

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Province of the Episcopal Church in
Jerusalem and the Middle East



The Right Reverend Sean Semple

Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of
Cyprus and the Gulf

13th November 2024

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

The Archbishop of Canterbury's decision to resign in the wake of the Makin Report makes clear the need for the Church to be both safe and accountable. It is profoundly distressing to know that in the Church in every country there are people who, hidden by their authority, popularity, or apparent giftedness, abuse others in physical, sexual, psychological, financial and/or spiritual ways. And it is inexcusable when such abuse is minimized, rationalized, and covered up to protect the reputation of the Church.

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is committed to ensuring that all who participate in the life of the Church do so in safety, and are free from harm. In our busy lives it is not always easy to be attentive or responsive to what is happening around us in the Church. Many are afraid to speak up about concerns or suspicions they have—a reflection of the very imbalances of power that enable abuse of all kinds.

The Diocese is all of us. We are each and all responsible for promoting and living out a culture of safeguarding in our churches—a culture that must be the very embodiment of our daily mission and commitment to love God and our neighbour, reinforced by structures that support and encourage individuals to report concerns, and for those concerns to be properly and accountably acknowledged and investigated.

Every parish must ensure that safeguarding training is a central and ongoing part of Church life. Please consult anew our safeguarding policy <https://www.cypgulf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Diocesan-Safeguarding-Policy-2022.pdf> and ensure that regular safeguarding training is taking place in your parish.

At this time we pray for all survivors and victims of abuse and we pray for the grace to be a safe Church for all.

Yours in Christ

+ Sean Cyprus and the Gulf

The Rt Revd Sean Semple

Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf
bishop.sean@cypgulf.org

2 Grigori Afxentiou CY1096

PO Box 22075 CY1517

Nicosia, Cyprus

+357 22671220

Visit the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf at

www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCyprusAndTheGulf

www.cypgulf.org

www.youtube.com/@cyprusandthegulf