

**Message of H. Em. Miguel Àngel Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, M.C.C.J.**  
**Prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican City**  
**On the occasion of the 100th issue of *Bridges***

Dear Rev. Fr. McNerney,  
Director of the Columban Center for Christian-Muslim Relations  
and Collaborators,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you and your whole staff on the occasion of the 100th issue of *Bridges*.

I have been receiving *Bridges* for decades. I am grateful for the opportunity to review information about the impressive variety of interreligious activities and initiatives you have in Australia, particularly regarding Christian Muslim relations. The past issues of *Bridges* present us with a beautiful mosaic of interreligious life, coloured by fraternal encounters, sharing joys and sorrows, discussions and collaborations, enhancing a culture of bridge-building, transmitting a strong message that counteracts the building of walls. This work resonates with the repeated pleas of His Holiness Pope Francis for cultures of encounter.

*Bridges* reminds me of the meetings and wonderful interreligious exchanges I had during my pastoral visit to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne in 2018. At that time, I experienced for myself the particular dynamics of your daily interreligious life, in a nation that is becoming ever more plural, like many parts of the world.

You have been building “*Bridges*” over decades and have reached a milestone. “Spoken words fly away, writings remain” (Emperor Caius Titus). Actions without reflections will not bestow meaning. *Bridges* documents various activities and offers the possibility to review, recapitulate, reflect and improve. At the same time, it enriches and inspires others to be protagonists of interreligious dialogue for world peace and harmonious living together. Be assured of my prayers for future efforts for peace, particularly in Australia.

Again, congratulations.



+ Miguel Àngel Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, M.C.C.J.  
Prefect