

# South Australian Council of Churches Inc

Affiliated with the National Council of Churches in Australia



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## Stories on the Ecumenical Journey

### Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace

#### Peace Lamps and Peace Doves from the Holy Land

We are all aware that Christmas is almost here - our shops have been telling us for weeks!! For Christians, Christmas is more than shopping and presents, it's a celebration of the birth of Jesus, who came to bring peace into our world. Peace is very much needed grace in our world today, and the Holy Land, the birth place of Jesus, is no exception.

Peace lamps and peace doves are being made in the Holy Land in the village of Taybeh, about 30 kms from Bethlehem. **Taybeh is the last remaining Christian village in the Holy Land.** It was Fr Raed, former Parish Priest of Taybeh, who initiated this project in 2004, to create employment for the young people in the village so that they didn't have to leave the village to find work. The project is known as the Olive Branch Foundation and the goal is 'to place a peace lamp in every single church in the world, and to unite as many Christians and people of faith in a common prayer for peace in the Holy Land'.

We have been part of this project in South Australia since its inception, and in the 3 years since the South Australian Council of Churches began bringing the lamps and doves into South Australia, approximately 640 have found a place in our churches and homes and over \$20,000 has been forwarded to Caritas Jerusalem, where Fr Raed is currently the Director.

If you haven't already had an opportunity to purchase a Peace Lamp (\$44) or a Peace Dove (\$20), you can do so by contacting the South Australian Council of Churches [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au) or email us at [sacc@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc@picknowl.com.au) or phone 8215 0300.

You will be helping to provide employment in the Christian village of Taybeh. A lamp or dove in your home will be a reminder to pray for peace in our world, especially the Holy Land. They may also make a good Christmas present for that hard to buy for person!

*Dawn and John Sullivan*

*Members of SACC Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace*

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