

# The Bishop's House, 23 Davenport Road, Coventry CV5 6PW

THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY

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Archbishop Mar Sewerios Malki Murad  
St Marks Syrian Orthodox Convent  
Po Box 14069  
Jerusalem  
91140

Your Eminence,

I am sorry that the occasion for my greeting from the Diocese of Coventry is the sad death of His Holiness Mar Ignatius Zakka Iwas. I had the honour and privilege of meeting His Holiness on two occasions in Damascus in Holy Week 2005.

My brother bishop, John, also met and stayed with His Holiness when visiting Syria on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2007.

Those, of course, were happier times when there was peace in the land and so much to celebrate in the life of the Church. So our hearts go out to the Syrian Orthodox Church now with great sympathy as you suffer not only the pain of such deep and distressing conflict in Syria but also the grief of losing your spiritual leader.

The Patriarch served his Church with extraordinary devotion for so many years, including these recent years of severe suffering for his land and people. He will remain an inspiration not only to the Syrian Church but to Christians throughout the world.

Please know that the Syrian Orthodox Church and the whole land of Syria, together with refugees in your own diocese and beyond, are very much in our prayers at this time.

With our deep condolences  
Yours sincerely, in Christ

+ Christopher Coventry