



APOSTOLIC DELEGATION  
JERUSALEM

## COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN JERUSALEM

The Apostolic Delegation is pleased to inform that the Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed as the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem the Most Rev. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, O.F.M, Titular Archbishop of Verbe, currently Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante* of the Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem for Latins.

The news has been made public today, October 24, 2020, on the eve of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, and on the centenary of the consecration of Palestine to Our Lady.

Pope Francis, wishing to answer to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, has provided it with a new Patriarch, as the Shepherd of the Latin Catholic community in the Holy Land.

Jerusalem is the first Church in the history of Christianity to have a Bishop, St. James the Lesser, and after his martyrdom, his Successors.

Most likely, Jerusalem became the see of the Patriarchate in the year 451, together with Constantinople. After the fall of St. John of Acre (1291), there was no longer any Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem.

With the Apostolic Letter *Nulla celebrior* of July 23, 1847, Pope Pius IX restored the Latin Patriarchate, called also Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem for Latins.

Soon after the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate, the Rev. Giuseppe Valerga was appointed Patriarch of Jerusalem and consecrated Bishop by Pius IX himself on October 10, 1847.

By today's appointment, Archbishop Pizzaballa becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> Patriarch since the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This is the list of his Predecessors:

H. B. Patriarch Giuseppe Valerga (1847-1872)

H. B. Patriarch Vincenzo Bracco (1873-1889)

H. B. Patriarch Luigi Piavi (1889-1905)  
H. B. Patriarch Filippo Camassei (1906-1919)  
H. B. Patriarch Luigi Barlassina (1920-1947)  
H. B. Patriarch Alberto Gori (1949-1970)  
H. B. Patriarch Giacomo Beltritti (1970-1987)  
H. B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah (1987-2008)  
H. B. Patriarch Fouad Twal (2008-2016).

*Curriculum Vitae:*

H.B. Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa was born in Cologno al Serio (Bergamo) on April 21, 1965. He entered the Franciscan Order in September 1984, made Solemn Profession on October 19, 1989, and was ordained Priest on September 15, 1990. In October 1990, he was sent to Jerusalem for studies and pastoral work. He served as Custos of the Holy Land from 2004 to 2016. He was appointed Titular Archbishop of Verbe and Apostolic Administrator of the Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem for Latins on June 24, 2016, and ordained Bishop on September 10, 2016, in Bergamo, Italy. He administered the Patriarchal Diocese *sede vacante* from July 2016 to October 2020.

Jerusalem, October 24, 2020

