



that God has something to say in our lives. And our God has the face of Jesus: we have to start with Him. There are many questions we cannot answer, but believing in His presence is a consolation for us: perhaps it is not the consolation we seek, but we are not alone.” The Cardinal went on to pray: “We say: yes, Jesus. Our hearts are heavy. We do not understand. We have expectations, but we entrust ourselves to you: please help us to entrust everything to you.” Closing the Vigil, the Patriarch recalled the small Christian community living in Gaza, which, he said, “is going through a terrible situation. We heard that many of them have lost everything, that every day is a day of suffering. Every day they have to decide whether to leave, but they say: 'No, we will stay because we believe in God'. Everything ends with "Jesus will help us. Jesus will not abandon us". The vigil was concluded by the children's choir and the blessing of the Patriarch, while everyone lit a candle in memory of the many victims of the ongoing war.



On Saturday 11 November, at the initiative of the Palestinian Ministry of Education and in the presence of the Mayor and the Governor of Bethlehem, children from the city's schools gathered in front of the Basilica of the Nativity in Manger Square to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and to pray together for peace. The boys and girls of the Terra Sancta school were present. Also in Bethlehem, Father Faltas added, “the children expressed through songs, messages and drawings their desire to live in their own land, in peace and security. They released colourful balloons into the sky symbolizing their hope that their voice will be heard. “ “I send out my appeal and I pray with them,” concluded the vicar of the Custody of the Holy Land. “They are the first victims of this horror: even those who are not physically affected will carry an indelible trauma in their eyes, hearts and souls. God will hear their cries and their prayers.”

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