

أبروشية الكنيسة الأسقفية / الأنجليكانية بمصر وشمال أفريقيا والقرن الأفريقي

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa



Diocesan Bishop
Area Bishop for North Africa
Area Bishop for the Horn of Africa

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill A. Musk
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand

Diocesan Newsletter

March 2013



The Need for Dialogue

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My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

(John 17:15)

My dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The situation in Cairo is very sad for us as a Christian community. On Friday 6 April 2013, sectarian clashes erupted once again, this time in El Khosus, in the outskirts of Cairo. The story, according to the director of the police, started by a 12-year old Muslim boy drawing graffiti on the wall of an Islamic school. Two Muslim men rebuked him for doing so, and a Christian man also came and rebuked him. This developed into a big argument and fighting between Christians and Muslims in the area. After the Friday prayers in the mosque, a group of Muslims came out and attacked the Coptic Orthodox church in the area. The result of this was the killing of four Christians and one Muslim, and many injured. Many stores were also vandalized and looted. The Grand Imam sent his assistant, together with a Coptic Orthodox bishop, in order to do a reconciliation. However, one hour after things calmed down, the fighting erupted again.

The next day there was a funeral at the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Abassayia the centre of Cairo for the Christians who died. Thousands of Christians attended the funeral. Amidst their mourning and grief they were shouting words against the government and against the Muslim Brotherhood. Because of this, as they exited the Cathedral and the church grounds, they were attacked by other Muslims. The police then interfered throwing teargas. At least one person was killed with over 80 injured. This was the first time in history that the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral was attacked, especially during a time of mourning.

It is worth mentioning that in the last two years, since the beginning of the Revolution of 2011, the number of incidents of sectarian clashes has increased. No one who committed violence or killing has been brought to justice because the government is content to solve the sectarian clashes by reconciliatory meetings. In a statement I made, I urged the government to apply the rule of law as the only way to stop these sectarian clashes. I emphasized the importance of the reconciliatory meetings which we as an Anglican Church are facilitating at several levels. I also emphasized that they are not a substitute to the application of the law. Unfortunately the current government is inexperienced and is not doing enough to include the different political parties in building up Egypt after the Revolution. This contributed to the instability of the Egyptian society, the decrease of tourism, and the bad economic situation.

The Christian community in Egypt right now is mourning and feels challenged in their own country, as some of them have said, “we have been here since the time of the Pharaohs, this is our country! We will not leave whatever happens.” On the other hand, there are many educated young people who are immigrating out of the country and this is the saddest thing for me as one of the leaders of the church in Egypt, because I believe that the Christian presence is very much linked with the Christian witness.

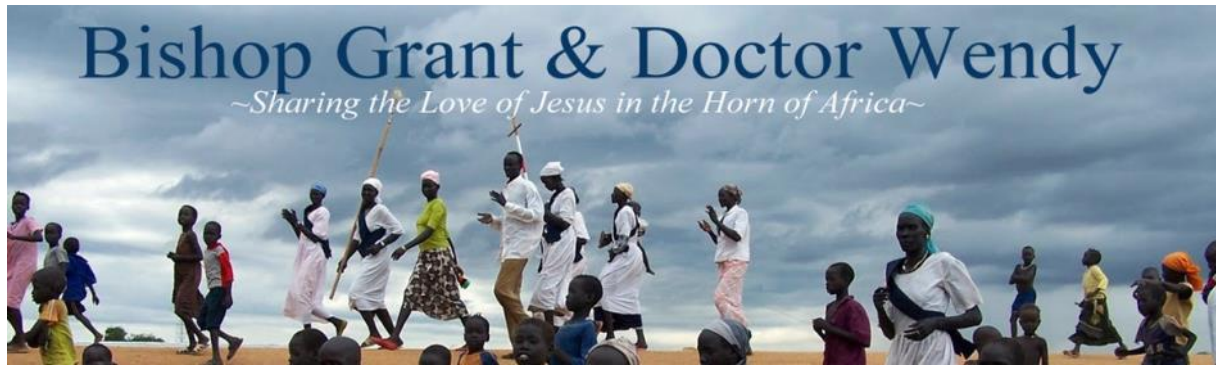
May the Lord bless you!

+ Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis

Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East





News from the Horn of Africa

It was a busy month for Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand. They visited Ethiopia's newest Anglican church: formed by students of Mekele University, northern Ethiopia, wanting to meet and worship together in a common language (English). *"We were struck by the depth of unity in this ethnically diverse group."* They then visited the Serkole Refugee Camp: fellowship, baptisms, confirmations, healing prayer with the Jieng and Mabaan congregations. After that they worked at the Gambella Anglican Centre (GAC): digging begun for the new well for GAC's agricultural area, clearing of agricultural area land, interviewing for GAC's Agricultural Co-ordinator job, meeting with contractor regarding the design for new GAC Church (to host St Barnabas' Anuak congregation as well as area events). They then were in meetings in Addis Ababa with Amhara and Somali believers before celebrating Ash Wednesday at St. Matthew's Church. Afterwards they led a "Life Skills" program training: (Darash Thatha - Education Co-ordinator, GAC): Fifty teachers together with the principals of regional schools received training and materials to begin a new program teaching Grade 6 students about conflict resolution and first aid. Next they visited Pinyadu: meetings with Anuak church council members of Pinyadu town; fellowship with "Pinyadu Old Camp" churches; worship and confirmations at the "Pinyadu New Camp" of twenty thousand new refugees from the Blue Nile / Nuba Mountains region of Sudan. Finally, they led the clergy training days on the Bible (1 Corinthians - pastoral issues); Anglicanism and the 39 articles of faith (text "Essential Truths for Christians" by Bishop John Rogers); Prayer (Knowing God); Stewardship (Budget).



1) Many Gambella region families do not have enough land or water for farming. Each family's tiny plot of land is surrounded by a (none-to-secure) 'security wall'. A 'Living wall' would transform these 'security walls' into vertical gardens which could grow the vegetables and fruit vines so desperately needed for nutrition. The water used for the top levels of the garden would be funnelled down and used for the lower levels as well. We are hoping to build a "living wall" demonstration vertical garden at GAC for use of our staff and church community members.

2) The Mother's union members of our 73 churches in the Gambella region are asking for further training. Already involved in leading literacy circles, church activities, fellowship groups and home visitation (for illness, bereavement, prayer, outreach and practical care for those who are shut-in or in some way incapacitated), they are ideally situated to provide one-on-one teaching as well as small group participatory learning activities for the women of their communities. They want to teach bible, prayer and practical skills (such as simple methods of water purification, disease prevention, nutrition, and child care), as well as income-generating skills (such as sewing, weaving, and handicrafts) Please pray for the development and implementation of this program.



Update on Church Building



In 2012, the rainy season caused flooding throughout the region of Gambella. These floods destroyed about a quarter of the 70 Anglican Churches in Gambella. This was disheartening to church leaders and congregations in this impoverished region, where the church building is a central part of the community. Although each congregation contributed funds and/or labour to rebuild the churches, most needed external funds to support them in this task.



In addition, most of the churches have thatch roofs, which need to be regularly replaced because of termites. Other churches were falling down, and needed to be completely re-built.

Many churches in Gambella meet under trees as they don't have a church building. In the period between Area Bishops, the number of churches grew from 53 to 70, as new churches were planted. During the rainy season, meeting under a tree is difficult, and these new congregations would like their own church building.



After the 2012 floods, the government provided new sites on higher ground for the churches which were destroyed to be rebuilt. All of these churches have mud walls as concrete is very expensive. Most have tin roofs which are more durable than thatched roofs. Each church has a cement and stone border around the bottom of the building to strengthen the walls.



Since then, the following churches have been rebuilt or are in progress: Niningyang Mission Centre, Pilwal Mission Centre, Lare Mission Centre, Itang Mission Centre, Dimma Mission Centre, Illea Church, Bonga Church, New Pinyadu Mission Centre (in Pinyadu Refugee Camp), Tiergol Mission Centre, Abol Church and Gedu Church.



Many other churches are still in need of rebuilding or repairing. For example the Mabaan and Dinka speaking churches at Sherhole Refugee Camp are being expanded to hold more people. St. Peter's Church in Matar is falling over and needs rebuilding. Many congregations which meet under trees need their own building. All of these churches are working to use their own resources to build or repair these churches, as well as asking for external support.



Visiting the UK

In March 2013, Bishop Mouneer visited the UK for the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby (see page 6). Using that opportunity to be in the UK, Bishop Mouneer spent several days with The Rev. Canon Huw Thomas, the Chairman of the Egypt Diocesan Association ([EDA](#)). It was a wonderful time to share about the situation in Egypt and indeed throughout the Middle East, as well as to find new ways for churches and organizations in the UK to partner with churches and ministries here in the Diocese. Thank you EDA!



On the 17th of March, Bishop Mouneer confirmed several young people at Lancaster Priory as there is no Diocesan Bishop in Blackburn (*the Archbishop of York, who is the Patron of EDA, granted the necessary permission*). Bishop Mouneer also participated at services and events at Carlisle Cathedral and Blackburn Cathedral, speaking about the current crisis in the Middle East. For Bishop Mouneer, the immigration of young people, especially Christian young people, is one of the greatest challenges facing the Middle East at this time.



As part of his visit, Bishop Mouneer visited both Christian and Muslim communities in Blackburn, and spoke with the local imam at the Muslim Seminary. Bishop Mouneer also participated in a Habitat for Humanity project, and upon his return to Egypt said, *"I just returned from a visit to the UK where I visited a place called Darwin in Blackburn county. During my visit I was invite to see and share in the Habitat for Humanity Project there. Habitat for Humanity is doing a great job for the low income people in the UK."*

Thank you to all of those who made the visit a success and who are praying for our Diocese





The Archbishop of Canterbury

In March 2013, Bishop Mouneer Anis visited the UK and said, *"It was a great joy and privilege to represent The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East at the Enthronement of Archbishop Justin Welby as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. All the Primates arrived the day before the Enthronement and on the day of the Enthronement we took part in the procession. The service was a lovely and there were many moving moments for me:"*

When there was a dialogue between one of the members of the Cathedral congregation and the Archbishop of Canterbury at the door saying: "We greet you in the Name of Christ. Who are you and why do you request entry?" *"I am Justin, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in His service together."* "Why have you been sent to us?" *"I am sent as Archbishop to serve you, to proclaim the love of Christ and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul, mind and strength."* "How do you come among us and with what confidence?" *"I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in weakness and fear and in much trembling."* Another moment was when the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, presented the manuscripts of the Canterbury Gospel which were brought by St. Augustine. Archbishop Justin bowed and kissed them. I also appreciated that Archbishop Justin signed the "Ecumenical Covenant" in the service and led the Nicene Creed, the creed of the undivided church, himself.

The next day all of the Primates met with Archbishop Justin, and then individual groups met with him, including the Global South. Bishop Mouneer was very encouraged by the visit and said, *"The Archbishop is very committed to reconciliation within the Communion. He appointed a Canon for Reconciliation, and he decided to visit every Primate in his hometown to build friendship and to understand the situation and the challenges. His first overseas visit will be to our Province (visiting Egypt and Jerusalem) in June 2013."* Let us commit ourselves to praying for the Archbishop of Canterbury.





Medical Outreach

In 2012, Harpur Memorial Hospitals conducted **17 medical outreaches**: 8 of these outreaches took place in villages around the Governate of Menoufia and 9 were in poor areas of Cairo (Old Cairo, Moasasist el-Zakat, Ain Shams, Tawabak, and Ezbet el-Nakhl). In total, **1,285 people were examined through medical outreaches in 2012.**



Already in the first three months of 2013, the medical outreach has reached **1,070 people!** Praise God! Recently Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf signed an agreement with Masr il-Khayr, an Islamic charity chaired by the Grand Mufti of Egypt, to work together for medical outreaches. Each Monday, a group of doctors do a medical outreach in a village with the support of Masr il-Khair. Before doing an outreach at a new place, staff from the hospital visit the location to discuss the venue and facilities for the outreach. They ensure that the community leaders (usually from the local mosque or church) prepare the venue adequately, and ensure that the venue will be ready so that the doctors can start examining patients as soon as they arrive.



In the village of New Kafr-Daoud, the outreach was held inside a mosque. The time scheduled for the clinics coincided with the prayer time of the mosque. The doctors asked the imam of the mosque *"shall we come another time?"* The imam replied *"No, please come at this time as you are providing a valuable service to us. People will be able pray at another mosque."*



Many of the outreaches are held in villages which have little or no medical services. Many of the children suffer from preventable illnesses such as infections, parasites, dysentery, scabies and fungal infections. One boy who came with his mother had tonsillitis. He was in pain, and had experienced a high fever for the past 7 days. Although was easy for the doctors to diagnose and prescribe treatment, the mother hadn't sought any medical help before as she didn't have enough money and the village was far from a hospital. The boy was provided with medicine for free and referred to Harpur Memorial Hospitals in Menouf or Sadat City.



The medical outreaches help to build bridges between Muslims and Christians. One of the outreaches was held in a village where there is no church and no Christians. One girl came up to the doctor, and asked *"Are you a Christian?"* as she was surprised they would come to her village and provide medical care.



Imam-Priest Exchange

(1 of 2)

"It was the first time in my life to sit next to a priest," the imam admitted. "I always used to avoid priests and would walk a different way in the street." After the exchange he said "Every time I saw a priest I used to turn away. Now you forced me to eat, share accommodation, travel, and talk with priests, and I love it!"

From 4-6 March 2013, 20 imams and 20 priests participated in an exchange. The priests and imams were welcomed by the Grand Imam in his office at Al-Azhar and Dr. Zagzoog, the previous minister of El-Qaf (the government ministry for mosques and imams). The group was then hosted by Bishop Armaya, the Coptic Orthodox bishop responsible for interfaith dialogue, and they visited the library and Orthodox Cultural Centre. In the evening, Bishop Yohanna Kolta, Metropolitan Bishop in Catholic Church, and Dr. Mahmoud Azab shared on the topic of how people from different religions can live together.

The next day Sheikh Salim abd-Elgeliel spoke about accepting others who are different from ourselves, building peaceful relationships, and how to develop a culture of accepting others. The group visited the Museum of Islamic Art, and then shared a meal at Al Azhar Park. The group then returned to hotel and attended a workshop hosted by Dr. Mamdouh Hadeed on the topic of accepting the 'other.' The participants were divided into teams, and did problem solving and team activities.

On the final day, the imams and priests were received by the Grand Imam in his office. Many channels broadcasted footage and it was mentioned in newspapers. Bishop Mouneer Anis addressed them, and then the participants visited with Pope Tawadrous II at the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral. The Pope asked each participant two questions:

- (1) What was your attitude before this event?,
- (2) And what is your attitude now?





Imam-Priest Exchange

(2 of 2)

The imams and priests were at first reluctant to talk and interact. In the meetings, every priest and imam alternated in the seating, and there was a lot of informal time interacting on the bus, at the hotel and over meals. They broke the wall of fear and came together in a real way. It was not a traditional inter-faith meeting like we see on TV. It was a real opportunity for priests and imams, who usually live very separate lives, to live together and build relationships.

By the end, it was noticeable that imams and priests were interacting together. On the day of departure, Bishop Mouneer noticed that some of the priests and imams had tears in their eyes when they said goodbye, as they had formed meaningful friendships.

During on the sessions, one of the imam's said "*Christians should not be able to evangelise.*" A Muslim leader then said to the imam "*if you want to make religious restrictions, then you should turn off the loud speaker of your mosque.*" The imam stopped arguing.

The same Muslim leader shared that after the exchange he was speaking at a mosque in 6 of October City and a Christian man came and shook my hand, saying "*thank you for your speech. It was the first time not be insulted over the loudspeaker of the mosque.*"

One priest and one of the imams returned together to Alexandria on a micro-bus, dressed in their religious clothes. After the priest got off, many people in the micro-bus argued with the imam, asking him why he was sitting next and talking to a priest. The imam had the opportunity to share with the people and break further barriers.





St. Saviour's in Guildford, UK

The link between the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa and St. Saviour's Church in the Diocese of Guildford in UK, goes back something like 15 years and includes people like Canon Andrew Wheeler, Ruth Sayers, Helen Fraser, and Clare Shokralla. At its heart have always been friendship, relationship and a desire to know and support each other better.

Over the years St. Saviour's has offered support to a number of key projects in the Diocese of Egypt. *"We may not have been the largest supporters but the gifts have come with love and prayer and a real interest in the development of the project. At a point when we were developing our own church building, a tithe of money raised was set aside towards the re-building of St. Mark's Church in Menouf. We have also been strongly committed, from the beginning, to the development of the Alexandria School of Theology. We have focused our giving on student support. More recently we have been greatly moved by the vision of the "I am not alone" project for young women in Old Cairo and Ain Shams and hope that we can encourage that in the future. Our association and partnership with the Diocese of Egypt has been of great importance to St Saviour's. We feel that it has been genuinely a two-way, truly mutual partnership. We have learned greatly from it, not only about Egypt and the Egyptian Church, but of what it means to participate in the world-wide Body of Christ.*

The Diocese supports the concept of linking churches abroad to churches or projects here through prayer, visits and other forms of support. For more information on how to partner with us, please contact The Egypt Diocesan Association (EDA) in the UK [here](#), or The Friends of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt (FADE) in the USA [here](#) or our Diocesan Partnership Office [here](#).



St. John the Baptist Church in Maadi

On 14 March, St. John the Baptist Church in Maadi held their spring *Abraham Forum* which has the primary goal of facilitating better understanding and contributing towards peaceful co-existence. The speaker was *Ashraf Khalil*, one of Egypt's most internationally respected journalists. On 22 March, after a two-year hiatus due to the revolution, hosted its *Spirit of Giving Charity Dinner & Auction* to raise funds for charities that assist the poor and needy in Egypt. Stay tuned for the *CARAVAN Festival of the Arts* from 9-16 May 2013 which will focus on visual art, literature, film and music.



Alpha Marriage Course

The Alpha Marriage Conference, hosted by the Diocese, was a great success due to Mr. Shady Anis, Regional Director for Alpha in the Middle East, the exceptional speakers (Nicky and Sila Lee, the founders of the Alpha Marriage Course), and the many participants eager to focus on marriage and relationships.

In attendance were the spokesman for the Catholic Church in Egypt, Father Rafic, Bishop Mounseer of the Anglican Church, Father Bishoy of the Coptic Orthodox Church and Father Mikhal of the Coptic Catholic Church. Guests included a Slovakian team travelling from Jordan where they run the Courses and a couple from the Maronite Church Council in Lebanon who plan to start the courses there later this year.

For more information please contact [Alpha Egypt](#)



Visitors to the Diocese

- Ms Katja Dorothea Buck of the Lutheran Church, Germany
- Christa Lund Herum, Denmark
- Mr. Ayman and Mrs. Carla of the World Council of Churches
- Rev. Nicky & Sila Lee, Alpha International, UK
- Dr. Chris Taylor, Drew University, USA
- Dr. Michael Glerrup, The Centre for Early African Christianity, USA
- Mr. Guirgis Salah, Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches
- Mr. Elijah Zarwan, the Carter Center, USA

Prayer Requests

- The English Speaking Congregation at **St. John the Baptist Church in Maadi** is looking for a new Priest after the departure of Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler in June 2013. Please pray for Canon Paul-Gordon as they leave Egypt after 10 years and as St. John the Baptist Church looks for a new Priest. If you would like more information, please contact [The Rev. Drew Schmotzer](#), Chaplain to Bishop Mouneer. Applications are due by 15 April 2013.
- The English Speaking Congregation at **All Saints Cathedral in Cairo** is looking for a new Priest after the departure of Rev. Mike Parker in June 2013. Please pray for Rev. Mike & Helen as they leave Egypt after 5 years for MECO and as the Cathedral looks for a new Priest. If you would like more information, please contact [Mrs. Deena Boutros](#), PA to Bishop Mouneer. Applications are due by 1 May 2013.
- The Arabic Speaking Congregation at **Jesus Light of the World Church in Old Cairo** is looking for a new Priest after the departure of Canon Medhat Sabry in February 2013. Please pray for Canon Medhat as he now serves at St. John's in Casablanca, Morocco and as Jesus Light of the World Church transitions. Please pray for Canon Gabriel Yanni and Rev. Farag Hanna who have stepped in and are the interims.
- Please pray for **Bishop Bill & Hilary Musk** as they lead the work in North Africa and are raising support for the Legacy Project at St. George's in Tunis. We praise the Lord for this wonderful ministry and vision, and we pray that the seeds sown will bear much fruit in the days, weeks, months and years to come.
- Please pray for **Bishop Grant & Dr. Wendy LeMarquand** as they travel in the USA, Canada, Egypt and UK in the next month, raising awareness and support for the work in the Horn of Africa. We thank God for their witness and their dedication. May the Lord bless them and allow them to reap a wonderful harvest.
- Please pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, **Justin Welby**; for the new Catholic Pope, **Justin**; for the new Coptic Catholic Patriarch of Alexandria, **Sidrak Ibrahim**; and for unity of the church throughout the world. We thank God for the unity at the Good Friday service at the Armenian Catholic Church in Cairo where Bishop Mouneer, the Papal Nuncio and the Armenian Catholic Bishop all worshiped together and gave messages to the faithful.

Important Upcoming Events in the Diocese

APRIL

- Ecumenical Lunch (1 April)
- Bishop Mouneer to the USA (2-16 April)
- New Wineskins Missions Conference, Ridgecrest, NC (2-7 April)
- Lay Minister's Conference (5-6 April)
- Bishop's visit to Ain Shams (19 April)
- Interfaith Dialogue Conference in Doha, Qatar (23-25 April)
- St. Mark's Day, The Patron Saint of Egypt (25 April)
- Eastern Palm Sunday (28 April)
- Easter at El Kanater Prison (30 April)

MAY

- Clergy Chapter Meeting (1 May)
- Good Friday (3 May)
- Holy Saturday (4 May) televised services at All Saints Cathedral
- Eastern Easter (5 May)
- Bishop's Visit to Menouf (9-10 May)
- Diocesan Synod (20-24 May)
- The 2nd Imam-Priest Exchange (27-29 May)
- Bishop's Visit to Alexandria (30 May-2 June)

Contact Details

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis

Bishop of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East
Chairman of the Global South
Email: bishopmouneer@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill A. Musk

Area Bishop for North Africa
Email: billamusk@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand

Area Bishop for the Horn of Africa
Email: bishopgrant777@gmail.com

Websites

The Diocese of Egypt:

www.dioceseofegypt.org/english

The Egypt Diocesan Association in the UK:

www.eda-egypt.org.uk

The Friends of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt in the USA:

www.friendsanglicandioceseegypt.org

Please send us your news! Contact the [Diocesan Editors](#).

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, a diocese within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East in the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over eight countries including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti. There are over 100 congregations throughout the Diocese, with All Saints Cathedral, Cairo being the spiritual centre. The Diocese supports over 30 institutions which include hospitals, clinics, nurseries, schools, a theological seminary, micro-enterprise ventures, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for refugees, the deaf and the disabled. The five goals of the Diocese are: 1) to reach the unreached with the Gospel of Christ, 2) to grow Christ's church by making disciples and equipping leaders, 3) to serve our neighbours in Christ's name, 4) to work for unity among all Christians, and 5) to dialogue with other faith communities.

The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

5 Michel Lutfallah Street, PO Box 87, Zamalek 11211, Cairo, EGYPT

Tel: +20 2 27380821/3/9

Fax: +20 2 27358941

[The Diocese of Egypt](http://www.dioceseofegypt.org)

www.dioceseofegypt.org