**The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Anis**

**Archbishop Emeritus of the Province of Alexandria**

**The former Chairman of the Global South Anglicans of the Anglican Communion**

In 1998, Dr Mouneer was ordained as Deacon and in 1999, he was ordained Mouneer Anis was born in 1950 in the Delta of the Nile, Egypt. He received his Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery at Cairo University, Egypt in 1974. From 1979-2000 he served at [Harpur Memorial Hospital](http://dioceseofegypt.org/explore/ministries/health/harpur-memorial-hospital-menouf/) in Menouf both as a Resident Doctor and from 1980 as the Director of the Hospital.

In 1985, Dr Mouneer studied Internal Medicine at the Royal Post-Graduate Medical School in London. In 1986, Dr Mouneer received a Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the London School of Tropical Medicine. In 1993, Dr Mouneer received a Certificate in Hospital Management and Administrations from the School of Public Health at the University of California.

a priest and served at [All Saints Cathedral, Cairo](http://dioceseofegypt.org/explore/egypt/all-saints-cathedral-zamalek-cairo/). He then became the Executive director of administration in the Diocese of Egypt. He did practical and theological training at Moore Theological College in Sydney, Australia, the Diocese of Canterbury in Kent (UK) as well as at Nashotah House in Wisconsin, USA. In 1999, he was elected by the Diocesan Synod to be the third Egyptian Bishop of the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. In May 2000 he was consecrated as Diocesan Bishop. In 2007, Bishop Mouneer was elected as the Archbishop (Primate) of the [Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East](http://dioceseofegypt.org/explore/about-the-diocese/the-province/).  He was re-elected to serve another term as Primate in 2012. He was elected chairman of the Global South Anglicans of the Anglican Communion in 2012, and he served in this position until 2020. In June 2020 when the new Province of Alexandria was formed, Archbishop Mouneer became the first archbishop of the Province until he retired in June 2021.

Archbishop Mouneer focuses his efforts in building bridges in the society. In this regard, he played a key role in the “Interfaith Agreement” between the Anglican Communion and Al Azhar Al Sharif which was signed in 2002. He also participated for several years in the C-100 of the World Economic Forum as one of the religious leaders in this committee. He became a member of “Beit-el-Aila” (Egyptian House of the Family) in 2011. “Beit-el-Aila” is chaired by the Grand Imam of Al Azhar and the Coptic Orthodox Pope of Alexandria. Archbishop Mouneer Chaired the Anglican Communion Interfaith Commission from 2017 until 2020.

The Diocese of Egypt under his leadership played an important role in building bridges in order to achieve religious harmony and national unity. In this regard, Archbishop Mouneer gave many lectures and speeches in many universities and organizations all over the world. He steered the following initiatives:

1. **“Planting a Tree of Hope”[[1]](#endnote-1),** this initiative was done in cooperation with **Al Azhar Al Sharif**. It aimed for developing the culture of accepting diversity among school children. It also train them on joint art and literature activities. It took place in 2008 and 2020.
2. **“Together for Egypt”[[2]](#endnote-2),** this initiative helped 100 Imams and 100 priests to develop mutual understanding, renew their religious discourse and work together for the common good of the Egyptian Society. This was done over three years (2013-2015) in cooperation with Beit El Aila (Egyptian House of the Family).
3. **“Together We Develop Egypt”[[3]](#endnote-3),**this was done in cooperation with **Misr El Khair Foundation.** This initiativetook place from 2017 until 2021. Its aim is to encourage Christian and Muslim youth to work together in small development projects. Joint work helps in mutual understanding and religious harmony**.**
4. **“Health Outreach”[[4]](#endnote-4), Misr El Khair Foundation and Harpur Memorial Hospital** worked together to provide primary health care for the needy in remote areas.

**Awards**

* Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation, from Archbishop of Canterbury, 2018
* Honorary Doctorate Degree, Doctoris Divinitatis, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Canada
* Samuel Habib Award, from the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, 2013
* Shield from the Egyptian Medical Syndicate, 2006

**Professional Medical Memberships**

* Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1986
* International Member of the American College of Gastroenterology, 1993

**Professional Religious Memberships**

* Former Chairman of the Global South of the Anglican Communion (2012-2020)
* Member of the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA)
* Former Chairman of the Anglican Communion-Al Azhar Dialogue
* Member of the Egyptian “Beit el Aila” that promotes national unity among Egyptian religious communities.

**Publications, Articles, and Papers**

* A Middle Eastern Perspective: Rooted in Egyptian Soil, chapter 2 in *The Future of Orthodox Anglicanism,* to be published February 2020
* History of the Anglican Presence in the Middle East, chapter in the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Anglican Communion,* 2013
* *Becoming a Church*, authored by Bishop Bill Musk and Bishop Mouneer Anis, pre-publication
* Theological and Cultural Foundations for Strong and Positive Inter-religious Foundations, *Religious Peace: A Precious Treasure*, pp. 32-41, 2015
* Christian and Muslim Relations in Egypt, Charlie Moule lecture at Cambridge University, 2016
* Persecution and Suffering as an Inseparable Part of Christian Faith and Discipleship: a Biblical and historical perspective
* Religious Pluralism and Religious Freedom
* The Way to Religious Harmony
* Inclusive Citizenship: thoughts for moving forward
* Recommendations for Policy Changes Toward Inclusive Citizenship
* Resisting Cultural Pride: cultural pride is a stumbling block for effective ministry
* Loving Our Neighbor: An Arab Christian Perspective
* The Possibility of Religious Harmony: An Egyptian Point of View
* The Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting the Right of Citizenship
* Art, Culture, and Community Development as a New Dimension of Interfaith Dialogue
* A Biblical Context for Citizenship
* Who is my Neighbor? Addressing Migration and Asylum, 2016
* Charlie Moule Lecture, Christian and Muslim relations in Egypt
* Inclusive Citizenship, The Role of Religious Leaders
* Religious Pluralism and Religious Freedom
* From Tables to Streets, Art, Culture, and Community Development as New Approaches to Interfaith Dialogue

**Family**

Archbishop Mouneer is married to Nancy, they have two sons, Shady and Ramez, and two grandchildren.

**Interests**

* Painting
* Photography
* Writing

## **Shaykh Professor Dr. Ali Gomaa**

Sheikh Ali Gomaa was born on March 3rd 1952 in Bani Suwaif, Upper Egypt. He was raised in a pious household that respected knowledge. His father, a lawyer specializing in personal status shariah law, transferred his love of books to his son whose private library now boasts over 30,000 titles and is sought out by students and researchers from around the world in need of rare texts.

Sheikh Ali began memorizing the Quran at the age of ten and, although he did not go to religious schools, by the time he graduated from high school he had studied the six canonical collections of hadith as well as Maliki jurisprudence. When it came time for him to go to college he had the choice to enter either the faculty engineering or the faculty of commerce. He chose commerce since it was a field that would allow him the spare time to continue his religious studies while he was in school.

After graduating from college Sheikh Ali enrolled in al-Azhar University. During his first year in al-Azhar he memorized many of the foundational texts that other students who had gone through the al-Alzhar high school system had already encountered. These included works in jurisprudence, Arabic grammar, Quranic recitation, and hadith methodology. After completing a second bachelor's degree from al-Azhar in 1979, Sheikh Ali enrolled in a master's degree program at the same university's department of shariah and law. He obtained his master's degree in 1985 followed by a PhD from the same department in 1988.

In addition to his official studies, Sheikh Ali spent time with many sheikhs and masters of the shariah sciences and the spiritual path outside of the university setting. The most influential of these sheikhs was the Moroccan hadith scholar and Sufi Sheikh Abdullah bin Siddiq al-Ghumari who considered Sheikh Ali to be one of his most accomplished students.

Other scholars that Sheikh Ali studied with include: Sheikh Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuda, Sheikh Muhammad Abu Nur Zuhayr, Sheikh Jad al-Rabb Ramadan Goma', Sheikh al-Husayni Yusif al-Shaykh, Sheikh Muhammad Yasin al-Fadani, Sheikh Abd al-Jalil al-Qarnishawi al-Maliki, Sheikh al-Azhar Sheikh Jad al-Haqq Ali Jadd al-Haq, Sheikh Abd al-'Aziz al-Zayat, Sheikh Ahmed Muhammad Mursi al-Naqshibandi, Sheikh Muhammad Zaki Ibrahim, and Sheikh Muhammad Hafidh al-Tijani.

Before his appointment as Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Ali was Professor of Juristic Methodologies at al-Azhar University. In addition to teaching classes on the university campus, in the mid-1990's Sheikh Ali reestablished the tradition of giving lessons in the al-Azhar mosque. For a decade Sheikh Ali could be found in one of the side rooms of the mosque teaching jurisprudence, juristic methodology, hadith and its sciences, theology, and spirituality from the early morning until noon six days a week. These lessons were open to the public and a number of students who had adopted an extremist approach to religion attended regularly. Sheikh Ali engaged these students challenging their understanding of Islam and offering alternative interpretations to extremist views. As a result many of these students renounced extremism and embraced the more moderate vision of Islam that Sheikh Ali taught. A close circle of young religious scholars who had adopted his approach soon formed around Sheikh Ali and now that much of his time is taken up with official duties, this group of scholars continues the tradition of giving informal lessons in the al-Azhar mosque.

In 1998 Sheikh Ali began delivering the Friday sermon at Cairo's Sultan Hasan Mosque, one of the city's grandest and most beautiful examples of Mamluk architecture. His sermons drew a crowd of hundreds, many of whom would remain after the prayer to attend his public lesson and question and answer session. In the ten years since he began delivering sermons there Cairenes from all walks of life have been drawn to Sultan Hasan to hear his message that emphasizes mercy, intelligence, and understanding when confronting the difficulties of the contemporary world.

In 2003 Sheikh Ali was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt. Since taking on the position he has revolutionized the process of issuing fatwas in Egypt transforming Dar al-Ifta from a institution that was the extension of one individual (the Grand Mufti) to a modern institution with a fatwa council and a system of checks and balances. Sheikh Ali has also added a technological aspect to the institution by developing a sophisticated website and call center through which people can request fatwas even if they are unable to come to the institution personally. Over the last five years Sheikh Ali has overseen the issuance of many important, and some controversial, fatwas all of which share the common characteristic of striving to show the continued relevance of Islam for people living in the 21st century. The methodology according to which this is carried out can be characterized by a profound respect for the intellectual product of the past accompanied by a realization of its shortcomings, when they exist, and an understanding of the specific needs the times in which we live.

Sheikh Ali is a prolific author and writer on Islamic issues and he writes a weekly column in the Egyptian al-Ahram newspaper in which he discusses matters of current interest and religion.

1. Planting a tree of hope; <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Together for Egypt; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie-85pL2CyQ> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Together we Develop Egypt; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emmcjy0QZjU>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir9VRTB_SAU> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Health Outreach; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHBH_gkn5WA> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)