



# Middle East



**CBF Full Members:** 6  
**Associate Members:** 6  
**Countries:** 22

**T**his region of the Catholic Biblical Federation brings together primarily Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa. Historically, these countries were the birthplace of the Bible itself, while Christians living there are, in some manner, the descendants of biblical characters. Complexity and diversity of the Bible is reflected in a great diversity of Christian rites and denomination present in the region. This diversity accounts for the richness of the region, but also poses a significant challenge in the area of diversity and dialogue, not least a dialogue with Islam. The beginnings of this region date back to 1985 when the first meeting of 20 exegetes and ministers of the Word in the Arabic speaking countries of the Near and Middle East took place on the island of Cyprus. The second Cyprus Meeting in February 1988 focused on the topic “The Reading of the Bible in our Middle East context”. This meeting paved a way and provided direction for the biblical apostolate in the entire region.

**PRAYER INTENTION:** That Christians in the Middle East and Northern Africa may enjoy religious freedom and zealously serve the cause of promoting the Bible as the grounds for unity among all Christians.

## MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 30</b>  <i>Dt 4:32-34,39-40 Rom 8:14-17 / Mt 28:16-20</i>	<b>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 31</b>  <i>Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-56</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2</b>  <i>Acts 9:26-31 1Jn 3:18-24 / Jn 15:1-8</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9</b>  <i>Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 1Jn 4:7-10 / Jn 15:9-17</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 16</b>  <i>Acts 1:15-17,20a,20c-26 1Jn 4:11-16 / Jn 17:11b-19</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY 23</b>  <i>Acts 2:1-11 / 1Cor 12:3b-7,12-13</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
	<i>Acts 1:12-14 / Jn 19:25-34</i>	<i>Sir 35:1-12 / Mk 10:28-31</i>	<i>Sir 36:1,4-5a,10-17 / Mk 10:32-45</i>	<i>Sir 42:15-25 / Mk 10:46-52</i>	<i>Sir 44:1,9-13 / Mk 11:11-26</i>	<i>Sir 51:12cd-20 / Mk 11:27-33</i>