

# FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND



Patriarch at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham



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## FHL LAUNCHED IN BIRMINGHAM & LIVERPOOL

Over 100 Parishes from the Archdioceses of Birmingham and Liverpool were represented at the celebrations last month to launch the Friends of the Holy Land at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham and the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool. Bishop Philip Pargeter and Archbishop Patrick Kelly welcomed the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Fouad Twal who celebrated Mass in both Cathedrals and then joined the celebrations.

His Beatitude expressed his great appreciation of all that was being done to assist the Christian Community in the Holy Land. "It is very encouraging to visit this country and see the love and friendship that exists for our people. It is not easy living in the Holy Land at this time and we need support from fellow Christians throughout the world. The Friends of the Holy Land is a great initiative and I wish it every success in its planned development. We will always be happy to welcome the "Friends" to our Land".

Archbishop Kelly, one of two Patrons, with Archbishop Vincent Nichols, speaking at the Liverpool Reception, said "This is a great initiative and has my whole-hearted support. We need to encourage those who are representing Christians from all over the world in the Land of the Lord's birth, death and resurrection. Do consider what you can do in your own Parish or Deanery to progress this work. In this way we can make contact with the Parishioners, the schools and the other institutions as well as assisting directly those who are in great need of humanitarian aid. Please do not forget that the greatest thing we can do is to pray for them ... and that is something every individual is able to do."

## PATRONS

Archbishop Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop Patrick Kelly

## CHAIRMAN

Dr Michael F Whelan

## OBJECTIVES

Our objectives for the Christian Community in the Holy Land are threefold:

- to raise awareness of the difficulties they are experiencing
- to encourage and to provide for prayers to be offered for their intentions
- to generate financial support to aid their well-being



## DONATIONS

If you would like to help us in our work we would welcome a financial donation, however large or small. Gift Aid and Standing Order forms can be posted or emailed to you from the National Office. Your financial support can contribute to projects, bursaries or humanitarian aid.

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## FORMING A PARISH GROUP

Any Parishioner who would like to form a Group in their Parish should contact the National Office at the address or email below. A "Starter Pack" is available to be downloaded from the website. If you would like to receive a supply of brochures please contact the Office.



Friends from the Kenilworth FHL Parish Group, one of 4 original pilot Groups in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, pictured with His Beatitude.

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## STOP PRESS

In early December the FHL forwarded donations to the Patriarchate in support of 20 families requiring humanitarian aid, three FHL projects and a donation to the School of Joy in Bethlehem.



The Patriarch of Jerusalem with Dr Michael Whelan

## MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Dr Michael Whelan, speaking in Birmingham, said, "I am delighted with the encouragement and support that has been expressed for this initiative. We are delighted to have the full support and blessing of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Our target is to have a FHL Group in every Parish in England and Wales in the next few years. Everyone is able to assist in their own way and make a contribution however large or small. When it is repeated in all parishes and by all our Friends across the Dioceses then it can have a great impact. Please do what you can to contribute to our work."



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee at the launch shown here with the Patriarch of Jerusalem, from left to right, Tony McDowell (Trustee), Dr Michael Whelan (National Chairman), Patrick Horsfield (Trustee), Patriarch, John Weedon (Trustee and Hon. Secretary) and Tony Stokes (Hon. Treasurer). Missing from the photograph is Vice Chairman, Peter Rand.

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