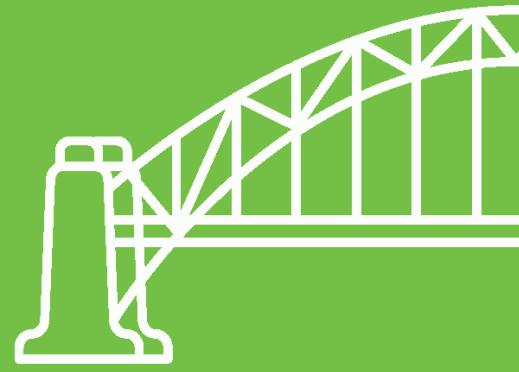




COLUMBAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Bridges

Building relationships between Christians and Muslims



No. 83 June 2019

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A moving response to the 50 victims of the Christchurch massacre: The Canberra Times cartoonist Pat Campbell's adaptation of the New Zealand silver fern, depicting 50 Muslims in prayer.

From the Editor

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" (Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*). The last months have seen terrorist attacks on Muslims at Friday Prayer in two mosques in Christchurch, on Christians celebrating Easter Sunday in churches in Sri Lanka, and on Jews attending a Shabbat Service in the synagogue in Poway, San Diego. People attended memorial services, offered condolences, issued statements, and supported the victims and their families.

In the past month, Muslims observed Ramadan by fasting from dawn till dusk, praying and giving alms. In the evenings, Muslim organisations, families, corporates, sports, governments and churches hosted Iftar Dinners to break the fast, inviting people of all faiths to join in the communal celebration. It was a wonderful expression of interfaith hospitality, generosity and solidarity.

Where evil sought to divide, people came together. Where evil sought to sow hatred, people responded with love. Where evil sought to spread fear and suspicion, people showed goodwill and kindness. Where evil wrought violence and terror, people responded with compassion and support to victims. Faith assures us that good will always prevail over evil.

We capture this spirit in stories of interfaith hospitality from around the world (pp. 4-5). Pope Francis affirmed human solidarity during his pilgrimage of peace and fraternity to Morocco (pp. 6-7). Human solidarity is the counter to violent terrorism (p. 8). Women religious are indispensable for interfaith dialogue (p. 9). The Abraham Conference and the screening of *The Sultan & the Saint* (p. 10) are two ways in which you can participate in affirming human solidarity.

REV DR PATRICK MCINERNEY

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The Centre & Diocese co-host Iftar

Many times over many years Muslims have hosted us at Iftar Dinners (the evening meal for breaking the dawn-to-dusk fast during Ramadan) and 2019 was no exception. But this year, for the first time, we returned the favour. On 20 May, the Centre and the Diocese of Parramatta co-hosted an interfaith Iftar dinner at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. We invited representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, other Christian Churches, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities. More than 50 people attended. Sheikh Eid, a visiting scholar from Al-Azhar University in Cairo who was assisting with religious services in the Parramatta Mosque during Ramadan, provided the "Call to Prayer". Bishop Vincent Long and **Rev Dr Patrick McNerney** welcomed the guests. Sheikh Mosaad Issa from Parramatta Mosque gave the keynote address. The Cathedral Choir performed. Big thanks to the Chancery staff who made all the arrangements.

For details, see: <http://bit.ly/2ETKO2N>

Interreligious dialogue at 'heart' of Sydney

On 13-15 May, the Centre presented two workshops on interreligious dialogue at the biennial conference Mission: One Heart Many Voices in Sydney. Our Youth & Networking Coordinator, **Ryan Epondulan**, hosted a panel of young adults from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, who shared with an enthusiastic audience their experiences of building



From left: Sakshi Sethi, Matin Gouniai, James Puterflam, Ryan Epondulan, Ashleigh Green, Ibrahim Khalil.

friendships across religious divides. Centre Director **Rev Dr Patrick McNerney**, with Sheikh Wesam Charkawi, gave a talk on Christian-Muslim relations after the tragedies in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and San Diego. To highlight our common humanity, Patrick provided a moving presentation of images that drew a parallel between the Stations of the Cross and the recent terrorist attack against Muslims in Christchurch. Sheikh Wesam joined Patrick in encouraging delegates to reach out beyond their own circles to a Muslim or Christian brother or sister, in their workplace, neighbourhood, or even to visit a Mosque or Church. To do so could help each other to heal after the recent tragedies.



Presentation to catechists and parishioners

On 10 May, Centre Director **Rev Dr Patrick McInerney** presented a talk, "Christian-Muslim Relations after Christchurch", to the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) of the Diocese of Parramatta. The event was also open to parishioners of the Diocese. More than 30 people attended. In the first session, Patrick presented a history of interfaith relations and the 'what' and the 'why' of interreligious dialogue. In the second session, he provided an introduction to Islam and Catholic Church teaching on Christian-Muslim relations. Those who attended appreciated his depth of knowledge and engaging style of presenting. The staff of the Centre are willing and able to do more presentations on Islam, Christian-Muslim Relations and interreligious dialogue. Invitations from parishes and other groups are welcome. Please contact the Centre at (02) 9672 3616.



Sisters celebrating Ramadan

The Centre's Media & Community Liaison, **Kim Chong**, had the delight of attending a variety of Iftar dinners in May, including a Home Iftar and another hosted by a high school. If you have the privilege of attending an Iftar, you soon learn that no two dinners are the same. The United Muslims Australia (UMA) organisation hosts a variety of Iftar dinners, such as an Open Community Iftar, inviting friends and neighbours of their Islamic Centre in Padstow to join them in breaking their daily fast. Kim had the joy of attending UMA's

Sisterhood Iftar Dinner. The event in the Grand Ballroom at the Emporium in Bankstown was sold out to hundreds of sisters and their children. After prayer, everyone broke their fast with dates and then enjoyed a feast of pastries, soup, pasta, lamb, chicken and desert. There was entertainment, a silent auction, prizes, and a charity event in which children popped balloons to reveal a donation amount to be made by Mum, and lots of catching up with friends.

Church provides refuge for Muslim cyclone survivors

A church in Mozambique became a place of refuge for nearly 1000 people, as Cyclone Kenneth ravaged the nation in late April. Located at the heart of the predominantly Muslim city of Pemba, the Catholic parish of Maria Auxiliadora provided a safe space for people seeking



shelter. Church pews turned into washing lines. Children climbed over pulpits and the priest's chair. For Aamilah Felciano, a Muslim who had never been inside a church before, her focus was on safety. "It doesn't mean I have abandoned my faith, I am just saving my life," she says. Father Ricardo Filipe Rosa Marques suspended mass and other programs, stating, "There can be no better mass than giving people shelter and hope. That is the Church's mission." *Condensed and adapted from* <https://bit.ly/2HV3HUN>



Religious leaders mark 800th anniversary of interfaith meeting

The Province of the Capuchin Friars in Pakistan gathered Christian and Muslim leaders in Lahore, Pakistan, to mark 800 years since the historic meeting between St Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt, Malik al-Kamil. Fr Benedict Ayoti OFM Cap, secretary of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) in Rome, recalled that in the midst of conflict in the 13th century, at the height of the Fifth Crusade, Francis and the Sultan accepted and respected each other

with humility, leading to a dialogue of peace and reconciliation. The Grand Imam of Badshahi Mosque, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, assured his support and cooperation to continue the dialogue. To mark the occasion, the participants planted an olive tree to express the need for peace within Pakistan.

Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/2HZy0tM>; <https://bit.ly/2KI8TgB>

NB: In Sydney, our Centre, the Diocese of Parramatta and Muslim partners will also mark the anniversary with a special, once-only screening of the docudrama *The Sultan and the Saint*, on 5 September at Event Cinemas, Westfield Parramatta. See page 10 for details. You can purchase tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com.au/the-sultan-and-the-saint-800th-anniversary>



Sikhs feed thousands during Ramadan

A Sikh temple in Dubai hosted an Iftar dinner every night during Ramadan for members of the city's Muslim and Sikh communities. Located in Jebel Ali, the Gurunanak Darbar Sikh Temple has held the Iftar Dinner since 2012. Indian-national Simran Thawani, who has attended the temple since its doors opened, says, "It is beautiful to see different communities coming together and we might not have experienced it otherwise."

Ammar Al Banna, an Egyptian Muslim working as a lawyer in Dubai says, "I often bring my children here because it gives them the opportunity to experience new culture. It is important that future generations have that experience."

Condensed and adapted from <https://bit.ly/2WMw7Fr>

Jewish congregation invites Muslims to pray in synagogue

In a profound moment of interfaith solidarity, the Reform Jewish congregation in Manhattan welcomed Muslims to conduct Friday prayers in NYC's Central Synagogue (right). Congregants arrived at the Islamic society of Mid-Manhattan on Friday afternoon to participate in the weekly prayer service and grieve the loss of lives a week after New Zealand's mosque massacres. However, a fire in a restaurant caused damage to the worship space of the mosque above. A rabbi from the synagogue told the imam that the Muslims were welcome to use their building for worship. The imam accepted and close to 600 Muslims packed into the synagogue's event space to pray. In a sermon posted online, the imam called it the "most blessed moment" during his time in New York. He thanked God that he and his congregants were able to "witness the love and care of our neighbours".

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



From left: Rabbi Ari Lorge, Rabbi Stephanie Kolin, Imam Ahmed Dewidar and Cantor Daniel Mutlu at Central Synagogue, Manhattan.

Pope Francis in Morocco

Following his visit to Abu Dhabi in February, Pope Francis continues his apostolic journey in Morocco and the pledge for peace between religions

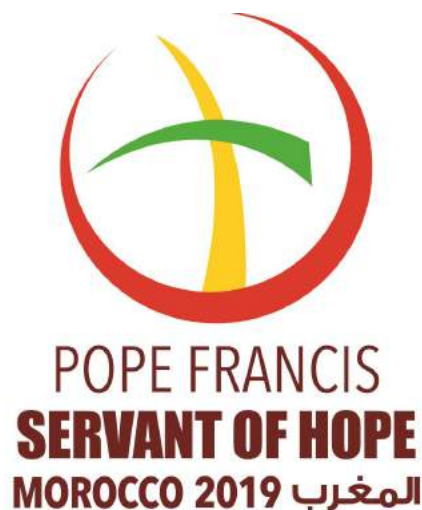
On 30-31 March, Pope Francis visited Morocco as a “pilgrim of peace and fraternity”. He invoked the spirit of his namesake, St Francis of Assisi, who crossed the no man’s land between warring armies during the Fifth Crusade. On this and the following page we provide excerpts from his addresses to Muslims and to Christians.

Excerpts from the Pope’s address to the Moroccan people

I am grateful that my visit offers a significant opportunity for advancing interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding among the followers of our two religions, as we commemorate – at a distance of eight centuries – the historic meeting between St Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik al-Kamil. That prophetic event shows that the courage to encounter one another and extend a hand of friendship is a pathway of peace and harmony for humanity, whereas extremism and hatred cause division and destruction. It is my hope that our mutual esteem, respect and cooperation will help strengthen the bonds of sincere friendship, and enable our communities to prepare a better future for coming generations.

In this land, a natural bridge between Africa and Europe, I would like to affirm once more our need for cooperation in giving new impetus to the building of a world of greater solidarity, marked by honest, courageous and indispensable efforts to promote a dialogue respectful of the richness and distinctiveness of each people and every individual. All of us are called to rise to this challenge, especially at the present time, when our differences and our lack of reciprocal knowledge risk being exploited as a cause for conflict and division.

If we wish, then, to share in the building a society that is open, fraternal and respectful of differences, it is vital to foster the culture of dialogue and adhere to it unfailingly, to adopt mutual cooperation as our code of conduct and reciprocal understanding as our method and standard



(cf. [Document on Human Fraternity](#), Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019). We are called to pursue this path tirelessly, in the effort to help each other overcome tensions and misunderstandings, clichés and stereotypes that generate fear and opposition. In this way, we will encourage the growth of a fruitful and respectful spirit of cooperation. It is likewise essential that fanaticism and extremism be countered by solidarity on the part of all believers, grounded in the lofty shared values that inspire our actions. [...]

Authentic dialogue, then, makes us appreciate more fully the importance of religion for building bridges between people and successfully meeting the challenges that I mentioned above. While respecting our differences, faith in God leads us to acknowledge the eminent dignity of each human being, as well as his or her inalienable rights. We believe that God created human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and he calls them to live as brothers and sisters and to spread the values of goodness, love and peace. That is why freedom of conscience and religious freedom – which is not limited to freedom of worship alone, but allows all to live in accordance with their religious convictions – are inseparably linked to human dignity. In this regard, there is a constant need to progress beyond mere tolerance to respect and esteem for others. This entails encountering and accepting others in their distinctive religious beliefs and enriching one another through our diversity, in a relationship marked by goodwill and by the pursuit of ways we can work together. Understood in this way, creating bridges between people – from the point of view of interreligious dialogue – calls for a spirit of mutual regard, friendship and indeed fraternity.

For full text, see: <http://bit.ly/2HOukcl>. For commentaries, see: <http://bit.ly/2ED4lie>; <http://bit.ly/2VTFke7>

Excerpts from Pope's address to Christians in Morocco

[...] Christians are a small minority in this country. Yet, to my mind, this is not a problem, even though I realize that at times it can be difficult for some of you. Your situation reminds me of the question asked by Jesus: "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? ... It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened" (Lk 13:18.21). Paraphrasing the Lord's words, we can ask ourselves: What are Christians like, in these lands? To what can we compare them? They are like a little yeast that Mother Church wants to mix in with a great quantity of flour until all of it is leavened. For Jesus did not choose us and send us forth to become more numerous! He called us to a mission. He put us in the midst of society like a handful of yeast: the yeast of the Beatitudes and the fraternal love by which, as Christians, we can all join in making present his kingdom. In this context I recall the counsel of Saint Francis to his brothers as he sent them out: "Go out and preach the Gospel: and if necessary, also with words".

This means, dear friends, that our mission as baptized persons, priests and consecrated men and women, is not really determined by the number or size of spaces that we occupy, but rather by our capacity to generate change and to awaken wonder and compassion. We do this by the way we live as disciples of Jesus, in the midst of those with whom we share our daily lives, joys and sorrows, suffering and hopes (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 1).

[...] The problem is not when we are few in number, but when we are insignificant, salt that has lost the flavour of the Gospel – this is the problem – or lamps that no longer shed light (cf. Mt 5:13-15).

I believe we should worry whenever we Christians are troubled by the thought we are only significant if we are the flour, if we occupy all the spaces. You know very well that our lives are meant to be "yeast", wherever and with whomever we find ourselves, even if this appears to bring no tangible or immediate benefits (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 210). For being a Christian is not about adhering to a doctrine, or a temple or an ethnic group. Being Christian is about an encounter, an encounter with Jesus Christ. We are Christians because we have been loved and encountered, and not as the result of proselytism. Being Christian is about knowing that we have been forgiven and knowing that we are asked to treat others in the same way that God treated us. For "by this everyone shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

[...] To say that the Church has to enter into dialogue is not to follow a fashion – dialogue is in vogue today but that is not the reason for dialogue – or much less a strategy for increasing her membership, no, it is not a strategy. The Church has to enter into dialogue out of fidelity to her Lord and Master, who from the beginning, moved by love, wished to enter into dialogue as a friend and asks us to enter into friendship with him (cf. *Dei Verbum*, 2). As disciples of Jesus Christ, from the very day of our baptism we have been called to be a part of this dialogue of salvation and friendship, from which we are the first to benefit.

Christians, here in these lands, learn to be a living sacrament of the dialogue that God wants to initiate with each man and woman, wherever they are. [...] When the Church, in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, enters into dialogue with the world and gives her message, she takes part in the advent of that fraternity whose deepest source is not in ourselves but in the fatherhood of God.

For full text, see: <http://bit.ly/2JGQpNJ>

For commentaries, see: <https://reut.rs/2W3mshw>;
<http://bit.ly/2VRXQe>



Pope Francis bids farewell to citizens of the North African country of Morocco.

After Christchurch, Sri Lanka and Poway

Rev Dr Patrick McInerney reflects on our response after recent tragedies

On 15 February, 51 Muslims were killed and many more injured when a white supremacist terrorist attacked worshippers gathered for Friday Prayer in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

On 21 April, Easter Sunday, more than 250 people were killed and many more injured in a coordinated series of suicide bombings in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka.

On 27 April, a Sabbath and the last day of the Jewish Passover holiday, one person was shot dead and three others wounded in the Poway synagogue north of San Diego.

No religion or place of worship is immune from attack. Every religion and ideology is vulnerable to extremists who pervert that religion or ideology to commit acts of violence. How to respond?

Our first response must be to care for the victims, to reach out, to touch, to embrace, especially when words fail in the face of such evil. Care is recognising the common humanity of the other, seeing their need, being moved with pity, and responding actively, after the example of the Good Samaritan (cf Lk 10:33).

After Christchurch, Jacinta Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, led the way. She identified with the Muslims of Christchurch – “you are us” – donned a hijab and stood with them in their hour of need. Civic and religious leaders and ordinary citizens consoled the grieving, visited the injured, provided food and other necessities and attended the funerals and memorial services. Many Muslims travelled to Christchurch to help prepare the dead for burial according to religious precepts and to support the living by visiting their homes and listening to their stories of horror and survival.

Our continuing response must be human solidarity. After Christchurch, many people attended memorial services in various mosques as a gesture of solidarity. After Sri Lanka, many people attended memorial services in various churches. I was moved to see many Muslims among the Christian congregation, beside us, with us, for us, their gesture of solidarity.

Some Muslim leaders took the initiative, contacted Christian leaders, and made condolence visits to Christian churches. One Imam said, while it is good to visit for condolences, we need to visit on other occasions also. He told me that despite living next to a church for 20 years, he had never visited it. He had good relations with the minister, they waved “hello” as they passed each other in the street, but nothing more. After Sri Lanka, he went inside the church, sat down, listened and talked. The two religious leaders agreed to arrange a meal where their congregations could get to know each other better. The Imam’s initiative in reaching out to his Christian neighbours to create better relations is the best story I have heard in months.

It is also necessary to speak out. Silence can be construed as consent, but to speak out, even if our words seem formulaic, witnesses to where we stand. I, and many others, Christian, Muslim and Jewish, published statements condemning the violence and affirming the true role of all religions in promoting peace, justice, mercy and forgiveness.

Some people complain that Muslims do not speak out against violence committed in the name of Islam. In fact, it is the topic they address most frequently! But media do not publish their condemnations. Hence, it is important to share their statements, so as to amplify their voice and give evidence that refutes the false claim.

Social media can be a sewer. There is a lot of hate-filled comment. To counter that, I posted stories of kindness, compassion and forgiveness. I was touched by those who commented appreciatively on my posts, and several ‘strangers’ whom I met at memorial services said to me, “I am friends with you on Facebook. Thank you for your support.” Most moving was the Muslim woman who messaged me, “Each time your positive comments appear you make me feel safer and I feel like my children will be safe”. By communicating positive messages, each one of us can be a safe haven for others.

When people of faith continually reach out in solidarity and compassion towards each other, the violence and the hate speech that fuels it will become untenable and peace and harmony will break out.

Women religious integral for effective dialogue

Rome plenary highlights need to support sisters' work in interreligious dialogue

The recent plenary assembly in Rome of the International Union of Superiors General highlighted the need to prepare and support sisters to participate in interreligious dialogue for greater effect. One of the responsibilities of women religious is to foster relationships in the community that lead to better understanding among religious groups, congregational leaders from around the world heard at the assembly. For sisters to build such relationships, dialogue needs to extend beyond goodwill to include a more rigorous understanding of the differences and assumptions that can arise in practice. This requires continual training and support for sisters beyond initial academic learning.

"We need well-trained religious women sitting at the table when official dialogues are taking place," says Donna Orsuto, co-founder and director of the Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas and a professor at the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University. "This will imply investing significant resources in the education and formation of [...] sisters for interreligious dialogue."

To sustain and nurture sisters' knowledge and practices of interreligious dialogue, Donna suggests that they attend relevant workshops and conferences, particularly those that examine differing positions and explores the assumptions with discernment. "Making a commitment to prepare more religious women to participate along with men in dialogue would both enhance the quality of the dialogue and give more credible witness to the church's teaching on the equality and complementarity of women and men," Donna says.

Meanwhile, at the assembly, Donna outlined five practical ways congregations can engage in interreligious dialogue:

- 1. Recognise and strengthen existing efforts.** Sisters often already work alongside members of different religions in their ministries. Donna says, "Many religious congregations are already sowing seeds of prophetic hope: schools, hospitals and institutions have served people of other religions for years."
- 2. Reach out to neighbours and find out who are from other religions and faith traditions.** "Pope Francis



encourages us to not merely encounter others, but to forge relationships of friendship with them. This means that we do not wait for tragedy to strike to reach out to others. We need to ask: who are the people from other religions in my neighbourhood?"

3. Learn about other religions and faith traditions.

"Religions have a particular responsibility to foster a love that casts out fear," Donna says. "One way of combating fear is through a deeper knowledge of the other. This can eradicate false perceptions we may have of others. For this reason, Pope Francis highlights the importance of suitable training, especially for promoting dialogue, for example with Muslims."

4. Pray for peace among people of different religions.

This is an effort for all sisters to engage in, but particularly for elderly sisters. "Would it be possible to mission some sisters to pray, for example, for people of other religions in your community and for peace in troubled parts of the world?"

5. Focus on a fundamental attitude of dialogue: namely gazing at the other with the eyes of God.

"It's no surprise that interreligious dialogue has flourished especially among those who share a dialogue of religious experience. Contemplation as a way of life leads one not only to see God, but also to see others as God sees them."

Condensed and adapted from 'Women religious learn practical steps for engaging in interreligious dialogue', by Gail DeGeorge and Joyce Meyer, The Global Sisters Report, <https://bit.ly/2KOHZBi>

Centre to co-host events with interfaith partners

In a time when attacks on innocent worshippers in mosque, church and synagogue try to divide us, the **Abraham Conference** – a joint initiative of 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 in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT – plays an important role in promoting interfaith cohesion between Jews, Christians and Muslims and cooperation for the common good.

The Abraham Conference will be held on **28 July** at the **Parramatta Mission Fellowship Hall**. This year's keynote speaker is **Rev Dr Diego Sarrió Cucarella**, Rector of the **Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies** (PISAI) in Rome. His research and publications focus on the intellectual history of Muslim-Christian relations and the reciprocal theological constructions that this history has endowed Christians and Muslims today. Accordingly, the conference is titled



Healing Memories, Making History: Genuine encounters in the present will redeem our past for a different future.

In addition to the speaker, a panel of experts from each of the three religions will add lively discussion around the conference theme and answer questions from the delegates. The moderator will be former ABC broadcaster of *The Religion Report* **Mr John Cleary**. Further discussion and connection among delegates over light refreshments is also integral to the proceedings.

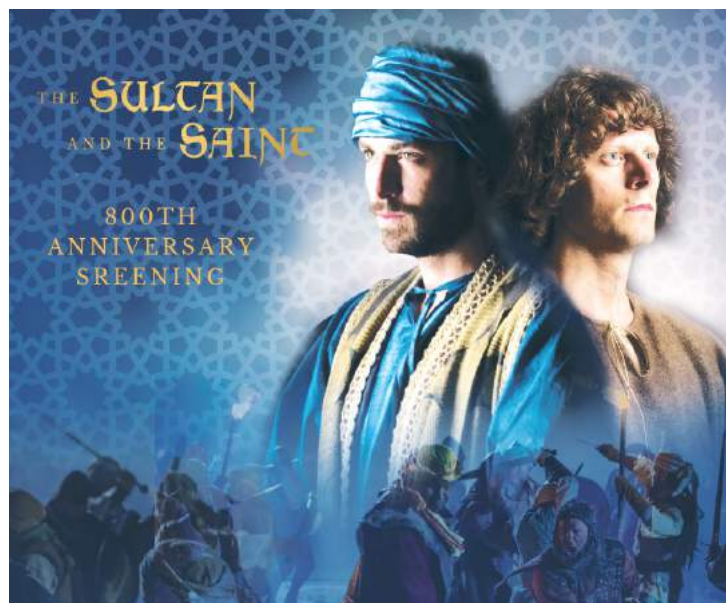
The Centre and its partners hope you can join them for a stimulating and thought-provoking afternoon of interfaith dialogue and friendship. Tickets are only \$20 (\$10 concession) and can be purchased at: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/2019-abraham-conference-healing-memories-making-history>

JOIN US

2pm-5.30pm, Sunday, 28 July
Parramatta Mission Fellowship Hall

This year marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's historic meeting with the Sultan Malik al-Kamil of Egypt and the risks they took together for peace. To celebrate, the Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, the Islamic Sciences & Research Academy (ISRA), the Diocese of Parramatta, Affinity Intercultural Foundation, and Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT, are hosting a one-off screening of the Emmy-nominated docudrama ***The Sultan and the Saint*** on **Thursday, 5 September** at **Event Cinemas** in Parramatta.

The film tells the true story of Francis crossing the battle lines between warring armies at the height of the Fifth Crusade to be greeted by the ruler of a Muslim Empire, the Sultan of Egypt. Together they defied a century of war and distrust in search of mutual respect on common ground. This film could not be more timely for these trying times. Be inspired to reach out and make Christian-Muslim friendship a reality. Tickets are \$12 and available online at: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/the-sultan-and-the-saint-800th-anniversary>



JOIN US

7pm, Thursday, 5 September
Event Cinemas. Parramatta

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			

July 2019

07-14 National NAIDOC Week

21-22 JCMA Conference, St Paul Retreat Centre, Wantirna, Victoria

23-24 [Comparative Theology Conference](https://bit.ly/2KOC0z5), ACU Melbourne, <https://bit.ly/2KOC0z5>

28 [Abraham Conference](https://bit.ly/2WFTkse), 2pm-5.30pm, Parramatta Mission Fellowship Hall, Uniting Church, <https://bit.ly/2WFTkse>

August 2019

06 Feast of the Transfiguration (Christian)

11 *Eid al-Adha* (Feast of Sacrifice), final *Hajj* (Pilgrimage) rite in Mecca commemorating Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son (Muslim)

15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)

25 Youth PoWR, Western Sydney University, Parramatta – for young adults

September 2019

01 1 Muharram/Hijra New Year (Muslim)

05 Screening of [*The Sultan and the Saint*](https://bit.ly/2lg73lF), Event Cinemas, Parramatta, <https://bit.ly/2lg73lF>

10 *Ashura*, Commemoration of Martyrdom of Imam Hussain (Shia Muslim); day of fasting (Sunni Muslim)

21 [UN International Day of Peace](https://bit.ly/2fFK3AE), <https://bit.ly/2fFK3AE>

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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/>

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