



MONS. MARIO DELPINI
Arcivescovo di Milano

Milan, 13th May 2021

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters,

as of last year, we are called to be celebrating the fundamental moments of our faith – for us Christians Lent and the Easter celebrations, for you the holy month of Ramadan – in the exceptional climate marked by the pandemic.

In his recent journey to Iraq, last March the 6th, Pope Francis reminded us all that “if we exclude God, we end up worshipping the things of this earth”, inviting us all “to look up to heaven” and defining as “true religiosity” that which worships God and loves the neighbour.

I express you all my own good wishes and those of the Christians of the Diocese of Milan for a fruitful conclusion of the month of Ramadan and a joyful *'Id al Fitr* precisely from this claim. I make my own the words of Pope Francis again: at this exceptional time, marked by the pandemic and by the crisis that this situation accelerates and exacerbates, the task of religions is that of helping to discern the good and put it into practice through deeds, prayers and diligent cultivation of the inner life, in order to build a culture of encounter and peace, based on patience, understanding and humble, tangible steps. In a time of conflict, religions “be a dawn of peace, seeds of rebirth amid the devastation of death, echoes of dialogue resounding unceasingly, paths to encounter and reconciliation reaching even those places where official mediation efforts seem not to have borne fruit”.

Let us continue to work together in building peaceful and fraternal relationships, giving this way witness to the All-powerful Creator whom we worship obtaining as fruit harmony in the city of Milan as well wounded by the pandemic and which is looking for spiritual energies to undertake a new way of rebirth.

We have to work in order to strengthen those habits of dialogue and encounter, of mutual listening and of respect, of collaboration in responding to the needs and in looking for peace, which are already present but require support and recharge, after the strain of these months of medical, social and spiritual emergency.

In an attitude of prayer and esteem, I greet you.

+ Mario Delpini
Archbishop