

At Easter, remember Jerusalem

The holy city of Jerusalem has long been fought over. Crusaders regarded its capture as the ultimate prize. Protestant missions have tried to trace 'where Jesus actually walked'. 'Christian Zionists' today support ethnic cleansing by Israel. None of these have shown respect for Palestinian Christians. The outlook for the centuries-old churches is becoming desperate.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

The view of 'Kairos II'

The Kairos II Declaration says:

"Clear settler-colonial policies seek to Judaise the city at the expense of its pluralism.

"There are continuous assaults on Muslim and Christian holy sites, attempts to burn churches, desecrate and destroy cemeteries and the writing of racist graffiti slogans upon them.

"Attacks on Christian clergy are increasing, as are restrictions on Christian religious celebrations such as the Holy Fire Saturday and Palm Sunday. Financial coercion has also intensified."



Israelis take over Muslim quarter homes and display provocative banners

What the churches say

Greek Orthodox (Jan 2022) - *"Our presence in Jerusalem is under threat. Our churches are threatened by Israeli radical fringe groups. At the hands of these Zionist extremists the Christian community in Jerusalem is suffering greatly. Our churches are regularly desecrated and vandalised. Our clergy are subject to frequent intimidation."*

In August 2025 the Jerusalem authorities froze the bank accounts of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

Armenian Apostolic (May 2024) - *"The Israeli police have now joined Israeli settlers to actively escalate tensions, forcefully change the facts on the ground and critically endanger our 1600-year presence in Jerusalem."*

Heads of all Churches (Jan 2026) - *"Recent activities undertaken by local individuals who advance damaging ideologies, such as Christian Zionism, mislead the public, sow confusion and harm the unity of our flock... these individuals have been welcomed at official levels."*

What we can do

- Follow the churches of Palestine, inc on social media. Listen to them. Stand with them. Pray for them.
- Read the Kairos II declaration: www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk
- Buy Palestinian goods such as dates and olive oil
- Don't buy Israeli goods, such as dates, potatoes or baby wipes. Avoid Teva medication where possible.
- Join Friends of Palestine groups in Liverpool and Southport (*websites shown below*).
- Write to your MP and local paper to support Palestine.

Liverpool and Southport Friends of Palestine
lfop.co.uk and southportfriendsofpalestine.co.uk