



COLUMBAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Bridges

Building relationships between Christians and Muslims



No. 87 June 2020

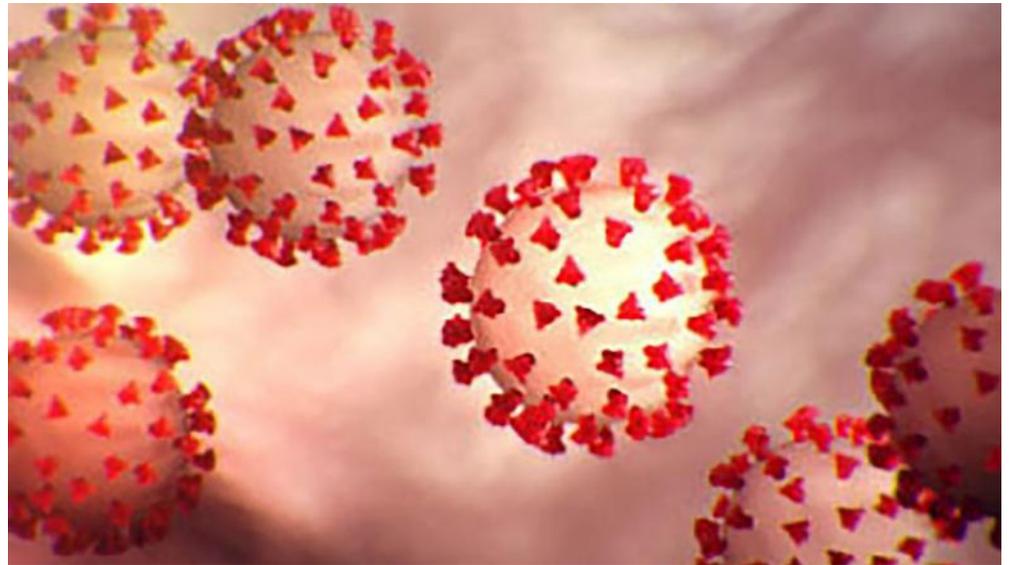
Contents

- 1 From the Editor
- 2 Centre News
- 4 World News
- 6 Features
- 11 Coming Events
- 12 Columban Resources
- 12 *Bridges* subscription

Columban Centre for
Christian-Muslim Relations
c/o Institute for Mission
1-5 Marion St
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148
E: info.cccmr@columban.org.au
P: (02) 9672 3616
www.columban.org.au

 /ChristianMuslimRelations
/AbrahamConference
/TheSydneyStatement
/YouthPoWR

 /YouthPoWR



From the Editor

Is it the end of the world? No! But it is the end of the world as we know it!

We are living in unprecedented times. The coronavirus pandemic has affected lives, livelihoods, economies, travel, communities and relationships around the world. Hundreds of thousands have died. Millions are infected. Public gatherings are cancelled. People everywhere are quarantined, isolated or physically distanced. Meetings have migrated online. Places of worship are closed. Religious services are live-streamed. Such massive changes in a few weeks is unparalleled!

Another word for these times is “apocalyptic”. I use this word not in the populist sense of “the end times”, but in the original Greek meaning as “unveiling” or “revelation”, as disclosing that which had previously remained hidden. In these times, we see human solidarity in a new way. COVID-19 does not discriminate. It affects rich and poor, male

and female, people of every culture, language, religion and world-view. We are all at risk and we can all help protect each other.

In these times, we see religion in a new way. The priority of preserving life trumps religious ritual obligations. ‘Loving our neighbour’ means we stay home, rather than attend worship, even peak observances such as Lent and Easter, Ramadan and *Eid*.

In these times, we see the natural world in a new way. COVID-19 highlights how all life is deeply interconnected. The virus transferred from animals to humans and wreaked havoc across the world. But we also look to nature for solace in our anxiety and for an antidote to the virus. We must learn to live within limits and to respect differences.

On the other side of the coronavirus pandemic, may we be a kinder, gentler society that is more connected with one another and living in a respectful and sustainable relationship with the natural environment.

REV DR PATRICK McINERNEY



Drafting *The Sydney Statement*

This year we hit the ground running, as **Rev Dr Patrick McInerney** had prepared a first draft of *The Sydney Statement* during the summer holiday. The facilitator revised the draft, and then the Centre team together. We presented Draft Three to the Steering Committee and to the Youth PoWR Coordinating Committee for feedback in January. After a further round of drafting, we presented Draft Six to a Youth PoWR consultation

in Marrickville on 19 March. COVID-19 restrictions then drove our consultations with the two Committees online. After another round of drafting, we will present Draft Nine to the Youth PoWR network and to religious leaders. We hope to have the final text ready for authorisation by Youth PoWR in July.

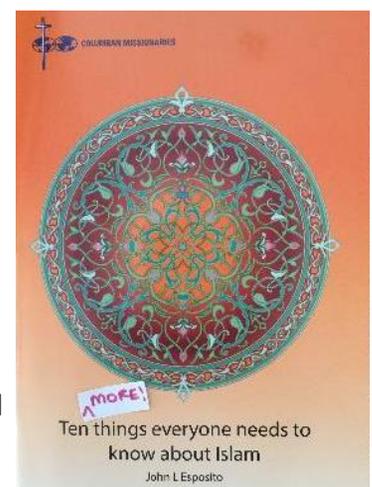


Religious education

Catholic Education in the Diocese of Parramatta is introducing a new Religious Education (RE) Curriculum in all their schools. The authors included interreligious dialogue, as this is very important for Catholic students engaging with their peers from different religions, especially given the religious diversity of Western Sydney. They consulted **Rev Dr Patrick McInerney**, who also attended the launch of the Curriculum to priests of the diocese and to RE teachers. At the Centre, we hope to facilitate professional development and training in the theory and practice of interreligious dialogue for teachers and pastoral workers. For details of the Curriculum see <https://bit.ly/2yOZmRd>.

New Columban resource on Islam

The Centre is pleased to announce that an upcoming resource about Islam is in production. The new resource is the second instalment to the original booklet published by Columban Mission Institute, *Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know About Islam* (pictured). Just as we had done for the original resource, the Centre's team selected 10 questions from John L. Esposito's book (with Esposito's permission), *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*. Our new booklet is aptly called *Ten **MORE** Things Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*. It will provide answers to commonly asked questions about Islam and Muslims, such as, how did Islam originate? And what do Muslims believe about Mary and Jesus? The new resource, like the first, is an accessible, educational reference for readers to gain accurate information about Muslims and Islam.





From left: Ahmet Polat, Zia Ahmed, Kati Haworth, Patrick McNerney, Manas Ghosh, Kate Xavier, Shenouda Mansour, Rifāat Ebied and Abbas Raza Alvi.

Consolidating the Abraham Conference

The Abraham Conference brings together Jews, Christians and Muslims. It is organised jointly by the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, Affinity Intercultural Foundation, the Australian Egyptian Forum Council, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the Uniting Church. This year the Diocese of Parramatta joined and appointed Kate Xavier to the Organising Committee. Abbas Raza Alvi, president of the Indian Crescent Society of Australia (ICSOA), Zia Ahmad, editor of the *Australasian Muslim Times* (AMUST), and Fr Shenouda Mansour, secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council, also joined the Organising Committee, broadening the representation. The consolidated Committee is planning for the 2020 Abraham Conference later this year, depending on the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.



Thanks for visiting us at the Centre!

Early in the year, we welcomed friends old and new to our Centre for conversation and a cuppa. Columban priests **Fr Patrick Visanti** and **Fr Bernie Lane** (pictured third left) visited us on separate occasions, sharing their experiences as missionary priests based in Pakistan and Peru. **Mohamed Dukuly** (pictured below, centre) shared his story as a refugee from his home country of Liberia on his visit. Mohamed works for the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS). He is also involved in the interfaith scene through his connections with Together for Humanity and various African church communities in Western Sydney. Federal Agent **Aaron De Silva** introduced us to new members of the Community Liaison Team of the Australian Federal Police, team leader **Jason Constable** and **Cameron Nagel**. When you visit us at the Centre, you are treated to a selfie by **Ryan Epondulan** (left), Youth & Networking Coordinator, with Centre staff, **Fr Patrick McNerney** (far left), Director, and **Kim Chong** (pictured above, second left), Media & Community Liaison.

Indonesia's NU cleric and Pope Francis address interreligious conflicts

Yahya Cholil Staquf (right), secretary-general of Indonesia's largest Islamic organisation, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), and 17 other religious leaders, held a meeting with Pope Francis (far right) at his residence in Vatican City to talk about the importance of social activism in addressing interreligious conflicts. The gathering was part of the Abrahamic Faiths Initiative forum in Rome in January. Yahya emphasised that any declaration addressing interreligious conflicts needs real, follow-up strategic measures. He cited the NU's social activism in protecting the rights of minority groups as one of the group's transformative strategies to curb interreligious conflicts. Pope Francis emphasised that people must return to the roots of their beings, which is to become each other's brothers and sisters. *Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/2xE6r6T>.*



Catholics have forgiven Easter church bombers, says Cardinal

Speaking at an Easter Sunday Mass on 12 April, the archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith (pictured), said Sri Lanka's Catholics have forgiven the bombers who struck their churches during Easter celebrations in 2019. "Last year some misguided youths attacked us and we as humans could have given a human and selfish response. But we meditated on Christ's teachings and loved

them, forgave them and had pity on them," he said during the service. The cardinal, who live-streamed the Mass from his residence due to the COVID-19 crisis, added: "We did not hate them and return them the violence. Resurrection is the complete rejection of selfishness." Nine suicide bombers targeted two Catholic churches, one evangelical church and three hotels on 21 April last year, killing an estimated 290 people and injuring more than 500. *Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/3foT1wx>.*

Muslim family's care package touches UK village

A Muslim family left food packets at the doors of self-isolated neighbours of a small village in the UK's West Lindsey district during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pauline Loven, a renowned costumier and heritage film producer, received two food packets at her doorstep with the messages "have a good day" and "keep safe". Both were from her Muslim neighbour,



Ghana, whom she had met only once, months ago. "I was incredibly touched. I know that it is not just me she is caring for, but many more isolated people living on our street. I am looking forward to meeting her properly when this is all over," said Pauline. Asking Ghana what she owed her for such generosity, Pauline was told, "Nothing. You are my neighbour and you are my family!" *Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/35F530r>.*



Interreligious prayer gathering expresses solidarity with victims of COVID-19

Sebastian Francis Shaw OFM, archbishop of Lahore and chairman of the National Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism (NCIDE), a project of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference (PCBC), gathered leaders from different religions to offer prayers in accordance with their creeds for those affected by COVID-19. Among the gathered were Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs, who together expressed their solidarity with COVID-19

victims and their families throughout the world. They also offered prayers for the doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and administrators of all the hospitals worldwide, asking that Almighty God keep them safe in carrying out their services for the ailing people. The archbishop said that all of humanity is under the attack of this virus. It is not the affliction of a specific community, followers of a specific religion or the people of a specific colour, caste or creed, he said. Members of the NCIDE promised to stand with all of humanity and share their efforts without discrimination. *Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/2Wr2ThD>.*



Interfaith prayers led at Auschwitz by most senior Muslim to date

A delegation of Muslims and Jews jointly visited Auschwitz in January for a memorial event, during which Islamic and Jewish prayers were said, and candles lit. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim al-Issa (left), a Saudi Arabian politician and secretary-general of the Muslim World League, became the senior-most Muslim to visit the site for the interfaith mission, marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. He was joined by delegates from the Muslim World League, as well as David Harris, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), Rabbi David Rosen, head of AJC's Department of Interreligious Affairs, and AJC president Harriet Schleifer, among a wider delegation from the Jewish community. Dr al-Issa addressed the interfaith group before the International Monument at Auschwitz, calling the horrors of the camp a "crime against humanity". He also lit a candle at the Wall of Executions in memory of those killed there. On its website, the MWL describes itself as a "tolerant and sociable organisation, spreading the understanding the importance of interfaith cooperation and dialogue to fight extremism and bigotry".

Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/2YHX7Kq>.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANDOUT/-, ALAN HOLDREN/CNA, COURTESY.

Wishing our Muslim friends a blessed Ramadan

A greeting on behalf of the Centre by its director, Rev Dr Patrick McNerney



**To my Muslim sisters and brothers, رمضان كريم
Ramadan Kareem!**

As a Christian, I deliberately address you as “sisters and brothers”. I follow Pope Francis and Sheikh al-Tayyeb, who together wrote in the *Document on Human Fraternity*, “Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved.”
<http://bit.ly/2Vf7u3e>

My name is Patrick McNerney. I am a Catholic priest. I am the director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations.

This year, Ramadan will be like no other. No communal prayers in the mosques. No public gatherings in halls for iftar. Not even large family gatherings at home for iftar. You will pray and gather with just the immediate family. No communal tarawih prayers in the mosques at night. And at the end of Ramadan, no communal gatherings for Eid prayers, or for Eid celebrations. It will indeed be very strange for you.

I know, because we Christians have just celebrated our biggest feast, Easter, with similar restrictions: no communal liturgies, no public celebrations, everything done in the privacy of our homes,

accessing prayer services through live-streaming, and meeting and greeting each other only by phone or Zoom or Skype.

My Muslim sisters and brothers, even though we will be physically distant from each other in the coming weeks, each isolated in our own home, I want to assure you that you are not alone. As Muslims, you belong to the *ummah*, so are linked to each other by the shared beliefs, pillars and communal spirit of Islam. But you are also linked to us, and we to you: believers – by our shared faith in the one God; and all of us – by our shared humanity.

We share your anxiety at this time of the coronavirus pandemic, as you share ours. We share the stress of the disruption that this has brought to all our lives – I thank you for the food and provisions you deliver to the vulnerable and others who are isolated and in need at this troubled time – and together we share prayers and hopes that it will soon be over, *in sha Allah!* Besides, God watches over us all, giving protection, healing and mercy.

As an expression of connecting with you at this time, here is my commitment:

- I will fast with you every day during Ramadan.
- I will pray for you every day during Ramadan.
- I will break my fast at the same time as you, at *maghrib*, every evening during Ramadan.
- I will have an iftar at my home at the same time as you during Ramadan.

In this way, although physically isolated, we will remain socially and, especially, spiritually connected – stronger than ever – together! I pray every blessing from Almighty God on you, your families, and your communities, during the blessed month of Ramadan.

By the physical discipline of your fasting, the spiritual devotion of your hearts, and the generosity of your almsgiving, may you find grace and favour in God’s eyes. Amen.

رمضان مبارك Ramadan Mubarak!

View the video version of this message at <https://bit.ly/2T2qxWE>.

An Eid message from the PCID in Rome

Vatican's Message for the Month of Ramadan and *Eid al-Fitr* 1441 H/2020 AD

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters,

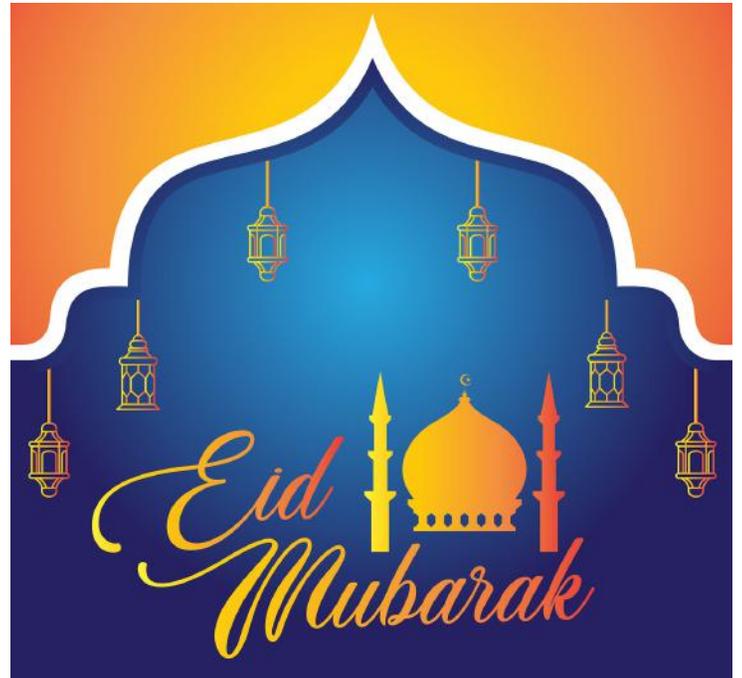
The month of Ramadan is so central in your religion and therefore dear to you at personal, familial and social levels. It is a time for spiritual healing and growth, of sharing with the poor, of strengthening bonds with relatives and friends.

For us, your Christian friends, it is a propitious time to further strengthen our relationships with you, by greeting you, meeting you on this occasion and, where possible, by sharing in an iftar with you. Ramadan and *'Id al-Fitr* thus are special occasions to foster fraternity between Christians and Muslims. It is in this spirit that the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue offers its prayerful best wishes and hearty congratulations to you all.

The thoughts we like to share with you this year following our cherished tradition are about the protection of the places of worship. As we all know, the places of worship occupy an important place in Christianity and Islam, and in other religions as well. For both Christians and Muslims, churches and mosques are spaces reserved for prayer, personal and communitarian alike. They are constructed and furnished in a way that favours silence, reflection and meditation. They are spaces where one can go deep in himself/herself, so favouring for God-experience in silence. A place of worship of any religion therefore is "a house of prayer" (Isaiah, 56: 7).

Places of worship are also spaces for spiritual hospitality, where believers of other religions also join for some special ceremonies like weddings, funerals, feasts of the community etc. While they participate in the events in silence and with due respect to the religious observances of the believers of that particular religion, they also savour the hospitality accorded to them. Such practice is a privileged witness to what unites believers, without diminishing or denying what distinguishes them.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to recall what Pope Francis said when he made a visit to the *Heydar Aliyev Mosque*, in Baku (Azerbaijan) on Sunday, 2 October 2016: "Meeting one another in fraternal friendship in this place of prayer is a powerful sign, one that shows the harmony which religions can build together, based on personal relations and on the good will of those responsible."



In the context of recent attacks on churches, mosques and synagogues by wicked persons who seem to perceive the places of worship as a privileged target for their blind and senseless violence, it is worth noting what the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*, signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Dr Ahmad al-Tayyeb, in Abu Dhabi, on 4 February 2019, said: "The protection of places of worship – synagogues, churches and mosques – is a duty guaranteed by religions, human values, laws and international agreements. Every attempt to attack places of worship or threaten them by violent assaults, bombings or destruction, is a deviation from the teachings of religions as well as a clear violation of international law."

While appreciating the efforts done by the international community at different levels for the protection of places of worship worldwide, it is our hope that our mutual esteem, respect and cooperation will help strengthen the bonds of sincere friendship, and enable our communities to safeguard the places of worship to assure for coming generations the fundamental freedom to profess one's own beliefs. With renewed esteem and fraternal greetings, in the name of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, we convey friendly wishes for a fruitful month of Ramadan and a joyous *'Id al-Fitr*.

From the Vatican, 17 April 2020

Miguel Ángel Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, MCCI, President
Rev Msgr Indunil Kodithuwakku Janakaratne Kankanamalage, Secretary

Christians and Muslims pray together

On 25 April 2020, isolated in their homes due to COVID-19 restrictions, Australians and New Zealanders stood in their driveways at dawn with lighted candles to commemorate the sacrifice of the ANZACS. Exactly one month before, on 25 March 2020, Christians and Muslims in Lebanon, similarly isolated, stood on the balconies of their homes at dusk with lighted candles and prayed the following prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, seeking God’s protection from the virus:

***God, our Lord, Lord of all creation and of humanity in its entirety,
You who have chosen Mary and elected her among all women, sending the angel Gabriel to her to announce the good news that we celebrate together, Christians and Muslims.***

***Our Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate, the One who loves all of humankind,
You who have given us the blessing of life, save us from the danger of this pandemic.***

O Lord, make the Virgin Mary a model for us in our lives. May her example motivate us to hold on to our unity in the face of hardships and challenges, and to have confidence in Your Providence instead of giving in to fear or pride, so that we, like her, may show solidarity and serve others in all gratuity.

Our Lord, You are the All Hearing, the One who supports. Assist the paramedics, the nurses, and the doctors. Heal the sick and console the grieving. Give those who are in need their sustenance and their needs. We implore Your assistance to remain dedicated to You and faithful to each other. Amen

This prayer was composed for the 2020 Feast of the Annunciation by the Adyan Foundation, a well-known association inaugurated by Father Fadi Daou in 2007 to promote dialogue and religious pluralism in Lebanon: <https://adyanfoundation.org/>.

The prayer includes several of the 99 Beautiful Names of God from Islamic spirituality, including “The Merciful”,



The Annunciation, a miniature from an exhibition of folios from the iconic Persian manuscript *The World History* of Rashid al-Din, 1314: A Masterpiece of Islamic Painting.

“The Compassionate”, “The All-Hearing”, “The One Who Loves” and “The One Who Supports”. It also acknowledges Mary as a model for both Christians and Muslims.

The first Christian-Muslim joint celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation was hosted in the Lebanese sanctuary of Our Lady of Jamhour in 2007. It was proposed by Sheikh Mohamad Nokkari, a teacher in the faculty of law in Beirut, Dubai and Strasbourg. He wanted to further national reconciliation and inter-communal friendship by raising the profile of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as she is a common point of reference for both Christians and Muslims and the only woman mentioned by name in the Quran (34 times in contrast to 19 mentions in the Gospels).

The Feast of the Annunciation was chosen as the most suitable occasion as it is recorded in both scriptures, in the Quran (*Surah Mariam* 19:16-22) and in the Gospel (Luke 1:26-28). The political leaders were so impressed by this interfaith initiative that in 2010 Prime Minister Saad Hariri proclaimed 25 March a national holiday. It has been celebrated jointly in Lebanon ever since, and the Maronite Church have exported this celebration to the rest of the world, including Australia.

The 2020 Christian-Muslim celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation in Sydney, planned by the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We propose the joint Christian-Muslim prayer from Lebanon for your private devotion. Adapted from <https://bit.ly/3aJLqxN>. Prayer from <https://bit.ly/2KGQcZG>.

A reflection on interfaith action during a pandemic

COVID-19 has collapsed the lungs of tribalism, writes founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core Eboo Patel, as he reflects on the acts of cooperation among religiously diverse medical staff and their patients in American hospitals during the pandemic.

Contemplating the three periods of holiness that occurred within days of each other at the height of the public health crisis in April – Passover, Easter and Ramadan, not to mention the sacred events for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Baha'is – Patel could see that the sacred observances all shared a common message: the call to renewal, to change the way we look at life in the material world. Muslims, for example, refer to this as the dynamic between *deen* and *dunya* – the world of the spirit and the world of the physical – Patel writes. Often these are understood as two separate realms, but in the days of COVID-19, he continues, the *deen* is suffusing the *dunya* like never before.

What Patel is referring to is just how sacred the collective efforts of a religiously diverse medical staff and their patients are, as they rise above their faith identities and the biases that this can sometimes create, intentionally or otherwise, as they work to physically and spiritually heal the public health crisis together.

A Jewish internist may be working with a Baha'i anesthesiologist to treat a Buddhist patient, Patel writes. They may be supported by a Muslim nurse, in a room cleaned by a Baptist custodian, at a hospital started by a Catholic religious order and run by a culturally Hindu CEO who does not believe in God. If that Buddhist patient approaches the end of her life, it is very likely that the person offering comfort would be a chaplain trained at a mainline Protestant seminary.

Chaplains and medical staff are overwhelmed by the number of dying patients in this pandemic, so they are drawing on their own spiritual practice with respect for what they know about the faith identity of the patient to fashion together last rites as best they can.

Many things that faith communities typically do are much harder now, such as physical gatherings for communal prayer, or the observance of traditional



Staff attend to patients at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York on 7 April 2020.

burial customs. But Patel highlights that such difficulties are also making way for easier relations across religious differences, such as speaking freely of the sacred sources of our strength and solace, and better cooperation across lines of difference. We are remembering how essential cooperation is for a healthy, diverse democracy, he writes. No one in any hospital is looking to cancel a doctor, a nurse or a patient because of a different belief system. We are realising that we can disagree on some fundamental things while we work together on others.

Even controversial projects, such as the makeshift hospital set up in Central Park by Samaritan's Purse, offer an opportunity to reflect on interfaith cooperation. In normal times, I, too, might disagree with the politics of the organisation's leaders, Patel writes. But these days I am grateful for their service, knowing that it comes at great risk to themselves. And I am using the occasion to reflect on the deeper meaning of the biblical story that inspired the organisation's name.

Samaritans, in the time of Jesus, were "the other" – a community who prayed to the wrong god. In the story of the Good Samaritan, a traveller is beaten and left for dead by the side of the road. A priest and a Levite see the man's suffering and pass him by. The one who stops is a Samaritan, a member of a hated tribe, a man who prays to the wrong god. He risks himself to heal the wounded traveller. "Go and do likewise," Jesus tells his followers. The message is clear: interfaith cooperation is not just a civic value, but a sacred one. *Condensed and adapted from 'Passover, Easter, Ramadan – and interfaith America in action' by Eboo Patel, Religion News Service, <https://bit.ly/2xJ3e5U>.*

An interfaith Earth Day message in times of Covid-19

Harnessing the global response to COVID-19, the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) released a message on International Mother Earth Day, 22 April, calling for urgent action to address the climate emergency in the recovery from the worldwide pandemic.

Their message was prompted by the UNFCCC bureau's postponement of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, set to take place in Glasgow in November, due to public health crisis. Addressing the trauma, anxiety, vulnerability and loss of life around the world caused by the pandemic, especially among already vulnerable communities, the Committee is advocating for a "just recovery" that strongly endorses a respect for nature and Mother Earth "to build a healthier future".

The Committee's message states, "We proclaim loudly that we were already living in a state of emergency prior to COVID-19. We have a responsibility to ensure we do not return to behaviours which, as the current crisis has shown, leave the vast majority extremely vulnerable to hardship and suffering after only a few weeks of economic stagnation.

"The choices we now make will shape our society for years and it is crucial that efforts to rebuild economies put people's health before profit," they continued. "Governments have pledged extraordinary amounts of money to prevent economic disasters because of this pandemic, but that money must not be used to finance future environmental degradation."

The Committee urged that governments do not return to relaunching fossil fuel subsidies and unhealthy consumption patterns. They said a just recovery from COVID-19 must entail measures to tackle climate in a managed, planned and fair process. To do so upholds the human rights, health and wellbeing of citizens, critical to the stability and security of all countries.

Despite their alarm, the Committee nonetheless felt hope during the response to the pandemic, as they had also witnessed "people of all faiths and across all



borders rising to a powerful call of solidarity, kindness and support, adjusting their lives for the greater good, looking into creative and simple solutions to show care for one another, [and finding] time for reflection."

Members of the committee themselves said they were moved by their faiths to see beyond fear and call on solidarity, community action and moral courage. They asked that the UNFCCC, all governments and all people, to do the same. "This is the time to create a healthier and more resilient society together," they concluded.

Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, World Council of Churches deputy general secretary, voiced her support for the statement, adding that COVID-19 recovery should move forward with the knowledge that God has entrusted human beings as stewards of the earth.

"As we have proven our ability to act together in solidarity for our one human family, now is the opportune time to make fundamental changes to our economic and social systems in order to preserve God's creation and the future of our children and grandchildren," said Phiri. "There can be no real recovery without socio-economic justice."

Condensed and adapted from 'Earth Day message to UN: COVID-19 recovery must address climate emergency', Oikoumene, World Council of Churches, <https://bit.ly/3bx3SBe>. Read the message in full at <https://bit.ly/3cwMJZU>.

Coming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2020

- 05** UN World Environment Day
- 07** Feast of the Most Holy Trinity (Catholic Christian) **AND** Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)
- 08** Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- 19** The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Catholic Christian)
- 20** The Immaculate Heart of Mary (Catholic Christian) **AND** UN World Refugee Day
- 24** The Birth of John the Baptist (Catholic Christian)

July 2020

- 05** Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday (Catholic Christian)
- 26** Bible Sunday (Catholic Christian)
- 31** *Eid al-Adha* (The Feast of Sacrifice) (Muslim) (tbc)

August 2020

- 06** Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (Catholic Christian) **AND** Hiroshima Day – 75th Anniversary
- 08** Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Catholic Christian)
- 15** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)
- 19** Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (Orthodox Christian)
- 20** *Al-Hijra* (The Migration) 1st of Muharram = Islamic New Year
- 22** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Orthodox Christian)
- 30** 10th Day of Muharram – Martyrdom of Imam Hussain (Shi'ite Islam) **AND** World Day of Migrants & Refugees (Catholic Christian)

September 2020

- 01** World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Catholic Christian)

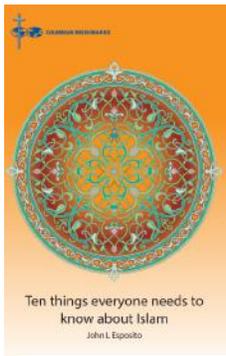


Bridges

Building relationships between Christians and Muslims

Help us spread the news about the Centre and *Bridges* by sending us the names and addresses of all those who may be interested in subscribing to a hard copy (please complete the form), or invite them to subscribe directly online at <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/newsletters-and-bulletins/bridges/>

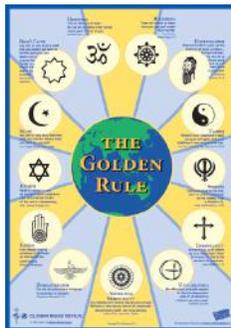
Columban Resources



Ten things everyone needs to know about Islam booklet

- **PROVIDES** basic information about Islam for schools, homes and offices.
- **ENABLES** better understanding of the beliefs and practice of Muslims.

Booklet - \$8.80 each inc. GST, postage & handling



The Golden Rule

- **PRESENTS** sacred texts of 13 different religions and spiritualities
- **PROVIDES** discussion topics and activities for schools, homes, offices
- **PROMOTES** mutual respect and harmony in our multi-religious society

A4 posters (25 pack) - \$28.80 each
(210mm x 297mm) inc. GST, postage & handling

A1 poster - \$19.00 each
(594mm x 841mm) inc. GST, postage & handling

Bridges Subscription/Columban Resources - Order form

Please fill in your details below:

Full Name: _____
 Institute: _____
 Address: _____
 Suburb: _____ State: _____ P/Code: _____
 Email: _____
 Mobile: _____ Phone: _____

An acknowledgement will be sent by email.

Bridges subscription (complimentary)

Ten things everyone needs to know about Islam (\$8.80 each)

The Golden Rule (25 pack) (\$28.80 each)

The Golden Rule poster (\$19.00 each)

My gift to the CCCMR:

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Please accept my:

Money Order Cheque (Pay St Columbans Mission Society)

VISA MASTERCARD

QTY	Number of hard copies
<input type="text"/>	→
<input type="text"/>	\$

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

EXPIRY DATE /

SIGNATURE