



Bishops' House
Corran Esplanade
Oban PA34 5AB

March 18th 2023

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send you our customary good wishes and greetings from the Catholic Church in Scotland as you celebrate the festival of Naw Ruz and the beginning of a new year.

It seems that each new year brings with it fresh challenges for people of all faiths as we strive to address the issues facing the world as a whole, as well as meeting the needs of individuals within our faith and local communities. We, like you, are acutely aware of the existential threats posed by climate change and the risks this poses to us all but especially to the poor of our world who are least responsible for this threat and yet most at risk from its immediate consequences.

As people of faith, we share a commitment to the well-being of humanity and God's creation, and we recognise the importance not only of working together as faith communities but also of setting an example of how to treat each other and our world with respect and kindness.

Your belief in the oneness of humanity while respecting its marvellous diversity provides us with a special value to underpin our work together of interreligious dialogue. For it is only by knowing and understanding each other that we will be able to work closely together to tackle the great issues of our time.

As Pope Francis said on his recent visit to Kazakhstan: "The path of interreligious dialogue is a shared path to peace; as such it is necessary and irrevocable". He added "Interreligious dialogue is no longer merely something expedient, it is an urgently needed and incomparable service to humanity, to the praise and glory of the Creator of all".

Therefore, as we walk this path together, let me extend to you on behalf of the Scottish Catholic Bishops and the whole Catholic community, a happy and blessed Naw Ruz to you all.

Yours sincerely,

+ Brian McGee

+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles,
President of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue