



# Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

## Lieutenancy of Australia - New South Wales

Dear Father

### GAZA APPEAL

I write on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Gaza to seek your assistance as they seek to rebuild their lives after the recent tragic events.

Our Order is entrusted by the Vatican with the task of addressing the material needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the financial support provided by the Order is the Patriarchate's main source of income.

Our Grand Master, Edwin Cardinal O'Brien has already approved an extraordinary remittance of €200,000 to the Latin Patriarchate and €50,000 to the Pontifical Mission for Palestine as humanitarian aid for the most urgent reconstruction needs resulting from the events of recent weeks. As you will appreciate, though, the task of reconstruction for the Catholic community of Gaza is immense and will require much more financial assistance. Accordingly, the Grand Master has launched an urgent appeal to the Order's Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations across the world to raise funds in whatever way they can specifically for this purpose.

With the need so vast we must reach out to the wider Catholic community and I am therefore, with the full support and encouragement of Bishop Comensoli, seeking the support of all the parishes in the Archdiocese by asking them to take up a special collection at every Sunday Mass in the near term.

I enclose with this letter an information sheet giving pertinent details about our Order and also how any funds raised should be remitted to us. All monies received will be transferred to our headquarters in Rome for onward transfer to the Latin Patriarchate and/or other official Church agencies actively engaged in reconstruction activities in Gaza. Should any of your parishioners express interest in learning more about our Order with a view to becoming a member please advise us by email at [eojsj.nsw@bigpond.com](mailto:eojsj.nsw@bigpond.com). Please note that as part of our admission procedures you, as the applicant's parish priest, will be asked to provide a reference.

With kind regards and thanks on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Gaza

Yours sincerely

**John R Secker**  
Lieutenant