

Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Province of the Episcopal Church in
Jerusalem and the Middle East



The Right Reverend Sean Semple

Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of
Cyprus and the Gulf

16 February 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Grace and peace to you in this holy season of Lent.

As we journey through these forty days of prayer, repentance and renewal, I invite you to reflect on the theme of healing in the Gospels.

Jesus is recorded as performing between 30 and 40 specific miracles of healing, while also healing “many people” on 17 occasions. Throughout its existence, the Christian Church has sought to follow Christ’s example by offering healing and care to the sick.

In our own Diocese, one such example is the Ras Morbat Clinic. I encourage you to read about the Clinic’s work here <https://rasmorbatclinic.org>

The work of the clinic is truly inspirational:

- Ras Morbat offers life-changing eye treatments where the local health system faces total collapse due to chronic underfunding;¹ where the daily electricity supply is never guaranteed; and where there is constant political instability and potential for war.
- Its patients are the poorest and most vulnerable in Aden, including internally displaced people and refugees.
- The work of the clinic is the result of a longstanding interfaith humanitarian partnership between the Diocese and the Ministry of Health in Aden.

Each year, the Diocese budgets to send funds from its parish contributions to support Ras Morbat—funds that quite simply keep the clinic going.

¹ <https://aje.news/uryyur> 6.2.26

At our recent meeting of Synod, I asked the parishes of the Diocese to consider giving an “over-and-above” donation to the work of the Ras Morbat Clinic, as a Lenten call to charity, justice and sharing resources with those in need.

These funds would help the clinic invest in much-needed energy security—solar panels and a new generator to replace its current 25-year-old unit—and so ensure that Ras Morbat can continue to function as smoothly as possible, despite an unreliable electricity supply.

Arrangements for donations to be sent to the Clinic can be made through our Finance Officer, Mrs Evangelia Georgakaki—finance.officer@cypgulf.org

This Lent, please may I ask all parishes to hold the staff and work of Ras Morbat Clinic in your prayers, but also to consider giving something extra to this life-changing work and ministry. Your offering is more than financial assistance: it is a tangible expression of Christ’s love, restoring dignity, health and hope to those who suffer.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,

+ Sean Cyprus and the Gulf

The Rt Revd Sean Semple
Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf

