



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin  
Catholic Eparchy Adigrat-Tigray  
Ethiopia

February 2021

Dear Bishop Tesfaselassie,

I am writing, following our recent conversation, to assure you of the Catholic community in England and Wales' solidarity with the people of Tigray during this most painful time.

We are horrified by the violence that has unfolded since November and the daily struggles that your people are now facing including shortages of food, water, and medication, particularly among those who have been driven from their homes.

At the same time, we have witnessed with great admiration the Church's work in responding to this crisis, providing essential humanitarian support to people of all backgrounds, and striving to build peace.

While we recognise that there are barriers to communication with your brothers and sisters around the world, you will not be forgotten. Pope Francis calls on all of us, when confronted with the horrors of war, to *"not remain mired in theoretical discussions, but touch the wounded flesh of the victims."* The Church in England and Wales will continue to stand alongside you, and everyone affected by this conflict.

We remain committed to supporting humanitarian efforts and ensuring that our own political leaders hear the cry of Tigray's people. Above all, we shall continue to hold Tigray in our prayers, and place our hope in the Lord that justice and peace may prevail.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick**  
**Lead Bishop for Africa**  
**Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**