



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Being a Unifying Influence: a Reflection on the Coincidence of a new Prime Minister and our Week of Prayer from this Sunday!

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It is good to hear our new Prime Minister speak of bringing people together and pledging to end unhelpful divisions.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australias-albanese-pragmatist-who-promises-unity-2022-05-21/>

This very intention is helpful.

As the saintly Founder of the Taizé Community, Brother Roger, conveys 'the constant search for unity harmonises the human being: it provides thought with deeds and being with action..'

We know the truth of this -the consistent quest to be a unifying influence does give a certain balance to our living and helps us then offer what is best in ourselves.

There is an immense difference between an intention to be a unifying, co-operative influence and an intention to amplify or provoke divisions.

We have endless case studies of where the latter intention leads us. Vividly, we see this in Ukraine's suffering caused by President Putin.

As it happens, our new Prime Minister begins his intended unifying leadership as many of our Churches prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from this coming Sunday.

We remember Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17 and feel again that call to build deeper unity by co-operation and initiative so that our communities are happier, safer and more peaceful.

This year our resources come from the Middle Eastern Council of Churches, as adapted by our NCCA.

<https://www.ncca.org.au/ncca-newsletter/april-2022-3/item/2772-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022043>

At this time of a new beginning in our nation and encouraged by PM Anthony's unifying intention, we can enter our Week of Prayer with fresh enthusiasm.

In complementary fashion, we might invite local conversation about how our faith communities can take further initiatives in healing divisions and building unity.

Times of a new beginning can be very beneficial and such moments should not be wasted!

One such moment is the sweet coincidence of a concluded Federal Election and our week of prayer with this unifying intention !

“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, says Jesus to us all.[John 15:5-9].



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