

Editorial



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In June's editorial I commented on the remarkable visit of Dr Mohammad Shomali and seminarians from the Islamic Centre of England to the Focolare

Centre for Unity in April 2017. This month we include an article from one of the Muslim students, Veronique Khasa where she describes what the visit meant to her and her fellow students. See 'A retreat with a difference' (page 19). Friendships like these are so important in the current climate of fear and mistrust between different faiths and ethnic groups.

Also this month: 'Bringing people together in Birmingham'. An inspiring report by Pat Whitney about the life of the temporary Focolare set up in Darlaston, Birmingham in 2015. It is heart-warming to read about the growing relationships between Christians, Muslims and Sikhs, not to mention between different Christian denominations (page 8).

I am delighted that Bishop John Sherrington has contributed an article about Methodist/Roman Catholic dialogue this month (page 4). Bishop John has been a member of the national commission for many years and is now deputy chair of the Joint International Commission for Dialogue Between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church (MERCIC). The report: 'The call to holiness: from Glory to Glory' was published in 2016. I was interested to see that this report built upon the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation. It is good to see that each declaration paves the way for ever deeper dialogue between the various Christian denominations.

All of us at New City wish our readers a peaceful, safe and invigorating summer break!

Paul Gateshill

New City is an expression of the Focolare Movement, which takes as its inspiration Jesus' prayer to the Father "May they all be one" (Jn 17: 21). Over the last seven decades Focolare has grown from a small community of around five hundred in Trent, northern Italy, to a world-wide community of several hundred thousand people of all ages and backgrounds. It has also spread beyond the confines of the Roman Catholic Church, to many other Christian traditions, to other faiths and people of good will.

New City works to promote mutual understanding and respect through dialogue. Together with our readers we want to discover how to 'build bridges' in the different sectors of society and in personal life. We are convinced that dialogue, based on mutual love, is the only way to build a more united world which is based on universal values such as justice, equality, truth and peace.