



Bishop's House
Corran Esplanade
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April 10th, 2022

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be sending greetings to you and the Jewish community as you celebrate Pesach this week. As you know I replaced Archbishop Mario Conti as the Bishop with responsibility for interreligious dialogue in 2020 and each time I have written to you the world has been facing crises which have shown us clearly how vulnerable our global community is. There was coronavirus, climate change and now a war in Ukraine which 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 the world as we have known it.

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 peace is possible and calls us to trust in God and work for peace in our own lives. At a time when it is easy to become despondent it is good to keep in mind that that God "gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless... Those who hope in the Lord will regain their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; though they run they will not grow weary, though they walk they will never tire (Is. 40:29, 31).

It is interesting that for the first time in over 30 years several religions are celebrating significant festivals this week. We Christians, of course, are celebrating Easter, Jains are celebrating the birthday of one of their founders, Baha'is are remembering the day on which their founder Baha'u'llah declared his mission as a Manifestation of God, Sikhs are commemorating the birth of the Khalsa in the festival of Vaisakhi while Muslims are observing Ramadan. This week will surely be a time of renewed prayer and spiritual energy as so many people of faith are renewing their commitment and no doubt praying for peace in our world, particularly in Ukraine. This too can be a source of confidence and hope.

In the meantime, 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, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

President of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue