

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal
Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem*



المطران حسام الياس نعوم
رئيس الاساقفة الانجليكاني في القدس
الاسقف الخامس عشر لمطرانبة القدس الاسقفية العربية

22 August, 2023

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf: Greetings from St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Over the past three months since the retirement of Bishop Michael, it has been my privilege to serve as your acting Diocesan Bishop. During this time, I have worked closely with your diocesan leadership, especially with those charged with the task of discerning a candidate to nominate to the Synod for the office of Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf.

The representative group called to this important duty have, from my supervisory purview, discharged their responsibilities prayerfully, conscientiously, and in accordance with the requirements of the Diocesan Constitution. They have also balanced the need for confidentiality with an open call for nominations, followed by two progress reports on their work to the entire diocese once the nominations had been received.

That process has now reached the point where their nominee will be presented to the Synod for confirmation. As mandated in the Constitution, this confirmation must be by at least a two-thirds majority in each the House of the Clergy and the House of the Laity. The date for the special Synod, which will be held online, has been set for Thursday, September 7, at 7 pm EEST/8 pm GST.

I will preside over that Synod as acting Diocesan Bishop. Following my opening prayer, remarks, and a procedural motion, the nominee for bishop will be presented. I will then oversee a period of discussion and questions prior to the vote by orders. Once the results of the vote have been announced, I will close the Synod with some concluding thoughts and prayers in view of the vote's outcome.

In preparation for this momentous occasion for the future of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, I call upon each member of Synod and their congregations to join me in praying for the discernment of the Holy Spirit, as well as for the spiritual graces of collegiality and lovingkindness towards each other, mindful of St. Paul's call for Christians to lead a life worthy of our calling from Christ "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).

May God bless us with all these spiritual blessings and more in the days and weeks ahead.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum
Primate and President Bishop
The Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East
Acting Bishop, The Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf

