

# SATURDAY SESSIONS

GROW & SHARE FAITH

## Inter-Faith Relations



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RELATIONS  
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inter-faith-relations



## Inter-Faith Relations

The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations

*You are invited to create community online as we gather to  
share and grow faith.*

### How to Prepare and Run a Session:

Read *Saturday Sessions 'How To' Guide* for information how to host a Saturday Session. This is available at <https://thewell.org.au/video/saturday-sessions-how-to-guide/>

### Presentation:

Inter-Faith Relations

The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8VFomcBlIw>

Approx. 30 minutes

### About the Presenters:

#### **Rev Dr Patrick McINERNEY LSAI, MTheol, PhD**

Rev Dr Patrick McInerney is a Columban missionary priest. From 1979 to 2000 he was missioned to Pakistan. He has worked in interfaith in Sydney since 2002. He graduated from the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islamics in Rome with a Licence in 1986, from the Melbourne College of Divinity with a Masters in Theology in 2003 and from the Australian Catholic University with a PhD in 2009.

Fr Patrick has served as Director of the Columban Mission Institute, and Coordinator of its Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and Centre for Mission Studies. He is currently Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations located in Blacktown in the Diocese of Parramatta.

He is a member of the Australian Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Australian Association of Mission Studies (AAMS), the International Association of Catholic Missiologists (IACM) and the International Association of Mission Studies (IAMS).

Fr Patrick has taught courses in Interreligious Dialogue and Islam at the Catholic Institute of Sydney and BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education. He participates in interfaith and multi-faith conferences and organizations, and gives talks on Islam, Christian-Muslim relations and interreligious relations to a wide variety of audiences.

#### **Ryan Epondulan**

Ryan Epondulan is the Youth & Networking coordinator of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations. He is involved in the Centre's youth initiatives across the Sydney. He coordinates Youth PoWR, Australia's largest interreligious event for young adults.

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### Questions to Ponder:

*These questions are only a sample of the many questions that could be generated from the presentation. Use these questions or create your own questions for your small group.*

1. Why are we hesitant to engage in interfaith dialogue?
2. We live in a culturally diverse and multi faith country and yet there are still clear barriers that exist between different religious and cultural groups. What are some of these barriers and why are they continually perpetuated?
3. What does world peace look like to you?
4. Why is inter-religious dialogue a key component in achieving world peace?
5. Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti conveys that we are all sisters and brothers. What does this mean and how does it call us to action?
6. Why is it important for young adults in particular to engage in initiatives which promote interfaith dialogue?
7. Does social media help or hinder interfaith dialogue?
8. Why is important that the Sydney Statement is action orientated? How does statements like this make a difference in the way people from different religions communicate?
9. There are many social issues and concerns which are true for all people or many groups/people in society e.g. climate change and misogyny. How does dialogue between religions help these causes and the people affected by them?
10. Breaking down boundaries is key to understanding each other. How can you break down boundaries between different faiths in your own life?

### Further Support:

If you would like further support to bring to life a Saturday Session, please contact Lisa at the Diocese of Parramatta at [lisa.bright@parracatholic.org](mailto:lisa.bright@parracatholic.org)

For information about Zoom please contact the Pastoral Planning Office or you can watch a Zoom tutorial at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

The Pastoral Planning Office thanks you for your enduring faith, hope, love and commitment as we venture into the deep. We pray that you experience the peace and grace that our God offers and can be an ambassador of Christ's hope and peace to those you encounter and accompany.

The Diocese of Parramatta is ready to support you in areas of pastoral ministry. Please contact:

Lisa Bright

[lisa.bright@parracatholic.org](mailto:lisa.bright@parracatholic.org)

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