



إقليم الكنيسة الأسقفية / الأنجليكانية القدس والشرق الأوسط  
The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East



أبروشية الكنيسة الأسقفية / الأنجليكانية بمصر وشمال أفريقيا والقرن الأفريقي  
The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

**Bishop:** The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis  
**Address:** 5 Michel Lutfallah Street, P.O. Box 87  
Zamalek, 11211, Cairo, Egypt  
**Tel.:** +20 2 27380821/3/9  
**Email:** [bishopmouneer@gmail.com](mailto:bishopmouneer@gmail.com)

المطران د. / منير حنا أنيس  
5 ش ميشيل لطف الله  
الزمالك القاهرة 11211 مصر

7 November 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

After months of waiting for a leader, the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt announced its new Pope. Pope Tawadros II is now the 118<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of Alexandria and the See of St. Mark. He succeeds the much loved, very charismatic and great teacher, Pope Shenouda III who led the church for 41 years from 1971-2012. Pope Tawadros will be enthroned on 18 November 2012 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo.

It was a great joy for me to have a private meeting with him on 7 November 2012 at St. Bishoy Monastery in Wadi Natroun where he is having a time of retreat before the enthronement. He welcomed me very warmly at St. Bishoy Monastery and shared with me that he would like to focus on the relations between different churches. He said that *"it is important that we have a strong and cordial relationship with each other."* He asked for prayer so that he would fulfill God's purpose through his office as the Pope.



The process of selecting the new Pope took several months. The people representing the Patriarchate choose three candidates and then a blindfolded child draws one name of the three. In this way, the process combines both the choice of the people and the divine choice. I wish that we Anglicans would have a similar process!!!

Seventeen candidates were nominated and a committee appointed by the Holy Synod shortlisted the candidates to five. The committee also prepared a list of the electoral role of voters from among bishops, clergy and laity representing all dioceses of the Patriarchate, both in Egypt and the Diaspora. The electoral role, over 2,000 people, elected three out of the five candidates: two assistant bishops and one monk. The acting Patriarch, Anba Pachomius,

called for prayer and fasting of the whole church for three days before the final selection. On 4 November 2012 and after the Holy Mass, a child drew one paper of the three with the name of Bishop Tawadros.

Bishop Tawadros was born in 1952 and studied pharmacy before becoming a monk. In 1997 he was consecrated by Pope Shenouda III an Assistant (Auxiliary) Bishop for the Diocese of Beheria in the North of the Nile Delta, close to Alexandria to assist the current acting Patriarch, Anba Pachomius.



The new Pope comes at a very critical time in the life of Egypt. Many Christians had hoped that the Revolution of the 25 January 2011 would relieve them from oppression and from the hardships they have been facing before. They are now hoping that the new Pope will be a voice for them. In addition, there are many other issues in front of the new Pope such as the unity of the church and ecumenical relations, cooperation with the Islamic leaders, the new civil law for marriages

and divorce of Egyptian Christians, and working with the new government of Egypt to produce a law for building churches.

As Anglicans in Egypt, we pray for the new Pope and the Coptic Orthodox Church which we consider as the “Mother Church” of Egypt.

May the Lord bless you!

+ Mouneer Egypt

**The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis**  
Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt  
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa  
President Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican  
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East