Dear Friends,

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. For Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The reality, and the joyous affirmation of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, is at the very heart of the message for this day. The message is of hope, for us here in the Land of the Holy One, and for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We live into the Hope of peace and justice and reconciliation. Not only the reconciliation of peoples and lands but also of the schisms that lay between us and our neighbours, those relationships in families that need healing, our sadness and our sorrows.

This month of March has brought Spring and joy. I have celebrated the Enthronement of our 105th Archbishop of Canterbury with clergy from around the Anglican Communion. I have celebrated confirmations in some of our churches as young people have made their commitment to our Lord. I have celebrated the lives of dear ones who now live among the saints of heaven. Our lives are a continuing celebration as each season passes to another.

We, here in Jerusalem, continue our work of reaching out to others in ways that open new avenues for hope and strength in our daily lives. We give support to our fellow Christians, and as always work to maintain justice, equality and human rights.

I wish you peace and joy as you celebrate this Eastertide.

Peace, Salaam

+ Suheil Dawani
Confirmations in Ranaih

Bishop Suheil celebrated the confirmations of four young adults at Holy Family Church in Ranaih on Sunday March 3, 2013. Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum, Canon John Organ and Fr. Colin Johnston from the Church of Scotland in Tiberius, assisted at the service.

This was a wonderful service with the church filled with family and friends. A lovely reception was held in the parish hall following the service.

A Celebration of the Council of Christian Leaders, Amman, Jordan

Bishop Suheil was in Amman, Jordan on Sunday, March 10th to celebrate the Council of Christian Leaders.

Bishop Suheil and all the Heads of Churches attended a special dinner on this occasion, at which it was an honour and a pleasure to have HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan join the celebrations.

Bishop Suheil attends Theodore Schneller School and Board Meeting

Bishop Suheil was in Amman, Jordan on March 11th, to chair the Board Meeting at Theodore Schneller School. The Bishop paid a field visit to the school and toured the Technical school, the Library, the Carpentry Shop and visited with students while on campus.

Bishop Suheil meets with CCS

On Tuesday, March 12th, Bishop Suheil and his Diocesan Financial Campaign Committee met with Community Counseling Services to discuss Diocesan Financial campaign strategy. Bishop Suheil presented the Diocesan Vision to Erica Campbell and Robert Rice, CCS representatives, and discussed the best approach to be taken to conduct the Financial Campaign. Canon John Organ, Br. Andrew deCarpentier, Ramzi Hallac and Samer Shehadeh were in attendance. Fr. Hanna Mansour was unable to be at this meeting.
A Visit to Gaza

Canon John Organ, Chaplain for Bishop Suheil Dawani, and Deborah Neal, Bishop’s Secretary made a two day visit to Al Ahli Arab Hospital, and St. Philip’s Church, in Gaza, on March 14-15th.

It is of great importance to Bishop Suheil that services are held at least once a month in St. Philip’s. This month, Canon John Organ led services in the chapel and prayed for the Christians who live in the Gaza Strip.

Canon John, on behalf of Bishop Suheil, also met with Dr. Maher Ayyad, Medical Director, Ms. Samira Farah, Assistant Administrator, and Jaleel Khoury who works in the finance department. Deborah Neal, representing the Programs Development Officer, followed up on the continued building of the new Diagnostic Center.

The Diagnostic Center, which is under construction, will bring all the tools for early detection, treatment and follow-up, under one roof. This Diagnostic Center will be one of its kind in Gaza City, and will enable those undergoing treatment for cancer to have medical advice and illness management totally available. Much of the new equipment has arrived and is in use already. It will be moved into the Center upon completion. Al Ahli Arab Hospital is looking to the summer for the opening of the Diagnostic Center.

Bishop dedicates New Porch at St. Paul’s Ashrafieh and visits Elderly Home in Amman

Bishop Suheil went to Amman, Jordan to dedicate the new wooden porch at St. Paul’s, Ashrafieh on Monday, March 18th. Joining the Bishop for the dedication were Archdeacon Luay Haddad, the Revd Fadi Diab, the Rev Canon Faeq Haddad, the Revd Canon Hanna Mansour, the Revd Khalid Freijj and other senior clergy.

The congregation of St. Paul’s gathered to celebrate the dedication of the porch that was donated by the Musharbash family in the memory of their father Abdullah.

The Bishop, accompanied by his clergy, also made a visit to the Home of the Elderly People in Ashrafieh. They met with Mrs. Farideh, Director of the Home, and members of the community. The Bishop led everyone in prayers and joined the community for afternoon tea.
Bishop Suheil greets President Barak Obama

On March 20th, Bishop Suheil was on hand in Tel Aviv for the arrival of the President of the United States, Barak Obama. Standing among the Heads of Churches, Bishop Suheil greeted the President and shook his hand. They chatted for a moment and then the President continued down the receiving line.

President Obama is making his first visit to Israel as President of the United States. President Obama hopes to spend a little time in Bethlehem and the West Bank.

Bishop attends the Enthronement of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury

Bishop Suheil flew to London to attend the Enthronement of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, on March 21st. Bishop Suheil was one of a handful of people asked to place a gift on the altar for the new Archbishop.

Bishop Suheil chose to give a beautiful jewel encrusted Jerusalem cross on a silver chain.

The symbolism of this the five-fold cross is variously given as Christ in the four quarters of the world, Christ and the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the Five Wounds of Christ.

Bishop Suheil gathered with Bishops, clergy and royalty to celebrate this auspicious occasion. The Bishop had dinner with the new Archbishop and will spend time in various meetings to discuss the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One.
Holy Week

Palm Sunday

On March 24th, Bishop Suheil Dawani, the Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, the Very Revd Graham Smith, Dean of St. George’s College and Deacon Saleem Dawani began Palm Sunday celebrations in the St. George’s College court yard. The Bishop blessed the palms and opened the service with special prayers for Palm Sunday. Mrs. Paula Gilbert sang ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem’.

The congregation, led by the clergy, processed to the church singing ‘All Glory, laud and honour’. The morning’s service concluded with coffee in the parish hall.

On Palm Sunday afternoon many of the congregation joined the huge Christian representation on the Palm Sunday walk from Bethpage to the Lion’s Gate at the Old City.

Maundy Thursday

Bishop Suheil presided over the Maundy Chrism Mass held at the Cathedral of St. George in Jerusalem. Clergy from Israel and Palestine joined together to renew their ordination vows and receive the blessed holy oil. A lunch followed in St. George’s Guest House.

In the evening, Bishop Suheil presided over the Maundy Thursday Service of Foot-washing and the Stripping of the Altar. The Very Revd Graham Smith, Dean of St. George’s College, preached at the service.

After the service, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum led the congregation as they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the garden, on the Mount of Olives, reflections were given by the clergy in attendance, and the congregation sang, ‘Were you there when they crucified my Lord?’ Silent meditation followed.

Good Friday

Early Friday morning, Bishop Suheil led the congregation of St. George’s Cathedral on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City of Jerusalem. Joining with the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Bishop Suheil, Bishop Munib, and other local clergy walked the Stations of the Cross, finishing just outside the Holy Sepulcher. Prayers were offered in the Church of the Redeemer at the close of the walk.

At Noon, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum presided over the Good Friday Liturgy at the St. George’s Cathedral. The Bishop’s chaplain, Canon John Organ, The Very Revd Graham Smith, Fr. Bill Broughton and Deacon Saleem Dawani assisted at the service of readings and mediations. St. George’s Boys Choir sang during communion.
Holy Saturday

Bishop Suheil, with The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, The Bishop’s chaplain, Canon John Organ, The Very Revd Graham Smith, The Very Revd Lawrence Hilditch, Fr. Bill Broughton, and Deacons Owen Hoskins and Saleem Dawani, celebrated the Easter Vigil on Saturday Night. Beginning with the Holy Fire in the courtyard of St. George’s Cathedral, Bishop Suheil lit the Baptismal Candle and led the congregation, by candle light, into the darkened church.

The congregation renewed their Baptismal Covenant around the Baptismal Font, a gift from Queen Victoria, and Bishop Suheil Various sprinkled everyone with holy water. Then the bells rang and the lights came on as everyone celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday

Bishop Suheil and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, The Bishop’s chaplain, Canon John Organ, The Very Revd Graham Smith, Fr. Bill Broughton, and Deacons Owen Hoskins and Saleem Dawani, celebrated Easter Sunday at the combined Arab/English Service. With songs of praise and thanksgiving, the large congregation, which included worshippers from around the world, rejoiced in the Good News of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the service, Bishop Suheil received everyone in his reception room for coffee and sweets. Colorful Easter eggs were in abundance for all.

The Lord has Risen! Alleluia! The Lord has Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter Greetings with the Heads of Churches

Bishop Suheil, the Bishop’s Chaplain, Canon John Organ, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, and The Very Revd Graham Smith went to pay Easter Greetings to His Beatitude Msgr. Fuad Twal and other Heads of Churches at the Latin Patriarchate, in the Old City on April 2nd.

Later that morning the Greek Patriarchate, His Beatitude Theophilos III, came to visit Bishop Suheil, to offer Easter greetings and enjoy refreshment, in the Bishop’s residence.

On Wednesday April 3, Bishop Suheil received the Armenian Patriarchate, Patriarch Manoogian and Fr. Goosan in his reception room for coffee and refreshment. His Beatitude came to give Easter greetings to the Anglican clergy. The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, The Very Revd Graham Smith and Canon John Organ, Bishop Suheil’s Chaplain were also in attendance.

The Orthodox Church will celebrate their Holy Week and Easter at the beginning of May.
News from the Arab Episcopal School, Jordan

At AES we had a wonderful Mother's Day celebration with the whole school. We invited the mothers of all our students to come to our school for a presentation as each grade performed something special for their mothers. We had songs, poems, and even some Debka (traditional Arabic dancing). The students also gave their mothers sweet cards and gifts that they had made in class. It was a beautiful celebration!

During March we were also very blessed at AES to be visited by Alexander Blume and his son Maximilian, jazz musicians from Germany. Alexander has spent many years teaching music and performing in Europe. Their visit here was to raise support and awareness for our school by performing concerts throughout Jordan.

Alexander Blume gave a Seminar on how to enhance classroom learning with music, and brought us a brand new keyboard for the school which was donated from a musical instrument supplier in Germany. We are so grateful for the support from our friends throughout the world.

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.