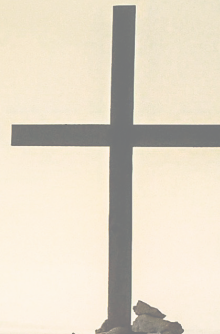


An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 5: Jerusalem



A Reflection



- † Look at the picture taken of the blast damage after the Beirut explosion. Can you spot any familiar items? Who do you think lived here before?
- † Read Isaiah 32:18: “God’s people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” How did the explosion do the opposite from what is described in the verse?
- † How might Lebanese Christians draw comfort from these verses? If it is helpful, watch the song for today again as the words are hopeful.



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022: Raising money for the dispossessed
southwark.anglican.org/lentcall



READ MORE

An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 5: Jerusalem



Theme: Homelessness

Song: Christian Worship in the Arab World (bit.ly/34GiYY5)

Bible passage: Isaiah 32:18

This is the last of five outlines for Collective Worship, written to help schools pray and offer love and the hope that "...people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18) and to encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ here in the Diocese of Southwark, within our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Gather...

I am going to describe a region. Can you guess where in the world this Diocese (one of the districts that together make up the Church of England and the Anglican Communion) is from these clues? (Have a map of the world projected so pupils can point to a region.)

1. This Diocese covers five countries or territories.
2. Three major world religions have history in this area. They are Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
3. This Diocese, although covering five countries or territories, is named after the capital city of Israel.

Answer: It is the Diocese of Jerusalem, covering Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.



DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem
and the Middle East

Engage...

Today, the Diocese of Jerusalem is our focus. Our Diocese of Southwark is linked to this Diocese.

Is there anyone in the school from any of the five countries or territories in the Diocese of Jerusalem? If comfortable, could they share a fact about their country of origin?

Today we are going to think about Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. Beirut is a city by the Mediterranean Sea. It has a large port receiving boats carrying goods from Europe and North Africa

into the country and beyond. Something happened at the port in August 2020.

(Watch this clip at bit.ly/3LJUVYW from 0-0.51 seconds; take suggestions as to what the pupils predict happened.)

It was an explosion of a chemical called ammonium nitrate. It was being stored at the port. This chemical is used to create fertilisers and explosives like fireworks.

The next few scenes show this explosion from a number of angles. This happened in real life, let's watch.

(Play the clip and STOP at 2.10 – the scenes beyond this are not suitable for children.)

The explosion was on 4 August 2020. It sadly caused 218 deaths, 7,000 injuries, and US\$15 billion (£11 billion) in property damage. It also left an estimated 300,000 people homeless. Families were forced to seek temporary shelter with relatives and friends, or they stayed in schools or other buildings offered to them.

A group of Christians from lots of different backgrounds in Beirut make up the community at All Saints Church in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

When the explosion happened, the Christians at All Saints responded. The church worked together to help the families who were affected by the explosion. They supported them where they could with housing and food packages. The community continues this support today.

Respond...

The Bishop's Lent Call is raising money to support the work of All Saints. This will help buy food and items to making living more comfortable.

Let's pray for the families in Beirut now.

Prayer...

Heavenly Father, thank you for All Saints Church in Beirut. Thank you that they are responding in love and reaching out like brothers and sisters to others in their community. We pray that you would help those affected by the blast. In our Diocese of Southwark, help us to also act like brothers and sisters as we contribute towards the Bishop's Lent Call. Would what is raised help others to "live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes and undisturbed places of rest". **Amen.**