

# Dear friends in Bukoba, Jordan and the Holy Land, Tampere, Truro and Tunsberg

Greetings from Sweden and the diocese of Strängnäs! Jesus Christ is risen!

We hope this finds you in good health!

We are so grateful to have you as our friends in the Worldwide church, and we would like to have a more regular contact with you. We want to share with you some of the things that are happening in our diocese. We will therefore, throughout the year, send you an email like this, and we invite you to share your thoughts, ideas, and events with us.

## Ordination of Priests

In January, bishop Johan ordained three priests, who will now serve in the diocese – in Grödinge parish, in Viby parish and in Salem parish.



*From the left:* The Rt Revd Dr Jonas Jonson, Dan Nässelqvist (Viby parish), Sara Jacobson (Grödinge parish), The Rt Revd Dr Johan, Sara Teymur (Salem parish), The Very Revd Christofer Lundgren, The Rt Revd Dr Hans-Erik Nordin. *Photo: Marlene W. Antonson*

## Partnership Agreement

We are so happy about the new partnership agreement that has been signed between Kashura parish in Bukoba (Tanzania), and Askersund parish in our diocese, and we know that this will further support our friendship. We look forward to seeing many more of agreement of this kind to emerge between parishes in Strängnäs and parishes in your dioceses.

## 150 years of International Relations

This year, the Church of Sweden is honouring 150 years of International Relations. This jubilee will be celebrated all over the country, and of course also in Strängnäs. On April 13<sup>th</sup> lectures will be held, focusing on the history, the present, and the future of our engagement in the Worldwide Church.

## Specific Areas of Focus

The Diocesan Board in Strängnäs has decided to promote the work on the issue of climate changes and on the work with confirmation students. The Church of Sweden is aiming at climate neutrality in 2030, and for us to reach that goal, we must be purposeful in our achievements. The number of

confirmation students have decreased over the last decades and this focus is aiming at finding new lines of work to welcome the youth into confirmation groups. With these focus areas, the parishes in the diocese will be supported in their work.

### Joint Projects

In connection with the focus on confirmation students, we are engaged in a project with the diocese of Tampere. We are going to send two probationers who will take part in a summer camp in Pyysalo, Kangasala parish. It is a great opportunity to learn from each other and share experiences.

### The Church in Society

Sweden is, like some of the other Nordic countries, strengthening the preparedness for national crises. In that work, the church is seen as a part of the Civil Defence. In case of an emergency, the church is supposed to continue to do what the church always does; to celebrate the mass, to educate the children and the youths, to help the ones in need, and to bury the dead.

We are fully aware of that we face different challenges in our churches and societies. We especially thinking about you who live in times of war and conflicts. We are constantly praying for you all.

With God's blessing,

Anne and Magdalena  
International relations