

JUST REPORT April 6, 2026

WITNESS

Easter in Palestine



Good Friday - [Denied access](#) to the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem... for the first time in centuries, perhaps ever...15 worshippers pray outside. [Celebrations were muted and sombre.](#) Whereas Christian leaders in the world protested about this action, so that some access was reinstated, [none of them have protested formally](#) about the closure of Al Aqsa for Muslims. Report on holy sites [here](#); Christians in Palestine are a [diminishing population](#).

Druze and Christian leaders in Lebanon [have been warned](#) that any attempt to *shelter* Shia Muslims will be punished. Remind you of anything?

This week.. 30-1st 11 killed, 27 injured. ([Gaza unlocked](#)) 17 Palestinians killed [over Easter weekend](#) (4-6) in 3 separate attacks, including 4 people from one home, a WHO driver and a young man with special needs, Monday, [10 killed by an airstrike](#) on an area described previously as a *safe zone*. We also remembered of course the thousands killed in Lebanon and Iran.

New border line inside Gaza, [information from Haaretz](#) thanks Martin.

We shared our reflections on what Easter means to us and how we were led to think of the parallels between the sufferings of Jews, conveyed so movingly in the Lamentations of Jeremiah, which are sung in the Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday Tenebrae services, and the Passion story, and the experiences and the despair of Palestinians. Pat shared that she had been to 3 services, one, led by William Dalrymple's brother, who always mentions Palestine, and shares the prayer. Two People, One Land (see Annex 1); in the two others there was no mention at all. Pope Leo has spoken out against the war, (and has specifically mentioned Palestine) but the Archbishop of Canterbury remains guarded. Munther Isaac interviewed on [Democracy Now](#) thoughts at Easter, see [Annex 1](#).

LEARN

Deir Yassin. Sue reminded us that April 9th is the 78th anniversary of the massacre of Deir Yassin, which was the beginning of the Nakba. We could use this anniversary to write to our church leaders and ask them to take action to bring peace and justice to Palestine. The villagers had signed a non-aggression pact with their Jewish neighbours, to which they adhered, refusing to allow militants into the village. It was in the area outside that designated for Israelis by the UN. The Haganah were aware of all of these factors. On 9th April, Plan Dalet was put into action and the Irgun and the Stern gang, led by Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, descended on the village, massacring a minimum of 107 people including women and children (accounts of numbers and atrocities differ [al Jazeera](#); [Ha'aretz](#). The [Wikipedia entry](#) seems balanced and accurate). You can see documentary films [Deir Yassin Remembered](#), including an interview with a survivor [Born in Deir Yassin](#) and interviews with colonisers celebrating their achievements. Pat told us that there is a memorial in Kelvingrove near Glasgow, with a yearly vigil.. why can't we have that in London? Thanks to Sue for this report, very timely.

Nicola went to *Mapping Palestine*, a talk by Tom Suarez at P21 on the history of maps of Palestine, it is a really beautiful book, pages of which you can see [here](#), and there is a good review which provides his argument about the historic importance of Christian Zionism [here](#). It would make a wonderful special present for activist friends and family! I learned a lot, especially about how early maps put Palestine (not necessarily labelled as such, but that was the nomenclature) at the centre of the world – when we erase the name, we erase our own history. Article by Simon Tisdall on impact of Christian Zionists [here](#). In the Q and A, the chair person, who also studies maps of Palestine, told us that the British Museum is far from alone in obliterating mention of Palestine – this is happening in libraries and archives quite widely, certainly in the USA and here. A Lebanese woman in the audience told us that UN textbooks given to Palestinian refugees to teach children have now excised the word – these are being burned by teachers and children alike in protest. Priscilla said that Pearson's Education, the largest publisher of school textbooks, has excised references to Palestine. See here for a [report](#). What can we do? Pat suggested we take this up locally – also if you are an academic, or teacher, boycott Pearson and write to them saying why.

ACT

Please visit your local library and check for books about Palestine. If there are none, put in a request! How about books on Israel? Also look at your church library – perhaps donate?

SHARE

At [Lakenheath](#), peace camp, 7 people were arrested for holding placards stating that they opposed genocide and supported Palestine Action. Lakenheath has been [blockaded at both entrances by protestors](#) (Tues 7th April).

Up and Coming

- Friday April 10th 12 noon [protest outside Kings College](#) at the London Defence Conference. UK is permitting US aircraft to use our bases for attacks on Iran; and supplying arms worth millions. Palantir spokesperson Louis Mosley, grandson of Oswald Mosley, will be there.
- Saturday April 11th DOJ [LIFT THE BAN action](#) 1pm Trafalgar Square. Mass action placard holding, but you can attend in support even if you are not planning to be arrested.
- April 12th The next JVL Education group's seminar will be: **Defending the Right to Protest: Challenging Planetary Destruction and Genocide:** with **Tim Crosland**, chaired by Tony Booth **6pm – 7.30pm** Register [here](#).

- Our very own much respected Diana Neslen will be present at a showing of the film about her life, sat P21 gallery on [April 18th](#)

ANNEX 1. EASTER REFLECTIONS.

In [White house prayers](#) Donald Trump compared to Jesus Christ – this is upsetting some Christians and, believe it or not [JVL here](#).

Pope Leo rebukes the orange one [at Palm Sunday service](#): *Brothers and sisters, this is our God, Jesus, king of peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war. He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them, saying, "Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood".*

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullaly sermon can be found [here](#). At least she mentions the Middle East, but she won't use the P word...*This week our gaze and our prayers have been turned towards the land where Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead.... Today, as we shout with joy that Christ is risen, let us pray and call with renewed urgency for an end to the violence and destruction in the Middle East and the Gulf....May our Christian sisters and brothers know and celebrate the hope of the empty tomb - and may all people of the region receive the peace, justice and freedom they long for.*

Extract from Munther Isaac's interview

And on Good Friday, we're reminded of this idea that Jesus himself became the victim of the violence of empire and religious extremism. And although things will look many times dark, silent, there will be times in which even we doubt. Where is God? Jesus himself on the cross cried, *My God, why have you forsaken me?* We cannot lose faith that justice will ultimately win. Resurrection is about the victory of life. And in these dark moments, when millions are displaced, not from Gaza now, now even in Lebanon are displaced, in which we see children pulled from under the rubble in Iran, we see more and more embrace of the culture of death and violence, and even celebrating death, more than ever we need courageous faith leaders to say what the pope said, that God takes sides with the victims, with the poor, with the marginalized, and that God is looking for voices of peace, voices of sanity, voices that elevate human dignity and life above every national religious ideology. And I hope this is the message that is preached from pulpits around the globe in this Easter, in which we celebrate life and the resurrection of Jesus.

Two Peoples, One Land (more beautiful prayers [on this site](#))

Two peoples, one land,
 Three faiths, one root,
 One earth, one mother,
 One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,
 One broken heart, One God.
 We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.
 May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.
 May you, Life of All the Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences help us to see clearly.
 Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace. *Rabbi Sheila Weinberg*