

## Archbishop visits Korea with message of church unity

**The 'living presence of Jesus' sets the direction of the church, said Archbishop Justin**

The Archbishop of Canterbury left Korea after a five-day visit in which he praised the Korean Anglican Church for providing 'a vision of unity'.

Archbishop Justin said he was 'thrilled' to be invited by the Anglican Church of Korea and its primate, the Most Revd Paul Kim.

Arriving in Busan on Wednesday he said: 'I give thanks that the Korean church continues to set before us a vision of unity and reconciliation despite the political and social challenges of this divided peninsula.'

During his stay the Archbishop participated in the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Busan, South Korea, and preached at the Anglican Cathedrals in Busan and Seoul.

Before leaving the peninsula the Archbishop joined an ecumenical pilgrimage to the Imjingak peace park, close to the border with North Korea, where the group of WCC Assembly participants prayed for peace



The Archbishop's time in Korea was the last leg of a 10-day visit to Anglican primates in Hong Kong, Japan and Korea, travelling with his wife, Caroline. Archbishop Justin will be visiting every primate in the Anglican Communion during his first 18 months in office.



*Archbishop Justin with the Most Revd Paul Kim at Seoul Anglican Cathedral, South Korea*

## Archbishop of York visits Egypt

**The Archbishop of York has completed a five-day visit to Egypt during which he preached at services for the 75th anniversary of All Saints Cathedral in Cairo.**

**The Archbishop of  
York Dr John  
Sentamu (third from  
right) during his visit  
to Egypt**

Speaking about his visit, Dr John Sentamu said: "All Saints Cathedral is an amazing place, and the prayers for the 75th anniversary celebrations gave such a great sense of the Holy Spirit moving in the diocese."



The Archbishop has a close connection to the Diocese of Egypt, having made several visits and led fundraising initiatives in support of the region's deaf community.

In 2011, he launched an Advent appeal to support a community centre for deaf children and raise funds for a deaf school.

The launch of the appeal followed a visit to members of the deaf community in 2010 at the invitation of Bishop Mouneer Anis.

The deaf school was also the focus of the Archbishop's 2013 Lent Appeal.

"I am continuing to pray for the people of Egypt," said Dr Sentamu.

"Please help them to build a bigger and better school for the deaf community in Cairo."

He added: "Thank you to everyone who generously gave. £12,333 was raised but £68,000 is still needed to start and then complete the community centre. Any donations will be gratefully received." *Cheques to be made payable to EDA – Charity No 209145 and sent to Bishopthorpe Palace, Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2GE or paid directly to EDA (and*  
[churcdhnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churcdhnewsireland@gmail.com)

*marked 'Deaf Unit') at Acc. No. 00018311, CAF Bank Ltd., Sort Code 40-52-40.*

*Donations are especially helpful if they are made within the Gift Aid scheme as EDA is a registered charity.*

## **Confirmations in Tripoli**

**The Bishop of North Africa, in the Diocese of Egypt, the Rt Revd Bill Musk, recently visited the Church of Christ the King Church in Tripoli, Libya, with his wife Hilary, for a confirmation service. This is his report:**

The clergy team is led by the Revd Vasihar (wife Malini), representative of the significant Indian component of the English-speaking congregation that meets on Friday mornings for worship. Some members travel up to 400 km or more to attend church! Revd Vasihar is assisted by Revd Ayo (wife Rosemary and son Joshua) who especially gives leadership and pastoral care to the large African contingent who make up the bulk of the rest of the English-speaking congregation.

I confirmed fourteen Nigerian men and women whom the Revd Ayo had prepared for confirmation. Revd Samuel (wife Hony) is a retired Egyptian priest who with great enthusiasm and wonderful pastoral care

*The Rt Revd Bill Musk, Bishop of North Africa, talks with confirmation candidates in Libya's Church of Christ the King, Tripoli*



has built the Friday evening Arabic-speaking (nearly all Egyptian) congregation into a large group.

I confirmed sixteen Egyptians, plus handed out Alpha Course certificates to even more – all members of his growing congregation. Revd Gus, from Canada, assists the ministry as a non-stipendiary minister in both English and Arabic.

The clergy team seek to model a pattern of unity-in-diversity which is reflected in the makeup of the church as a whole. These are difficult days in Libya and the church provides a significant place of fellowship, worship, spiritual, emotional and physical sustenance for many people working in the country.

## **Imams and Priests working together to address sectarian problems in Egypt**

**'Together for a Better Egypt: the Imam-Priest Exchange,' is an interfaith initiative co-ordinated by the Diocese. 20 imams and 20 priests are brought together for 4 weekends each year, in order to facilitate mutual understanding and encourage peaceful relationships between Muslims and Christians in Egypt.**

The third meeting (30 September – 2 October) focused on how imams and priests can work together to address sectarian problems in Egypt.

Understanding each other's place of worship. The group spent time in a Catholic Church in Cairo, and during a prayer time at a mosque in Menouf (a city in the Nile Delta). This allowed the participants to understand more about each others traditions and forms of worship.

Practical ways to work together. [Bishop Mouneer](#) hosted a session where participants discussed practical ways to work together. The ideas will be presented at the next meeting of Beit il-Aila (House of the Family), a group which brings together Christian heads of denominations and Muslim leaders in Egypt. Ideas and actions included;

One participant is a Presbyterian priest from Imbaba, a poor area of Cairo which has faced sectarian violence previously. He recently met with the imam from the near-by mosque and they discussed how to stop the disease of violence. They agreed the need to face problems directly, and one area they will work on together is addressing the spirit of fanaticism in schools.





*that gives us water. In the name of the one God, I pray that national unity will keep us from destruction.”*

**Building Bridges.** The group visited the Minister of El-Awqaf, the government ministry responsible for mosques and imam, and Bishop Mouneer, Dr. Mahmoud Azab (consultant of the Grand Imam for interfaith dialogue), Bishop Armaya

One imam shared how the exaggeration of the media increases the sectarian problems.

Another imam shared “we commit a serious mistake when we talk about ‘us’ and ‘them.’ We should always say we.”

Another participants shared how a major problem is ignorance and illiteracy. “People who are open minded and educated have the responsibility to teach uneducated people about tolerance.”

A Coptic priest from Ismalaya shared how he and the local imam visited an Islamic hospital and orphanage together. He said “People in the street were surprised and excited to see them visiting together. People are eager to hear and see hope. It is a matter of example and relationships, doing not just talking.”

**Practically Serving the Community.** The group spent a day in Menouf visiting children at the [Episcopal School](#), special needs children at the [Menara Centre](#), patients at [Harpur Memorial Hospital](#), as well as a Coptic Orthodox church and a mosque. They walked through the streets together, which suprised the residents of this rural area of Egypt. One man was so happy hat he wanted to invite the whole group for a meal! At the school, one imam shred at the group assembly. “*Long live Egypt. Long live Islam and long live Christianity. Long live Egypt free and having national unity. Long live the country where we live together. Long live the Nile*

(the Coptic Bishop responsible for interfaith dialogue) and others shared about the initiative.

**Standing in Solidarity.** 10 priests and imams visited the priest of Al-Adra Coptic Church in Al-Warraq, Cairo. In October, 5 people were shot, including an 8-year-old girl, as they were leaving a wedding at this church. The Coptic priest expressed how deeply he appreciated this visit.

## South Sudan looks to change beyond independence

On 9 July 2011, South Sudan became the world’s newest nation. South Sudan today is estimated to be home to more than 11 million people and is geographically one of the larger countries in Africa.

The prayer and theme of the World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th Assembly is “God of life, lead us to justice and peace”. What does the prayer for justice and peace means for South Sudan today and in the future?

South Sudan became a new nation following a six year timetable leading to a referendum on independence, as set out in

the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The CPA was signed in January 2005 to end more than four decades of civil war in Sudan. The January 2011 referendum was passed with a more than 98 per cent vote for the independence of South Sudan.

The Sudanese churches have been part of the struggle and aspiration for peace and security. The Rev Peter Gai Lual Marrow, general moderator of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, and deputy chairperson of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), is a delegate at the WCC assembly in Busan, Republic of Korea. He shared his views on the role of the church in South Sudan.

“With our moral authority as church, we have been mandated by our Lord Jesus Christ to propagate peace. We must from day to day go and knock on doors and play a role of propagating peace and reconciliation. People must reconcile because there was war.”

“Development comes when there is peace. That is why we are to make sure that peace in its fullness has been achieved,” Marrow said.

Elisama Wani Daniel of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan is South Sudanese and proud to be a citizen of the new country. Daniel reflected on the WCC assembly theme and shared his vision for justice and peace in South Sudan. “I believe true justice is when people have equal access to resources and services. That’s why the issue of good governance is very important. A corruption free country or corruption free society is a human right,” he said.

“We urge the rest of our brothers and sisters in the world to stand with us as we seek to bring about true justice in our society. And I would even suggest that the WCC take on board issues of corruption and governance as these are issues that strain most of our nations,” he added

Daniel said that at the WCC assembly he was inspired by the stories and prayers of the churches in the Republic of Korea for the transformation of their country.

Lona Wilson Lupai is from South Sudan and a WCC staff member. She has been living in Switzerland for the past 19 years. Lona voted in the 2011 referendum and shared the joy she felt at the independence of South Sudan: “My prayer is for peace and justice. But this peace and justice should not only be words, but action, and prayers that all South Sudanese would feel that they are one nation and build a spirit of nationalism.”

South Sudan is rich in natural resources and there is much hope for the peace and prosperity of South Sudan. Still there is also a need to address the humanitarian situation and needs in South Sudan. The WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit visited South Sudan and Sudan in April this year. In a meeting with South Sudan president Salva Kiir Mayardit, Tveit said “The hopes of the WCC are to accompany churches in Sudan working to overcome the impact of the conflict and support their efforts towards lasting peace”.

## Archbishop Justin sends prayers for Typhoon Haiyan survivors

The Archbishop of Canterbury has sent a message of prayer and solidarity to all those affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

‘We are deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of thousands of lives and of the suffering of millions’ caused by the storm, Archbishop Justin Welby said today.

‘Our prayers are with all those who are traumatised by the disaster and in desperate need of food, water, shelter and medical attention.’



injured, the disabled and the elderly.

'As a Church, we will stand beside the people of the Philippines at this devastating time, offering all we can in practical and spiritual support as the scale of the disaster unfolds.

The Archbishop said the Church is praying for those who are 'most vulnerable in this crisis' – children separated from their parents, the sick and injured, the disabled and the elderly – and will 'stand beside the people of the Philippines'.

'My prayer is that governments, agencies, churches and individuals will respond generously to help the people of the Philippines to recover and rebuild their shattered lives,' he added.

'May the victims of this terrible storm know God's comfort and derive strength from their faith.'

*Read the Archbishop's message below:*

'The news of the devastating storm in the Philippines is tragic, and my heart goes out to the people there. We are all deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of thousands of lives and of the suffering of millions as a result of Typhoon Haiyan.

'Our prayers are with all who have lost loved ones and all those who are traumatised by the disaster and in desperate need of food, water, shelter and medical attention. We pray for those who are most vulnerable in this crisis: children separated from their parents, the sick and

'I note that the relief work has already commenced and my prayer is that governments, agencies, churches and individuals will respond generously to help the people of the Philippines to recover and rebuild their shattered lives.

'May the victims of this terrible storm know God's comfort and derive strength from their faith.'

#### *Make a donation*

Donations can be made through a number of organisations, including:

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[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)  
[Anglican Board of Mission](#)  
[Tearfund](#)