The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Pacific extends its heartfelt greetings to Christian communities in Palestine and worldwide on the occasion of Easter.

This sacred time holds special significance for Palestine. Jesus Christ was born in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem and resurrected in the Palestinian city of Jerusalem, where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre stands, and where Palestinians of every faith continue to suffer and struggle under Israel's illegal military occupation.

This year, Easter is observed amid unprecedented Israeli-imposed restrictions, which continue to arbitrarily prevent Christian worshippers and clergy alike from accessing occupied Jerusalem's holy sites, even on the most sacred of occasions, in violation of the fundamental human right to freedom of worship.

In this season of reflection and hope, we reiterate the importance of upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and protecting the indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land from further targeting and erasure.

May this Easter bring solace, strength, and renewed hope to all.

**His Excellency Dr Amjad Abu El Ezz**
Ambassador of the State of Palestine
Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific