



ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

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To the Chairperson and organizers of the Fifth National Interfaith Forum

***"Beyond Tolerance - Toward Understanding and Respect:
Challenges and Opportunities"***

Dear friends

As you enter into this time of reflection together from such a variety of faith backgrounds, be assured of my prayerful support in this courageous move.

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend the Forum.

Yes, there are challenges, as well as real opportunities in growing in respect for one another in our diversity of culture and faith.

The ***National Statement on Religious Diversity*** (2007) is an achievement that would not have been possible without the contribution of previous forums. This year's forum will build on that.

I look forward to receiving the report of this fifth forum, and will learn from it as I prepare my contribution to the forthcoming Phnom Penh Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony in April.

Yours faithfully

+ John A. Dew
Archbishop of Wellington

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