



Bishop's House
Corran Esplanade
Oban PA34 5AB

March 21st 2021

Dear Friends,

Last year our communities celebrated Pesach and Easter in unusual and restricted circumstances. We thought then that it would be a one off event, that this year there would be a return to normal but once again many of us are facing celebrations apart from family and friends.

This has been a difficult year for all of us. Many have lost loved ones without being able to accompany them into death or being able to mourn with family and friends. Many have been pressurised by work and home schooling. Others have experienced loneliness and stress while others have found time to enjoy their homes and explore new interests. We have come to be grateful for the work of nurses and doctors, care workers, essential service providers – all those who keep our communities running smoothly and contribute to its well-being.

Pesach, remembering as it does, the liberation of the People of Israel from the slavery of Egypt reminds us that our hope in liberation and salvation is well founded. It gives us confidence that there is light at the end of this corona tunnel, that there is a brighter future ahead and that we can be restored to health and well-being and enjoyment of friends and family. Hopefully, we will do so having learned the lessons of this time of lockdown. We have seen with our own eyes how interconnected we are as human beings, how we are all affected by viruses that cannot be contained within nations, cultures or religions, how dependent we are on each other and on those who serve the needs of our community. May we emerge from this experience with a renewed sense of human fraternity and a renewed commitment to continue the good relations between our two faiths and the work of interreligious dialogue here in Scotland.

For the moment, however, I am happy to send greetings and good wishes to you and the whole Jewish community as you celebrate Pesach, in my own name, in the name of the Scottish Catholic Bishops and indeed the Scottish Catholic community.

Yours sincerely

+ Brian McGee

+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

President of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue