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Statement by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem regarding the Resurrection Feast celebrations



Jerusalem

March 30, 2026

For the third consecutive year, at a time when human suffering weighs heavily on the Holy Land, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem reaffirms its commitment to its spiritual and historical mission, based on preserving the Christian presence, safeguarding the sanctity of religious rites, and protecting the status quo arrangements, which serve as a firm guarantee of freedom of worship and the continuity of Christian witness in this blessed land. In this context, the Patriarchate emphasizes that its dedication and efforts to ensure the performance of religious rites in their holy places and at their designated times, despite the harsh circumstances, are aimed at preserving our rights and this historical arrangement, and protecting it from any infringement.

As the Patriarchate grieves with our people in Gaza and shares their suffering, which violates human dignity and the right to life, it sees the repeated attacks by settlers against civilians and their property in the West Bank as an extension of this human suffering that afflicts our Holy Land in more than one place. The Patriarchate also observes the closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the prevention of worshippers from performing their prayers there, under the current circumstances that affect religious life and the spiritual connection of humanity to its holy sites.

Amidst these sorrows, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem recalls the words of the

Gospel: “If we suffer with him, we will also be glorified with him” (Romans 8:17), affirming that suffering, however intense, does not extinguish the light of hope, but rather calls for steadfastness in faith and the preservation of human life, which has been entrusted to us as a divine gift.

Based on this spiritual responsibility, and as custodian of Christian holy sites and guardian of the pilgrimage routes to the Holy Land, the Patriarchate announces its continued commitment to reviving its religious heritage, limiting celebrations from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday to religious rites only, in recognition of the solemnity of the occasion, respect for human suffering, and preservation of the sanctity of these blessed days.

The Patriarchate also affirms its unwavering commitment to maintaining the Status Quo in its entirety, both historically and legally, ensuring the protection of the holy sites and safeguarding established religious rights.

We offer our prayers, along with our children and parishioners wherever they may be, that just peace may prevail in our land, that the dignity of every human being may be preserved, and that Jerusalem may remain a living beacon of faith, hope, and love.

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