



Scripture

“Yahweh says this: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly: it is Rachel weeping for her children.” Jeremiah 31:15 from the New Jerusalem Bible

For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” Matthew 12: 50 from the Poverty and Justice Bible: Catholic Edition

Catechism

Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce and perfect the unity that Christ wills for her.”
Catechism of the Catholic Church #820

Comment

The plight of Christians in the Holy Land has been getting steadily worse over the past years due to a combination of factors: regional instability; Islamic fundamentalism; Jewish extremism, the significant drop in tourists worried about security and now the limitations of travel due to Coronavirus COVID-19. Christians throughout the Holy Land are in desperate need of economic, financial, social, legal, educational and spiritual support lest, in the words of this month's organisation, “the Holy places of the Bible, the birthplace of Christianity, could become cultural museums with no Christian presence at all” (taken from the Friends of the Holy Land website).

Organisation of the month

Friends of the Holy Land is an ecumenical and non-political group of Christians seeking to support and give hope to vulnerable Christians in the land of Christ's birth. It is a registered charity in England and Wales. It seeks to strengthen the Christian communities in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank, in Israel and in Jordan. It achieves this primarily by helping to raise awareness of the Christian communities in the Holy Land, the problems they face and the causes of these problems; through prayer; by fundraising; by pilgrimage to meet and support local Christians in person.

Pray, Think, Act

Pray: that as the season of Christmas approaches when we celebrate the Incarnation in a humble abode in Bethlehem, all Christians may support their sisters and brothers in the Faith in the places where Our Redeemer Himself trod.

Think: look back at the “Comment” section above and see which of the challenges facing Christians would be the hardest to overcome. Why have you come to this conclusion? What could the solution(s) be?

Act: Visit www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk for more information about how you can make a difference to Christians in the Holy Land.

“Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do.” St John Bosco, Letter to Cagliari, November 13, 1875