



## Scottish Interfaith Week November 8<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

*“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.” (Fratelli Tutti 8)*

Dear Father,

I hope that you are well at this challenging time and I thank you for all you are doing for your parishioners and wider society. I have recently taken over as Chair of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue and am writing to encourage you to support the Church's work of interreligious dialogue and to mark Interfaith Week in some way. This year the week takes place from November 8<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> with the theme of Connecting.

The reality of connection has become more important in these past months of Covid restrictions as we have come to realise our dependence on one another and our unity as brothers and sisters facing the same vulnerabilities and concerns for the future. The theme fits in perfectly with Pope Francis' latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti in which he acknowledges that he wrote it with the encouragement of “the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, with whom I met in Abu Dhabi, where we declared that “God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters”(TF5). A representative of the Grand Imam was present and spoke at the launch of the encyclical which in itself was significant.

Interfaith week, therefore, is a perfect opportunity for us to make our parishioners aware of the importance of interreligious dialogue within the life of the Church and as a way of promoting peace and unity. A way of doing this is to put a statement about Interfaith Week in your parish bulletin, to use one or more of the bidding prayers enclosed with this letter, send a letter of greeting to a local place of worship near you or engage in some kind of local interfaith activity. Information about the many interfaith events taking place throughout the country can be found in the website of Interfaith Scotland ([www.interfaithscotland.org](http://www.interfaithscotland.org)).

I do hope you will take the opportunity that Interfaith Week affords to highlight the need for good interfaith relations as a way towards fulfilling Pope Francis' dream of a world of peace and justice.

With best wishes,

+ Brian McGee

**Chair of the Bishops' Committee for Inter-Religious Dialogue**

## FOR PARISH BULLETIN: 8<sup>h</sup> NOVEMBER

*Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."*

Today is the beginning of Scottish Interfaith week. It is an opportunity for Catholics to follow the example set by our Holy Father Pope Francis to reach out to our neighbours and to recognise all people of faith as our brothers and sisters. Take the opportunity this week to pray that people of faith might work together for peace in our world and in our country. Interfaith Scotland's website [www.interfaithscotland.org](http://www.interfaithscotland.org) gives notification of the many interfaith events happening throughout the country this week if you would like to get involved.

### FOR BIDDING PRAYERS

Today at the beginning of a week dedicated to reflection and prayer on our relationship with communities of faith we ask the Lord to keep us ever respectful of all those who seek Him in truth and who strive to live according to a code of right conduct.

Lord hear us .....

We pray that in our own encounter with those of other religions we may, in respectful dialogue, identify and promote what we hold in common, and seek to overcome obstacles in the path of peace and justice

Lord hear us.....

We pray that God who desires that all men and women may be brought to the full knowledge of the truth and be saved, may graciously grant us wisdom in our encounters with those of other religious traditions, that being at all times faithful to what we have received, we may accompany them on the path to eternal life

Lord hear us.....

For information on the Bishops' Committee for Inter-Religious Dialogue see  
[www.interreligiousdialogue.org.uk](http://www.interreligiousdialogue.org.uk)

