



40 Newlands Rd. Glasgow G43 2JD

16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Friends,

Once again I have the privilege and pleasure of passing on to you the greetings and good wishes of the Catholic Church in Scotland as you celebrate the Festival of Pesach, remembering as you do the saving work of God and God's desire for the liberation of all people. We Christians feel a special bond with you at this time, rejoicing in our shared heritage and faith in the saving action of God as we journey towards Easter.

As I write our nation is torn apart by discord, political turmoil and the rise of anti-Semitism, islamophobia and racism of all kinds. It has led to fear and insecurity in many of our communities. You know so well from history and experience the terrible consequences of discrimination, hate speech and action. It behoves us all to challenge and stand united against such attitudes, to proclaim a common humanity and a shared sense of citizenship. Here in Scotland the work of interfaith gives us an opportunity to do that. It takes a certain amount of courage to sustain this work, especially if the results are not always obvious but I am constantly reminded of the words of Pope Francis when he reminds us that the very meetings between us are a message in themselves. They are a witness to a relationship based not on suspicion but on mutual respect and acceptance of difference.

As we celebrate our foundational festivals I pray that we may continue to promote love, unity and friendship between our two faiths and between people of all faiths and none, appreciating in each other the image of God in whose likeness we and they have all be formed.

Once again I assure you of the thoughts and prayers of the Scottish Bishops, our Committee for Inter Religious Dialogue and the whole Catholic community for the whole Jewish community in Scotland this Pesach.

Yours very sincerely,

*+Mario*

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

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