



Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast

24 November 2022



ACU

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

COVER IMAGE

Deanne Gilson, Born 1967, Melbourne, Victoria
Wadawurrung Cultural Tree of Knowledge, 2014
White ochre, charcoal, gold leaf and acrylic on linen
Height 120cm × Width 150 cm
Acquired 2014
Australian Catholic University Art Collection



Message from the Vice-Chancellor and President



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Australian Catholic University's 2022 Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast. It is the first time ACU has held the interfaith breakfast in three years, the first since the global pandemic.

The Federal Parliamentary Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is a primary occasion for parliamentarians of all parties to meet the leaders of many different faiths, joining with them to celebrate Australia's diversity and communal harmony, while highlighting the interests and values that are common to us all.

These shared values are a source of unity. And that is what we hope to invoke with today's event: a sense of sharing, community, and togetherness.

If we have learned anything from the past two years, it is about the strength and resilience of Australian communities under extraordinary circumstances, and the value of strong and trusted leadership to maintain our common values. During a unique period when we were no longer able to gather, when extended families could not even share a meal together, many faced an increasing threat of loneliness, isolation and disenfranchisement. Many of you here and those you work with – the elected officials, ministers of religion, and the extraordinary people providing frontline services – found unique and resourceful ways of overcoming this remoteness to care for one another, administering support and bringing untold assistance and comfort to those communities.

In lieu of the usual Parliamentary Breakfast gathering, last year at ACU we took the initiative to publish a volume containing reflections, prayers and contemplations. We are soon to publish a hardback book, the *ACU Book of Prayer*, a beautiful anthology of prayers by members of the ACU community.

The precious ability to assemble again has never been more pertinent.

Over the course of the morning, we will hear from several faith leaders who will offer a prayer or reading in support of wise deliberations and good government. Their prayers will no doubt inspire all leaders and continue the progression as a peaceful and united community.

It is testament to the Australian culture of tolerance and harmony that we are able to hold such an event, where representatives of diverse religions and political persuasions can gather in the same room in the spirit of mutual respect.

Professor Zlatko Skrbis

Vice-Chancellor and President
Australian Catholic University

Order of proceedings

Opening of Proceedings

Mr Ashley Midalia
Director - Government, Policy and Strategy
Australian Catholic University

Welcome to Country

Aunty Violet Sheridan
Ngunnawal Elder

National Anthem

Miss Adeline Kassis
ACU Student – Bachelor of Laws (Hons)

Introduction of Opposition Leader

Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Vice-Chancellor & President
Australian Catholic University

Opposition Address

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leader of the Opposition

Prayer before the Meal

Sr Giovanni Farquer rsj

Breakfast Served

Introduction of Attorney-General

The Hon Martin Daubney AM KC
Chancellor
Australian Catholic University

Government Address

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, MP
Attorney-General

Guest Speaker

Professor Stan Grant
Journalist and academic

Interfaith Prayers and Readings

Closing Remarks

Mr Ashley Midalia



Mr Ashley Midalia Master of Ceremonies

As Director of Government, Policy and Strategy at Australian Catholic University, Ashley is responsible for maintaining the University's relationships with government, overseeing its public policy works and ensuring it is well-placed to respond to evolving regulatory environments.

Prior to joining ACU, Ashley worked as a commercial lawyer, a journalist at the Australian Financial Review and as a senior political adviser.



Aunt Violet Sheridan Ngunnawal Elder

Aunt Violet Sheridan is a pillar of the community in Canberra and the region. She is a passionate Ngunnawal Elder who shares her cultural knowledge and expertise with the entire community. She generously donates her time at events, schools, and for a broad range of organisations - in a bid to bring all Australians together.



Miss Adeline Kassis ACU Student – LLB (Hons)

Adeline is in her final year of Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree at ACU. She has been actively involved in student life, including through the North Sydney Students' Association, Mackillop Law Students Society and Campus Ministry. Adeline recently completed an internship with the Sydney Archdiocese Anti-Slavery Taskforce and is currently employed at ACU as an Executive & Project Officer in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Ethics.

Adeline is the youth minister for her local parish, where she leads music at the Youth Mass every Sunday evening and sings at the Vigil Mass and Family Mass every month.



Prayer before the Meal

Conscious of our identity as members of the same human family, we connect together to that Creative Power within and beyond our common humanity.

Let us relish the opportunities presented to us this morning
to share this food together in friendship and conviviality,
to advance in mutual appreciation of one another,
to respect and relish our differences as well as what we have in common,
to grow in courage and nobility of character and work in harmony to expand our awareness of the complexities of the human story, its tragedies and triumphs.

Let us remember especially those in our midst and throughout the world, men, women and children, who at this moment suffer unspeakable horror, indignity, fear, hardship, degradation and abject misery. May your transcendent and healing power descend upon them and may your regenerative Spirit rescue and revitalize them.

May we reach out with renewed courage and compassion to lift the burden of those with whom we journey and to reignite in one another the spark of hope for a world where all humanity will live together in righteousness.

Amen.

*Submitted by Sr Giovanni Farquer rsj
Director, Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney*

Guest speakers





The Hon Peter Dutton MP Leader of the Opposition

Peter Dutton is the Federal Member for Dickson and Leader of the Liberal Party.

Prior to his election in 2001 Peter served as a Queensland Police Officer. He worked in the National Crime Authority and Drug and Sex Offenders' Squads.

Peter was appointed to the Ministry by Prime Minister John Howard in 2004. In January 2006, he was promoted to Assistant Treasurer.

Following the 2007 election, Peter served as Shadow Minister for Finance, Competition Policy and Deregulation, and Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing.

Most recently, Peter served as Minister for Defence delivering record funding and securing the vital equipment our service personnel need to keep our country safe.

He was a member of the National Security Committee of Cabinet and served on the Expenditure Review Committee and leadership teams.

Previously, he served as Home Affairs Minister; Minister for Immigration and Border Protection and Minister for Health and Minister for Sport

Peter is married to Kirilly and is the proud father of Rebecca, Harry and Tom and lives in Dayboro in the Dickson electorate.



The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, MP **Attorney-General** **Cabinet Secretary**

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP was appointed Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 June 2022.

Mark is a passionate defender of the rule of law, freedom of the press and the need for a powerful and independent national anti-corruption commission.

Mark is a strong advocate for social justice and believes in creating a sustainable economy and environment for future generations.

Mark was first elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Isaacs in November 2007.

In 2010 Mark was appointed as Cabinet Secretary and Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and in February 2013, Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Management.

Prior to entering Parliament Mark was a Melbourne barrister and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1999. He appeared for and advised Federal, State and local governments and appeared in a number of landmark cases in the High Court, including the Stolen Generations litigation.



Professor Stan Grant Journalist and academic


Professor Stan Grant is one of Australia's most respected and awarded journalists, with more than 30 years experience in radio and television news and current affairs. Stan has a strong reputation for independence and integrity and has interviewed international political and business leaders, including our own prime ministers and senior ministers.

Prior to taking up his latest role Stan served for a decade at a Senior International Correspondent for CNN in Asia and the Middle East, broadcasting to an audience of millions around the world.

He has interviewed numerous world leaders including Nelson Mandela, Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Condoleezza Rice, Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas, Shimon Peres, Bill Clinton, and Australian Prime Ministers Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, John Howard, Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott, and Malcolm Turnbull.

Stan has won numerous international and Australian awards including a Peabody Award, Columbia University Alfred I. duPont award, four times winner of the prestigious Asia TV awards including best news story and reporter of the year, twice winner of the coveted Australian Walkley Award, as well as a TV Logie award, GQ Magazine agenda setter of the year and an Australian Academy of Arts Cinema and Television Award as male TV presenter of the year.

Stan is an award winning and best selling author of several books, and has contributed articles to many major Australian newspapers, magazines and journals. He also holds a position as University Chair of Australian Indigenous Belonging.



“Everyone prays as they know how, as they can, according to what they have received from their own culture. We are not praying against each other, this religious tradition against that one, no! We are all united as human beings, as brothers and sisters, praying to God according to each one’s culture, according to each one’s own tradition, according to each one’s own beliefs, but brothers and sisters praying to God, this is what is important!”

**Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis
Day of fraternity, day of penance and prayer
14 May 2020**

Interfaith prayers and readings



Baha'i

Additional Prayers Revealed

O my God! O Thou Who endowest every just power and equitable dominion with abiding glory and everlasting might, with permanence and stability, with constancy and honour! Aid Thou by Thy heavenly grace every government that acteth justly towards its subjects and every sovereign authority, derived from Thee, that shieldeth the poor and the weak under the banner of its protection.

I beseech Thee, by Thy divine grace and surpassing bounty, to aid this just government, the canopy of whose authority is spread over vast and mighty lands and the evidences of whose justice are apparent in its prosperous and flourishing regions. Assist, O my God, its hosts, raise aloft its ensigns, bestow influence upon its word and its utterance, protect its lands, increase its honour, spread its fame, reveal its signs, and unfurl its banner through Thine all-subduing power and Thy resplendent might in the kingdom of creation.

Thou, verily, aidest whomsoever Thou willest, and Thou, verily, art the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

*Submitted by Ms Ida Walker and Dr Natalie Mobini-Kesheh
On behalf of the The Australian Baha'i Community*

Buddhism

The Discourse on Love

This is what should be done by those who are skilled in goodness, and have known the state of peace. Let them be able and upright, very upright, easy to speak to, gentle and humble; content and unburdensome, unbusied living lightly, alert, with senses calmed, courteous, not fawning on families. Let them not do the slightest thing that others might blame with reason.

May they be happy and safe! May all beings be happy!

Whatever living creatures there are with not a one left out—frail or firm, long or large, medium, small, tiny or round, visible or invisible, living far or near, those born or to be born: May all beings be happy!

Let none turn from another, nor look down on anyone anywhere. Though provoked or aggrieved, let them not wish pain on each other. Even as a mother would protect with her life her child, her only child, so too for all creatures unfold a boundless heart.

With love for the whole world, unfold a boundless heart. Above, below, all round, unconstricted, without enemy or foe. When standing, walking, sitting, or lying down while yet unwearied, keep this ever in mind; for this, they say, is a holy abiding in this life.

Avoiding harmful views, virtuous, accomplished in insight, with sensual desire dispelled, they never return to a womb again.

Suttanipata (Sn 1.8) Translated by Bhikkhu Sujato

*Submitted by Venerable Tenpa Bejanke
Australian Sangha Association*

Catholic

A prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams.
Amen.

*From Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social
Friendship, 3 October 2020*

*Submitted by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli DD
Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne*

Catholic

Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity

Loving God,
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times, especially
the poorest and most vulnerable.

Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the
consequences of the global pandemic.

Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek
the common good.

Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and
interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding to the cry of
the Earth and the cry of the poor.

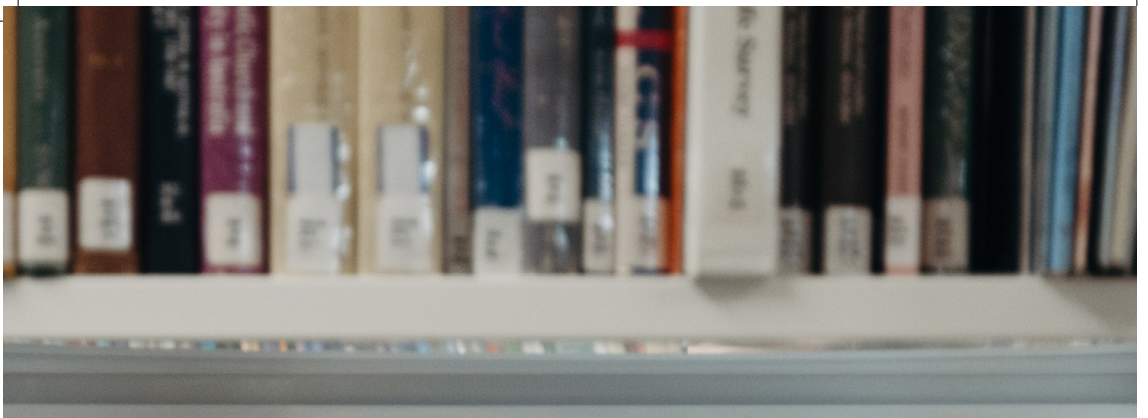
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs of a more
fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary
Help of Christians.

Amen.

Prayer for the fifth anniversary of the encyclical Laudato Si

*Submitted by Archbishop Christopher Prowse DD STD
Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn*



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Our Heavenly Father,

We thank thee for this country in which we live, and for the liberties we enjoy here. We are grateful for our Constitution, our understanding of the rule of law and the conventions and established institutions which uphold them. We pray that our elected representatives may seek inspiration and be inspired to continue to uphold these institutions and principles. We also pray that their continuing efforts to improve social justice in our society will include the protection of the practices and beliefs of people of faith; that their identity and part in Australia's famous multicultural diversity will not be forgotten.

And we ask that thou wilt inspire our leaders with wise ways to reconcile all the humans who live in this land so that the interests of the Land and our First Peoples are advanced, and so that the legacy we have all gained from them is celebrated and developed.

In the name of Jesus Christ Amen

*Submitted by Emily Tin Wun Kwok on behalf of the
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Coptic Orthodox

Dear Heavenly Father, the great and the eternal, the Creator of us all, the source of all truth, values and virtue.

We give thanks to You for the abundant blessings that You have bestowed upon us. We also thank you for the first nations people who cared for this land and named it Ngunnawal, and for their elders both past and present, and for all the first nations people, Your children.

We thank You for being our loving and compassionate father who is concerned for His people. We ask You to bring peace and calm to all the nations experiencing warfare; to give love and restoration to all the broken households; to protect the victims of abuse; to return prisoners to the ways of truth and righteousness; to open the eyes of the blind and guide the lost; to care for the orphans and the widows; to heal the sick; to give comfort to those who have lost loved ones and repose the souls of the righteous; to give us strength to endure all hardships; and to soften the hearts of our enemies that they may be know the ways of love and peace.

Please give Your wisdom and guidance to our leaders and decision makers in all the states and territories and across the Commonwealth, please heal all damage the climate has caused to our land that it may prosper through its crops, animals, and all resources, and please protect our pacific neighbours from the rising waters.

We ask that You give purity of heart and truth to all faith communities, and that You will strengthen our faith in You, for You said that faith is the substance of all things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

*Submitted by Fr Michael Zamer
St Mark Coptic Orthodox Coptic Church, Canberra*

Greek Orthodox

Biblical passage on respecting people in authority.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

Romans 13:1-7

New International Version

Submitted by Bishop Bartholomew of Charioupolis

Archiepiscopal Vicar of Canberra

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

Hindu

A Hindu Peace Prayer

न त्वहं कामये मोक्षं न स्वर्गं नापुनर्भवम्

कामये दुःखतप्तानां प्राणिनामार्तिनाशनम्

I desire neither earthly kingdom, nor even freedom from birth and death.

I desire only the deliverance from grief of all those afflicted by misery.

Mahabharata (Dronparva – by King Rantideva)
also in Bhagvatam भागवत at ix.21.12

*Submitted by Mr Surinder Jain
Hindu Council of Australia*

Hindu

Hindu Prayer from Rig Veda-Let us Work together for community

संगच्छध्वं संवदध्वं
सं वो मनांसि जानताम् देवा भागं यथा पूर्वेसं
ज्ञानाना उपासते |

**saṃgacchadhwaṃ saṃvadadhwaṃ
saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām
devā bhāgaṃ yathā pūrve
sañjānānā upāsate ||**

May we move in harmony, speak in one voice; let our minds be in agreement; just as the ancient gods shared their portion of sacrifice.

समानो मन्त्रः सिमितः समानी
समानं मनः सहचत्तमेषाम्स
मानं मन्त्रमिभमन्त्रये वः
समानेन वो हि वषा जुहोमि ||

**samāno mantraḥ samitih samānī
samānaṃ manaḥ saḥacittameṣām
samānaṃ mantram abhimantraye vaḥ
samānena vo haviṣā juhomi ||**

May our purpose be the same; may we all be of one mind. In order for such unity to form I offer a common prayer.

समानी व आकूतिः समाना हृदयानि वः |
समानमस्तु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासित ||

**samānī va ākūtiḥ samānā hrdayāni vaḥ |
samānamastu vo mano yathā vaḥ
susahāsati ||**

May our intentions and aspirations be alike, so that a common objective unifies us all.

Source: The Rig Veda. X. 191.

Pandit Rāmāchandrā Āthreiya

Public Relations Officer

Australian Council of Hindu Clergy Inc.



Islam

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful and most Compassionate

Ya Allah, you are the source of Peace and peace comes from you alone. You are Blessed and you are Majesty and Honour.

Ya Allah, you are the creator of the Universe and all creations.

Ya Allah, in your love for all creations, you sent the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Phub) as mercy to all mankind and to all your creations.

Ya Allah:

We seek your blessing, mercy, and love to all.

We seek your protection against all evil and all calamities.

We seek your guidance in all our actions and thoughts.

We seek your help in easing the suffering of all those who have been affected in numerous ways by this pandemic, comfort those who have lost loved ones and those who are still recovering.

Ya Allah, we seek your help and support for all those seeking refuge both here in Australia and overseas. Give them comfort and freedom from suffering, want and oppression.

**Allâhumma a'innî alâ dhikrika, wa shukrika, wa husni 'ibâdatika
O Allah, help me remember You, to be grateful to You, and to worship You in an excellent manner"**

Ameen

Abu Dawud, Book 16, Hadith

Submitted by Commissioner Mohamed Mohideen, OAM, JP, MASM

Victorian Multicultural Commission

Immediate Past President, Islamic Council of Victoria

Deputy President, Faith Communities Council of Victoria

Ya Allah, end all wars and bring peace to all mankind so that everyone can live free of fear and harm.

Ya Allah, I beg thee the right guidance, righteousness, piety and freedom from want.

Ya Allah, We seek your blessing on this earth so that we have water when we need and food when we want.

Ya Allah, protect this earth and its environment and make it one of bountiful to all creations.

We ask for your bounty that this earth, the land, seas and rivers will be protected for all eternity.

Ya Allah, bestow upon us Thy love, and the love of him whose love, in Thy sight will profit us.

Ya Allah, make our gatherings as such to be a blessed one and make our dispersion the safe one.

Ya Allah, we seek the love and comfort of our families, our friends and neighbours.

We ask for your blessings that the world and all creations on it will learn to respect one another and care for one another.

Islam – Ahmaddiya

In the name of Allah, the Almighty God, very Gracious and Merciful.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Greetings of Peace to you all.

I consider it an honor and privilege to join you in this blessed and grateful event of prayers.

First of all I would like to inform you that our God, the creator of Universe is the same as yours.

The One and the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful. All good names belong to Him. In His Holy name I begin my prayers.

O Our Lord, Our Master, the Knower of the seen and the unseen, The Sovereign, The Maker and The Master of All.

Guide our all Government officials that work in any capacity O our Almighty God!

Help and guide Members of Parliament and its leaders who make the laws; and shower your mercy on the Judiciary- the justices and judges of the courts who interpret the laws.

O Our Lord!

You are witness that their collective wisdom and leadership has made Australia a strong country in the world.

May their good work on behalf of all Australian continue through the years to come.

Bless their **Noble Tasks, Good Efforts and Great Services** of our leaders and Heroes.

O Our Beloved God!

Help them in paying full attention to their duties and responsibilities. Guide them with your love, mercy and kindness. Make their efforts very fruitful and blessed.

O God!

Make our country and the state, a sign of Love, Harmony, Peace and respect.

O God!

Solve the problems of all people, of all cities of Australia.

O Almighty God! Everything belongs to you.

Keep all calamities, mishaps, dangers, disasters, and disturbances away from us.

Make our lives easy.

Make it like Paradise for us.

Enlighten our hearts and minds with Your Holy Spirit. May we have all Peace and Tranquility in You.

O Our Beloved God!

Shower Your Mercy and Blessings on our homes, families, businesses, schools, courts and places of worship.

O our Lord!

By your Grace, Australia has made tremendous progress in the last 100 years, people of different colors, faiths and races are living together with love, respect, brotherhood and harmony. We all pray to you today O Our Beloved God! Bless this country in the next 100 years with extraordinary progress and make this country a model for the whole world. May its office holders be always loving each other, co-operating and understanding.

O Our Beloved God!

Make all progress possible for our all states and country.

O God!

Make our country a sign and model of love, respect and honor for the whole world. We are thankful to you for bestowing us this great land of ours where we are free to worship you in the ways we best know. We are thankful to you O Merciful God for creating brotherhood and peace in our diverse communities. O sole Benefactor; let us emulate your benevolence with all our fellow beings. May we consider their honour as our honour. May we sympathize with their sufferings. May we live with this motto: - "Love for all -Hatred for None."

May Australia becomes the beacon of leadership and good governance in the whole world. May it shine as an icon of excellence in leadership. May it Happen Amen

O, Our Beloved God!

You are Most Gracious.

You are Ever Merciful.

We all belong to you.

We all are your servants.

Listen, to our sincere prayers

Kindly accept them all.

We all are your children, we all love you.

Please! Accept all our prayers.

Great are Australia and Australians

God bless Australia

Long Live Australia A'ameen!

Submitted by Inamulhaq Kauser

Grand Imam and National President

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Australia

Judaism

May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bestow strength, loving kindness, integrity and clarity on all those who serve for the public good. May the work of our hands be blessed and may our great nation and all who dwell in it know peace, security and happiness.

*Submitted by Alex Ryzchin
Co-Chief Executive Officer
Executive Council of Australian Jewry*

Jewish prayer for peace

Oseh shalom bimromav. Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu. V'al kol Yisrael V'imru.

They who make peace in their high places, may they bring peace upon us, and upon all Israel.

We pray for one thing above all: that for Israel, for the Jewish people, and for the world, that there should be peace.

*Submitted by Ms Karen Tatz
President, ACT Jewish Community*

Judaism

Prayer for Australia

Bless, oh God, our country of Australia

And all its people

Let us have dreams in this land of long dreams

Let the hot winds from the desert fire our imagination

Let the red soil of the plains keep us rooted to the things that matter.

Let the waters of our rivers, lakes and oceans flow into our hearts giving us depth anunderstanding.

Let us remember the original inhabitants of this land, their dreams and lingering songlines and acknowledge their losses and endurance.

May we stand as strong and as mighty as our mountains and be as gentle as our places of quiet beauty.

May Your spirit range across our great spaces touching the contours of our many different souls.

May You teach our leaders, soldiers and protectors how to act bravely but wisely.

Let our compassion be like the encompassing coastlines of our singular continent. May peace move steadily and surely across this ancient and enduring land.

Submitted by Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM

Director Jewish Life, Jewish Care Victoria

Principal Rabbi ADF

Senior Rabbi Kehilat Keshar-The Connecting Community



Lutheran

Loving gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank and praise you for your care, your bountiful provision. Thank you for the First Nations people, and wonderful natural habitat. We thank you for the harvest in Australia, and ask your blessing on it being gathered in. We thank you for all who have served and do serve the greater good during the Covid pandemic. Bless leaders of government, industry and community working for what is best for our whole society. Bless us all in the varied callings you have given us.

Jesus, incarnate within our world, be especially with all who suffer, and those who care for them. Having experienced yourself being homeless, and a refugee, we pray for all who are homeless, and housing challenged in Australia, and throughout the world. We pray for safety for refugees, and an end to wars and violent means of trying to make things right. We pray for all movements of deeper reconciliation.

Holy Spirit, you groan in and with creation. We are sorry for a heavy human footprint on planet earth. Bless and guide united world efforts in creation care. Renew the earth and our imagination for living more within our resources, and better sharing of your provision. May all know your gift of daily bread.

All our thanks, our prayers, our laments, we bring to you, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Submitted by Rev. Tim Muller
On behalf of the Lutheran Church of Australia*

National Council of Churches in Australia

The Rainbow Prayer

Dear Loving Lord, Creator of all,
you created us all in your own image,
one image – many colours,
one image – many cultures.

You made us come together like a rainbow,
Separate parts but coming together in one creation.
Help us to see the beauty you have created in each and every one of us.

Dear Loving Lord, we are your creation,
hear the cries of your people.
You gave us ears to hear and eyes to see,
open our eyes to what you want us to see,
help us always to look to you to see the wisdom of your ways.

Dear Loving Lord, Creator of all,
you gave us hearts to love and minds to reason.
Help us to understand our differences and grow in love for each other.
Help us to come together as the rainbow comes together,
many colours, shining as one creation over all the earth
as you intended us to be.

In the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*(c) Rev Robyn Davis, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.
In Pilgrim Prayer 2021, WCC Publications, p 199.*

*Submitted by Ms Elizabeth Stone
General Secretary
On behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia*

The Salvation Army

Working Together for Community

Our loving Heavenly Father,

We give you our praise and honour, for you are mighty and just. You are the giver of life and the governor of all things.

You created us for community and to live in harmony with each other and with your created world. Forgive us for the times when we have departed from your plan, when person has turned against person, nation has turned against nation and when we have violated our responsibilities to be good stewards in the caring of your created world.

Help us Father to strive for true unity within our communities. Stretch our capacity in giving grace, may we be more tolerant. Help us to be true listeners, seeking first to understand and then be understood. May we be sensitive and wise in our truth telling and facilitators of your peace.

We pray for those within our communities who are struggling today. Some are feeling isolated and lonely, may they experience true companionship. For those who are not well, mentally, emotionally, physically, or spiritually bring them healing we pray. For those who are under resourced in the provision of their daily needs we pray that their capacity to provide will be extended. May it be so!

We pray for all this in the powerful name of your Son and my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

*Submitted by Major Paul Hateley
The Salvation Army
National Head of Government Relations*



Sikh

A Sikh prayer of blessing

ਤੂੰ ਠਾਕੁਰ ਤੁਮ ਪਹਿਅਰਦਾਸੀ ॥ *Tu Thaakur Tum Peh Ardās* ॥
You are our Master; to you, I offer this humble prayer.

ਜੀਉ ਪਿੰਡ ਸਭੁ ਤੇਰੀ ਰਾਸੀ ॥ *Jio Pind Sabh Tayree Raas* ॥
This body and soul are all your belonging.

ਤੁਮ ਮਾਤ ਪਿਤਾ ਹਮ ਬਾਰਕਿ ਤੇਰੇ ॥ *Tum Maata Pithaa Ham Baarik Taerae* ॥
You are our mother and father; and we are your children.

ਤੁਮਰੀ ਕ੍ਰਪਿ ਮਹਿ ਸੁਖ ਘਨੇਰੇ ॥ *Tumaree Kirpaa Meh Sukh Ghanayrey* ॥
In your grace, we experience ultimate peace!

ਕੋਇ ਨ ਜਾਨੈ ਤੁਮਰਾ ਅੰਤੁ ॥ *Koe Na Jaanay Tumraa Unt* ॥
No-one knows your infinite vastness.

ਉਚੇ ਤੇ ਉਚਾ ਭਗਵੰਤੁ ॥ *Oochay Tey Oochaa Bhagavant* ॥
O highest of the high, most generous God,

ਸਗਲ ਸਮਗ੍ਰੀ ਤੁਮਰੈ ਸੂਤ੍ਰਧਾਰੀ ॥ *Sagal Samagree Tumaray Soothr Dhaaree* ॥
The whole creation is strung on your thread.

ਤੁਮ ਤੇ ਹੋਇ ਸੁ ਆਗਿਆਕਾਰੀ ॥ *Tum Tey Hoe So Aageyakaaree* ॥
That which has come from you is in your will.

ਤੁਮਰੀ ਗਤਿ ਮਿਤਿ ਤੁਮ ਹੀ ਜਾਨੀ ॥ *Tumaree Gath Mith Tum Hee Jaanee* ॥
You alone know your existence and vastness.

ਨਾਨਕ ਦਾਸ ਸਦਾ ਕੁਰਬਾਨੀ ॥੮॥੪॥ *Nanak Daas Sadhaa Kurbaanee* ॥8॥ 4॥
Nanak, Your slave, is forever surrendering to you. ॥8॥ 4॥

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Sukhmani, Raag Gauri, Ang 268

Waheguru, please bless our political leaders with wisdom, discernment, courage, perseverance, humility, integrity, self-control, desire to serve and learn and to always put the Australian people first and make our world a better place.

Waheguru, please give us all Australians the strength, wisdom, and patience to work together for justice & fairness for all, against violence, for the environment, for the First Peoples of Australia and for economic & spiritual well-being of our Nation.

ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮ ਚੜਦੀ ਕਲਾ ॥ ਤੇਰੇ ਭਾਣੇ ਸਰਬੱਤ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ ॥

Nanak Naam Chardi Kala, terey bhane sarbaht da bhala.

Through the name of God comes well-being, happiness, and high spirits and with God's grace everyone in the world prospers and remains in peace.

Submitted by Squadron Leader Vickram Singh Grewal

National Sikh Council of Australia and the Australian Defence Force's Sikh Representative

Sukyo Mahikari

The light of peace from Australia

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Creator God, who created heaven, earth, and humankind.

The universe, which God created out of nothingness and chaos, is overflowing with His Light, full of His love that does not ask for anything in return and is filled with harmony. All of God's children, like God our Parent, will surely be able to shine with light. Like God our Parent, we can give love and hope to others. Like God our Parent, we can live in love and harmony with people and with nature. As those who trust in God, we will not give up in the face of any difficulties but will keep going until true peace prevails in the world from Australia.

First, we need to change ourselves. We can become people of gratitude, people shining with light who give love to others. We believe that as we change, our surroundings will change, and the world will change. For things to change, first we must change. In this time of a state of emergency in the world, we cannot wait for others to change, for the world to change.

We who believe in God will be able to transcend all differences and join hands with those who say they do not believe in God. In this chaotic world, we will join forces with each other to share God's love and Light, lighting the light of hope in people's souls. We will demonstrate the power of faith to the world. We will give our neighbours and those who suffer the strength to live. To those who suffer from infectious diseases, illness, crime, poverty, disasters, discrimination, war, and other misfortunes, please let this prayer be a source of light for them.

May God bless Australia as a peaceful, prosperous, and open society.

*Submitted by Kazuhiro Fukui, Regional Director
Sukyo Mahikari Australia-Oceania Region*

Ukrainian Catholic

Prayer for peace in Ukraine

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquillity, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Submitted by Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR
Eparch for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania*



Uniting Church

The light of peace from Australia

God, Creator of unity,
help us to make peace with creation,
so that rather than destroying the earth,
we learn to live in harmony with creation,
that all who live on this beautiful blue planet
might have abundant life.

Christ, body of Peace,
help us make peace with each other,
so that where there is warfare fighting might cease,
those broken in body and spirit might be healed,
and all can enjoy the opportunity to live, work, learn and play in peace

God, Spirit of community
help us to build up communities of hospitality
so that those damaged by war and trauma
might know welcome and healing,
justice might reign and
all might live in harmony.

We pray in the name of Christ, Amen

International Day of Peace Interfaith Prayer Service 2021

*Submitted by Rev Sharon Hollis
Uniting Church in Australia President*

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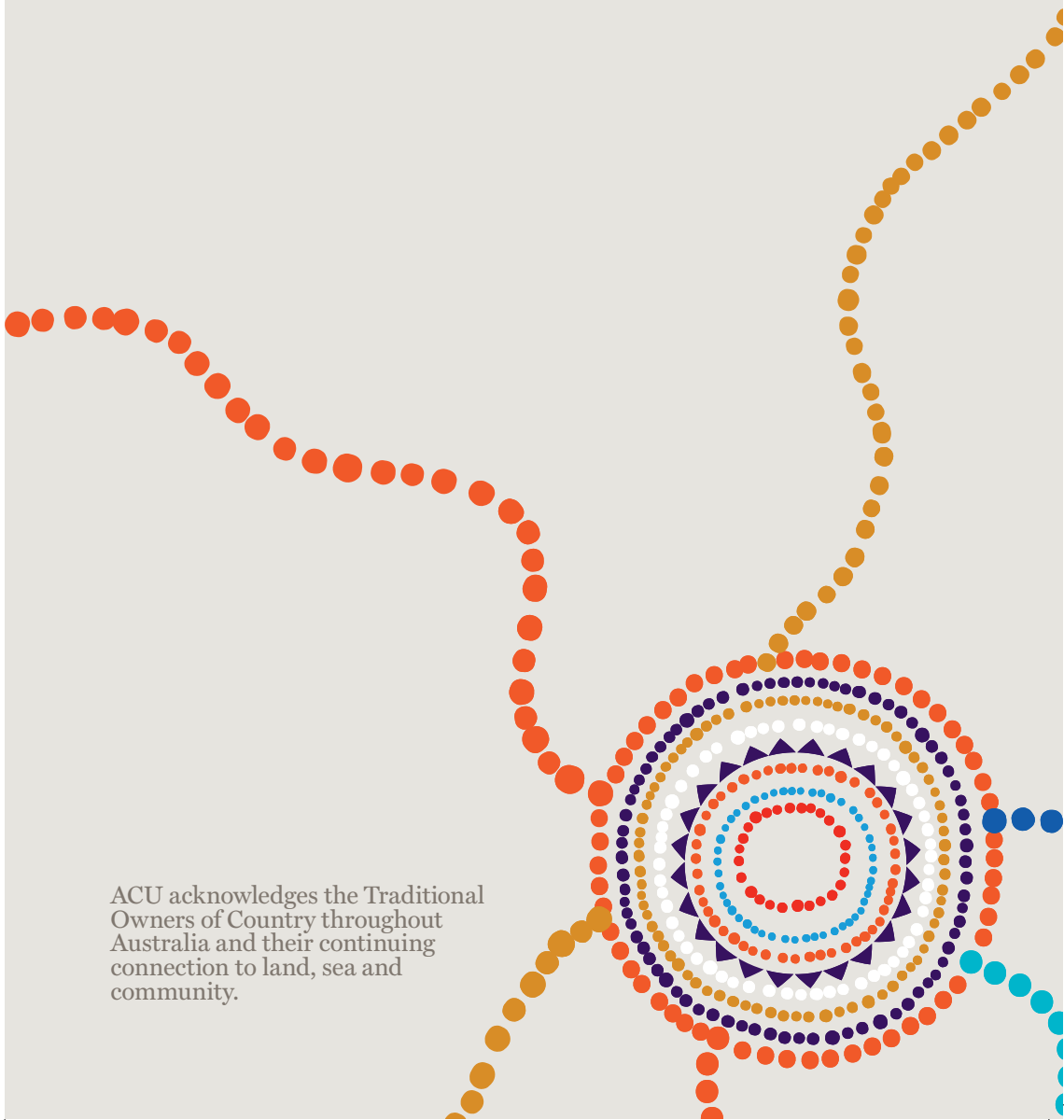
Australian Catholic University

Australian Catholic University is the largest Catholic university in the English-speaking world. A public university open to people of all faiths, ACU is the most truly national university in Australia, with campuses located in Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney, Strathfield and Blacktown, alongside an international campus in Rome, Italy.

ACU is ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide and in the top 10 Catholic universities. ACU students also rank first in Australia for their graduate employment outcomes.

An ACU education builds on the Catholic intellectual tradition, with a focus on the pursuit of knowledge and the promotion of human dignity and the common good.

ACU acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.



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