

9 - 15 December 2016



[In wake of Cairo attack, return to Christian roots inspires hope and forgiveness](#)

“What we did when we created the Anaphora Institute, is we dug deep into the ground, until we found water. We brought the water to the surface, spread it across the ground, and it bore fruit. The same you should do in yourself: dig deep until you find the love of Jesus, bring Christ to the surface, and it will bear fruit in your life.”



[Exhibition highlights 1,000-year link between Mount Athos and Ukraine](#)

The Christian presence on the Greek peninsula of Mount Athos goes back 1,800 years, but lesser known is that there is a deep connection to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine extending over the past millennium.

Prayer Cycle

11 December 2016 - 17
December 2016

[Cape Verde, The
Gambia, Guinea,
Guinea-Bissau,
Senegal](#)



[» View the prayers](#)

18 December 2016 - 24
December 2016

[Benin, Côte d'Ivoire,
Togo](#)



[» View the prayers](#)

Christmas 2016



*A greeting from the World Council of
Churches*



[Being Church in Europe Today: Migration through a theological lens](#)

From social and diaconal action, to liturgical life, pastoral care, and theological reflection, churches are responding and adapting to the movement of migrants within Europe and beyond its borders. A recent consultation convened by the Conference of European Churches, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe and WCC took place in Copenhagen from 8 to 10 December 2016.



[‘No Christmas bells in Mosul’ for a third year, says Assyrian priest](#)

Father Emanuel Youkhana rues that, for the third Christmas in a row, the church bells will not ring in Mosul. He recounts that, around June 2014, the numerical religious minorities such as Yazidis and Christians around Iraq's second biggest city began to face a horrific onslaught by the group calling itself IS (Islamic State), or Daesh in Arabic.



[WCC hosts discussion on religious radicalisation](#)

New on Facebook



Conference on “Saint Irenaeus and Enlightened Humanity”



WCC/NCA study: diversity vital for peace in Iraq and Syria



WCC general secretary visits Patriarch Bartholomew I

Religious radicalisation is at the heart of many political discussions worldwide but is also playing a major role in intra-Christian and interreligious dialogue. Often a divisive feature in these discussions is the tendency to stereotype certain religions as having extremist expressions and actions.



[Study shows religious and ethnic diversity vital for peace in Iraq and Syria](#)

Analyzing efforts to protect religious communities and groups and build peace in Syria and Iraq, the WCC and Norwegian Church Aid presented a joint study on protection needs of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria and Iraq. The findings were announced on 12 December to the media and public at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.



[WCC general secretary mourns lost lives, calls for end to violence](#)

As tragic news filtered out of at least three different countries this weekend, World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit called for an end to violence and corruption that stands in the way of a global just peace.



[WCC convenes consultation on the DRC political instability](#)

A consultation of churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo was held this week with a focus on the DRC's political instability. Hosted by Catholic Relief Services in Addis Ababa, the consultation was the second of its kind.

Upcoming events



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 - 25 January 2017

Worldwide

The theme for the week of prayer in 2017, "Reconciliation – the love of Christ compels us", is inspired by verses from the Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5. The resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in Germany.



Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management

21 August - 1 September 2017

Lusaka, Zambia

In order to strengthen the voice of the churches with regards to global economics, a small group of up to 15 current and future leaders representing the churches will have the chance to attend the Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) for an Economy of Life in 2016.