unlimited contribution in offering distinguished and free medical services to refugees and asylum seekers, on an equal basis and without discrimination.

With our wishes for your constant success.
To which we could add Amen.

At the Cathedral in Nicosia, Cyprus, practical help has also been provided during the pandemic in response to the scripture, *The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:34*

The need

In and around Nicosia, there are high levels of people who are, quite simply, hungry. They include significant numbers of asylum-seekers and other displaced people, who, together with local Cypriots, are struggling with high living costs. The impact of COVID-19 on the local and global economy has further exacerbated their plight.

The response

‘We are here to serve’– Fr. Justin

So regular food parcels have been made up by helpers from the congregation, and distributed to those in need. It is good to see how the Lord’s words from Matthew 24 v 40 have been put into action, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”.

For any more details visit the Diocesan website at www.cypgulf.org or get in contact with me.
Hope you found this news uplifting and will pray for our brothers and sisters both in Cyprus, the Gulf , and in Kenya.

Blessings to all, Revd. Mike Loader Assistant Priest

