



40 Newlands Rd. Glasgow G43 2JD

10 April 2019

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to send you the customary greeting from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue as you celebrate the festival of Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Diwas on 17<sup>th</sup> April. I know you are a small community in Scotland and hope you will pass this message on to your family, friends and other members of the Jain community.

The letter from the Pontifical Council takes up the theme of listening to the cries of the earth and of the poor. Since the foundation of your community, the Jain community has been known for its commitment to caring for the earth. Your witness in this has been and is an inspiration to other faiths, showing us how to love and reverence nature, particularly important in these days of climate change and environmental concern. As the letter says, the ones to suffer most from this are the poor who are the victims of the misuse of the earth's resources by the rich.

In 2015 Pope Francis published a document in which he spoke of the need we all have to protect the environment. This is quoted at the end of the Pontifical Council's letter and I would like to stress my support for the need we have to "protect nature, defend the poor, and build networks of respect and fraternity".

So let us continue the good work of promoting interfaith relations in Scotland and continue to work together to make our earth habitable for all, especially the poor.

With my good wishes to you and your community for a happy feast of Mahavir Janma Kalyanak,

Yours sincerely,

*+ Mario*

+ Mario Conti  
*Emeritus Archbishop of Glasgow*  
*Chair of the Committee for Inter Religious Dialogue*