



Prayer Diary

FEBRUARY 2026 - JULY 2026

The Christians of the Middle East are a small and decreasing population, but their faith and determination make a huge difference to the lives of the most vulnerable.

Against a backdrop of conflict, religious tension, poverty and discrimination, our Christian partners there hold out the hand of compassion to their neighbours, providing health, education and community development projects. In turn, your prayers shield our partners and extend a hand of solidarity to them.

This diary highlights a different partner organisation or project for each week of the next six months. The unpredictable situation in the Middle East can mean that new prayer needs may arise, so we also encourage you to keep up to date by visiting embraceme.org.

If you'd like to take a more in-depth look at each prayer prompt, visit our weekly devotions at embraceme.org/devotions.

FEBRUARY 2026

1 February

In Cairo's Zabbaleen community, long working hours recycling rubbish and low earnings often leads to stressful home environments. Children can end up living in chaotic situations or sent to orphanages by parents who feel it is their only option. We pray for Life Vision's project, The Rock, which helps families stay together and provides the holistic support they need to create safe and stable homes for their children.

8 February

Palestinians in the West Bank frequently face travel bans, often seemingly arbitrarily imposed, which impact on their freedom to work, visit family, attend the mosque or church, and access vital health services. We pray for the Society of St Yves, which offers legal advice to help individuals challenge these bans and assert their human rights.



Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

Psalm 107:19

15 February

As Lent begins this week, and we reflect on the role of food and fasting in our faith journey, we pray for those facing food insecurity. In an economically deprived area of north Lebanon, an agriculture project led by Middle East Revive and Thrive (MERATH) produces organic vegetables, dairy products and eggs for families with low incomes.



The MERATH project in north Lebanon providing vegetables, eggs and dairy products for low-income families.

22 February

Although the Middle East's wars often hit the headlines, communities there face an additional devastating prospect – the impact of climate change. We pray for the work of the Ankawa Humanitarian Committee, in Erbil, Iraq, which educates young people about climate challenges, which range from loss of farmland to desert expansion. The scheme encourages students to write proposals for environmental initiatives and put them into action in their communities.

MARCH 2026

1 March

Violence against women and girls is a major issue in the impoverished community of Ezbet El-Nakhl, on the edge of Cairo, where the Salaam Centre runs numerous community projects. We pray for the work of the centre, educating people of both sexes about women's rights and the prevention of abuse and providing medical, psychological and legal services to women.

MARCH 2026



Anafora Monastery, which provides workshops for abuse survivors.

8 March

We pray for the reconciliation ministry of Musalah, working amid the challenging context of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The project recognises the vital role that women and young people can play at a grassroots level, and runs discussion groups for them to share ideas and learn leadership and conflict-resolution skills.

15 March

In Lebanon, women's prisons are overcrowded and neglected, often housing four times the official capacity. After release, prisoners face social stigma and difficulty gaining employment. We pray for our partner Beit el Nour, helping the female inmates of Tripoli prison to learn skills in tailoring and embroidery, and supporting them to generate an income upon release.

22 March

For more than 170 years, Embrace the Middle East has shown marginalised and vulnerable people that they are not alone. None of this would have been possible without the generosity and compassion of our supporters. We pray for all who support Embrace, especially for those currently facing challenges in their lives.

29 March

Women who have escaped the immediate danger of male violence need ongoing support to rebuild their lives. We pray for the Soteria Project, which is based at the Anafora Monastery (pictured left) between Cairo and Alexandria. The project provides residential workshops to help abuse survivors to heal psychologically, embrace their self-worth and build an independent future.

APRIL 2026

5 April

This Easter Sunday we rejoice in Christ's resurrection and pray for the dedicated Christians who minister to vulnerable, oppressed and hurting people in today's world. Our Christian friends in the Middle East face almost unimaginable difficulties, but their faith and compassion persevere despite the challenges. We pray for them and their communities as they strive to keep the Christian presence alive.

“I will do whatever you ask in my name.”

John 14:13

12 April

We pray for our partners providing healthcare in Gaza's complex and uncertain situation. The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees and the Near East Council of Churches have established medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing essential medicines, dental care, ante- and post-natal care, and other vital services.

APRIL 2026

19 April

The Al-Kafaàt Foundation has a long history of championing the inclusion of people with disabilities. One of its programmes is the Notre Dame School, a mainstream school that enables students with disabilities to learn in a regular classroom alongside other children. The school ensures that everyone gets tailored support to help them succeed. This week, we pray for the staff and pupils.

26 April

Young people in Bethlehem face the difficulties of life under occupation, where unemployment is high, movement is restricted and the threat of violence is ever present. We pray for Anar for Empowerment, which has established a youth self-help hub to equip young Christians with leadership skills, giving them the opportunity to serve their community and regain a sense of hope.

“Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed.

Isaiah 1:17

MAY 2026

3 May

We pray for the many women in Egypt for whom inequality and domestic abuse feel like an inescapable part of life. In an unassuming building in a secret location, Think and Do runs a women's shelter, providing safety and counselling for those who might otherwise be trapped in a dangerous situation.

MAY 2026

10 May

We pray for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre's satellite unit in Gaza City. The clinic provides rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. Many of their patients are those who suffered life-changing injuries in the recent conflict. To tackle the psychological trauma many children suffered, the clinic now offers play therapy as part of their treatment.



The Tahaddi primary care clinic.

17 May

Tahaddi is an organisation running community projects in the Hay el Garbeh area of Beirut, where Lebanese and Syrian refugee families face poverty and lack of opportunities. We pray for Tahaddi's primary care clinic (pictured above), which makes an important contribution to the health of the population, especially those living with chronic diseases such as diabetes.

24 May

Pentecost falls this week in the Western Church, and many of our Middle Eastern partners will mark Pentecost next Sunday. As we rejoice in the descent of the Holy Spirit to the first members of the Church, we pray for our partners' staff, who work with dedication and compassion to continue Christ's ministry today.

MAY 2026

31 May

In three Syrian cities, children traumatised by conflict find respite and normality at the Child-Friendly Spaces created by Middle East Revive and Thrive (MERATH). We pray for the staff running fun activities like sports, singing, art and acting, and for the children as they make friends and play together in peaceful safety.

We ask you to pray not only for us, but for everyone in our two countries, Syria and Lebanon.”

Syrian refugee in Lebanon

JUNE 2026

7 June

Faith and community relations in Alexandria can be tense, but Christian and Muslim young people find common ground at the Arkan Centre. We hold the centre in our prayers this week as young people learn together on training courses in marketable skills such as communications technology. This boosts their prospects in the job market and helps them build friendships across cultural boundaries.

14 June

We pray for the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR), working to promote better inclusion of people living with disabilities in communities around the West Bank. They use their expertise to help schools and education providers become more accessible. BASR also champions disability rights and raises public awareness of disabled people's needs and abilities.

Imara's Story

'Sometimes, I felt invisible,' says 24-year-old Imara from Alexandria, Egypt. At home with her four siblings and at school, she blended into the background, believing that no-one noticed her talents and dreams.

'But I always read about strong women in the history books,' she goes on, 'The ones who fought for our rights – could I ever be that confident and brave?'

Imara started attending the Arkan Cultural Centre, which helps young Egyptians gain vocational skills and create friendships across cultural barriers. She met an amazing group of people – some Muslim like her, and others Christian. It turned out they had a lot in common.

'We were all different, but all felt the same pressure – a heavy weight on our shoulders to prove ourselves constantly in society ... I realised how wrong I was to judge people just because of their religion.'

Imara took part in a video editing class provided by the Arkan Centre. Now, she has a good job and is financially secure.

'It's not just the technical skills, you know?' she says. 'Arkan showed me the importance of helping others, of building a community, and of finding your voice. Maybe I won't be famous, but I know I'm helping write a better story for the girls who come after me. And that, for me, is the best thing ever.'



JUNE 2026

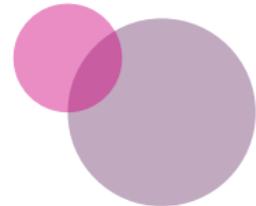
21 June

Since 2011, the Joint Christian Committee's library and community centre in Dbayeh refugee camp, Lebanon, has been a vibrant hub for a population otherwise deprived of educational opportunities. This week, we pray for the staff and all who come to use the centre's space and services.

28 June

Our partners in the Middle East gain inspiration from knowing that there's a network of Embrace volunteers supporting them. We give thanks for all those who generously give their time and skills to raise funds, spread awareness and offer prayer in their own churches and communities.

JULY 2026



5 July

Tomorrow we mark World Rural Development Day, and so this week we pray for the 16 Mobile Medical Clinics run by the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF), bringing essential healthcare to rural and underserved communities in Egypt. Each clinic provides free consultations, medication, and health education.

12 July

Many schools in Lebanon are not equipped to help hearing-impaired children thrive and become high-achieving members of society. We pray for the Learning Centre for the Deaf's education and advocacy work, championing the rights of deaf teenagers and young adults, helping them to access the services they need.

JULY 2026



The Learning Centre for the Deaf high school graduates.

19 July

We pray for the East Jerusalem YMCA, working to reduce the long-term trauma among survivors of political violence and children who've been imprisoned by the Israeli authorities (many for the charge of 'stone throwing'). Their services include psychological first aid, individual and group counselling and vocational training to help survivors reintegrate into their families and communities.

26 July

Many people need extra support in their later years, but in Lebanon there is a chronic shortage of carers. The Middle East Council of Churches' vocational course in health and social care teaches women basic nursing skills, such as first aid, personal care and fall prevention, giving them qualifications for employment as carers. We pray for the women taking this course, and the elderly and vulnerable clients they will go on to support.



Go deeper with Embrace...

You can find more information about each prayer prompt by reading the weekly devotions we add to the prayer section of our website. The devotions give more details about our partners and projects, as well as a relevant Bible passage and spiritual thought: www.embraceme.org/devotions.

If you would like additional copies of this leaflet, please phone **01494 897950** or email info@embraceme.org. You can also download the diary from our website in both standard and large print versions. You are welcome to reproduce the text in your church newsletters, and share the information with your community.

Thank you for your prayers – our Christian partners are strengthened and uplifted by your support.

Embrace the Middle East

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