

# In Lent, Remember Palestine

For Christians, Palestine has always been 'where it all began'. But today the churches in Palestine are fighting for their existence.

The history of the Crusades and the dogma of today's 'Christian Zionists' lead many to think that Islam is the enemy. In modern Palestine this is simply not true.

## APARTHEID AND GENOCIDE

Palestinians, Christian and Muslim alike, face relentless pressure from an Israeli state that is practising the crimes of apartheid and genocide.

West Bank villagers are driven out by Israeli settlers who are assisted by the police and army. Taybeh, a Christian village, is under constant attack.

Jerusalem churches are pressured by city authorities and sometimes vandalised. In Gaza the churches of St Porphyrius and of the Holy Family have come under fire.

**Leading clerics such as Munther Isaac must be listened to before it is too late.**



*Gaza Pieta: Inas Abu Maamar cradles her five-year-old niece killed by an Israeli airstrike, October 2023*

## The Kairos Declarations

The Palestinian Christian Ecumenical Initiative has issued calls for support since 2009. Their latest was in Nov 2025:

*"We are the sons and daughters of the first Church — descendants of the apostles and the saints of the first Christian centuries — those who cultivated this land, built its cities and villages and drank from its waters. We do not live on the margins of this land. We are woven into its fabric.*

*"We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment demands from us a new stand. We feel the weight of history upon our shoulders and we are determined to preserve the Christian witness in this Holy Land.*

### WE MUST NOT REMAIN SILENT

*"We must call things by their proper names: **Israel is a colonial, settler and exclusionary entity** built upon the displacement of the indigenous population and their replacement with new settlers.*

*"We Palestinian Christians are deeply shocked by the positions of many churches that either adopt the coloniser's narrative or remain silent in the face of the genocide of our people. At times they prioritise Jewish-Christian interfaith dialogue over truth.*

*"We repeat our appeal to the churches of the world to pressure their governments to isolate Israel and hold it accountable. The strategies of boycotts, divestment and sanctions are, in our view, effective forms of creative resistance rooted in the logic of love and non-violence."*



*Statue of Jesus in Taybeh, West Bank*