



Bishop's House  
Corran Esplanade  
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May 2nd 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send you greetings from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue for the festival of Wesak which many of you will be celebrating this coming weekend. The theme of the letter is Promoting a Culture of Care and Solidarity and it calls us to “bear witness to a conviction which we today share, that everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.”

This has been a difficult year for all of us. Many have lost loved ones without being able to accompany them into death or being able to mourn with family and friends. Many have been pressurised by work and home schooling. Others have experienced loneliness and stress while others have found time to enjoy their homes and explore new interests. We have come to be grateful for the work of nurses and doctors, care workers, essential service providers – all those who keep our communities running smoothly and contribute to its well-being.

We have also become aware of our common humanity and vulnerability and as we emerge from Covid restrictions I hope and pray we will grow in loving kindness to one another and the world in which we live, a loving kindness that will “strengthen our bonds of friendship and further unite us in service to the human family.”

In my own name, in the name of the Bishops of Scotland and indeed the whole Catholic community I wish you a happy feast of Wesak and add my prayers to those of the Pontifical Council that this annual feast of the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Gautama Buddha may bring joy, serenity, and hope to you and the hearts of Buddhists throughout the world.

Yours sincerely

+ Brian McGee

+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

President of the Bishops' Committee for Interreligious Dialogue