



Statement from Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto Regarding Conflict in the Middle East, Local Cases of Hatred and Anti-Semitism

May 21, 2021

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East is a painful moment for both the Palestinian and Israeli people. In the words of the Holy Father, Pope Francis:

"I appeal for calm, and for those responsible to end the clamour of weapons and to take the path of peace...Many innocent people have died, amongst them there are also children. This is terrible. Unacceptable. Their death is a sign that (people) don't want to build a future, but destroy it ... I wonder where hatred and revenge will lead?"

We pray that the ceasefire recently agreed to will bring a sustained period of peace.

Locally, we have seen protests from both sides of this conflict. Peaceful protests are an important part of the democratic process. However, sadly, in our country and local community, there are an increasing number of anti-Semitic threats and even violence against the Jewish community. This is unacceptable and I appeal to all people to treat one another with care and respect. Hatred against any member of our community should be strongly condemned by all.