



Bishops' House
Corran Esplanade
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March 25th 2022

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to send you the annual message from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue for the holy month of Ramadan and the festival of Eid which you will celebrate at the beginning of May.

This year the letter reflects on our shared experience of the coronavirus and how important it has been to share our joys and sorrows with one another. The letter tells us "Sharing finds its most profound motivation in the awareness that all we are and all we have are gifts from God and that, in consequence, we have to put our talents at the service of all our brothers and sisters, sharing what we have with them". The letter also speaks of how important support and solidarity are in times of crisis and sorrow.

We surely need to support one another in the present crises that are facing our world because as brothers and sisters we are all implicated in them. Humanity is still struggling with the coronavirus, is facing the dangers of climate change, is caught up in wars and conflicts throughout the world. Now a war in Ukraine exposes how fragile peace in Europe has been with the ever-present danger of nuclear weapons and a possible third world war which could drastically change life as we have known it.

As people of faith, we feel the pain of our world and the suffering of so many of our brothers and sisters. Ramadan, like lent for Christians, is a time for fasting and increased prayer, a time for personal and community renewal, a time to pray for peace. It is our faith and trust in God that gives us hope for the future. It is our friendships and collaborations that allow us to support one another in dedicated action as we work together to "rebuild a society which truly lives 'as a single human family.' (*Fratelli Tutti*, 8). We will be joining our prayers with yours during Ramadan for the lasting peace which only God can give.

In the meantime, in my own name, in the name of the Scottish Catholic Bishops and indeed the whole Catholic community I join my good wishes with those of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in wishing you a peaceful and fruitful Ramadan and a joyful celebration of 'Id al-Fitr.

Yours sincerely

+ Brian McGee

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