



Bishop's House
Corran Esplanade
Oban PA34 5AB

18th November 2020

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. I am Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and I have recently been appointed by the Scottish Bishops to succeed Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti as the Bishop responsible for interreligious dialogue in Scotland.

Archbishop Mario has been a great ambassador for interfaith relations and has come to know many of you as friends. I hope to follow in his footsteps and get to know you and your community through our common concerns for the future of interfaith relations in Scotland. By this time I should have met some of you at our annual interfaith reception but Covid has put paid to that this year.

I am pleased to send you the customary letter from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue on the festival of Guru Nanak Prakash Diwas which encourages us all to nurture a culture of hope in these troubled times of Covid 19. The letter recognises the great work that the Sikh community has done, particularly in your generosity of providing so many free meals to those in need. The common kitchen of your community is a great sign of the service that is at the heart of Sikhism. Here in Scotland people of all faiths and none have been impressed by the hope that you have given to so many in your distribution of food. It is indeed one of the many lights that have shone in these dark times.

As you celebrate Pope Francis' latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti I send my greetings and those of the Bishops' of Scotland to wish you a happy feast which has to be celebrated this year in such limited circumstances. In spite of that I join with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to pray that the feast be "a light of renewed hope among you and peace and joy in your lives, families and communities".

With good wishes to you all

Yours sincerely

+ Brian McGee

+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

President of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue