



HE Maroun Lahham
Titular Bishop of Madaba
Patriarchal Vicar of Jordan
Latin Patriarchate - Amman
JORDAN

Your Eminence:

Salaam al-Masih from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. We learnt with great joy on 19th January of your appointment by the Holy Father as the new Latin Patriarchal Vicar in Jordan.

We are aware of your huge achievements over many years, whether in the Holy Land or, more recently, as Archbishop of Tunisia. We are also delighted to welcome you into Jordan where our Conference is also closely involved with the region through the annual Holy Land Coordinating visits.

You are well-known for your pastoral work, and we rejoice that you have already stated your desire "to follow with the priests and implement the Diocesan Synod" that has toiled hard for the well-being of the Christians of this precious biblical part of the world.

24 February 2012 will be an important day for you and for us too: we share your joy, and pray with you, just as we congratulate you as well as HB Patriarch Fouad Twal, as you celebrate a solemn welcoming mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart during the special Lenten season in Our Church. We also convey our wishes to your predecessor, the Most Revd Salim Sayegh, for his ministry of love amongst your people in Jordan for many decades.

I hope to visit Jordan in the near future in order to enhance further our relations, and I join my colleagues at the International Affairs' Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to wish you a local Mabrouk Sayyidna!

In His service,

Rt Rev Declan Lang
Bishop of Clifton
Chair, International Affairs Department, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales